

MATERIAL CULTURE STUDIES, CERTIFICATE

The certificate in material culture studies has two interrelated goals. First, students will become acquainted with the field of material culture studies and its methodologies. They will learn what kinds of objects are considered in the study of material culture (from small, intimate artifacts of daily life to large cultural landscapes) and how scholars and professionals from different fields and in different contexts enlist material culture in their research and activities. They will gain an appreciation for the information artifacts can provide. They will learn the kinds of questions that can be asked of objects and the kind of information that artifacts can show us. They will become familiar with (and able to distinguish between) descriptive and interpretive components of material culture study and gain an awareness of the variety of methods. Second, students will gain an appreciation for the ways that “things” help us to connect to the world and see it in a new way, and the ways “things” give meaning to our lives and the lives of those around us.

HOW TO GET IN

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All undergraduate students in good academic standing are eligible to apply for the Material Culture Studies Certificate. Connect with an Academic Advisor (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/>) for application information and the October and February deadlines.

Students considering declaring the Art History Certificate as well as the Material Culture Certificate may complete both but **only one course** may overlap between the two certificates.

REQUIREMENTS

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The Material Culture Studies Certificate requires **13 credits**.

Students must earn a minimum 2.000 GPA on required certificate coursework. Completed courses listed within the certificate curriculum, whether or not they meet a specific requirement, are included in the calculation of the GPA.

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
ART HIST/ANTHRO/DS/HISTORY/LAND ARC 264	Dimensions of Material Culture	4
ART HIST 563	Proseminar in Material Culture	3
Electives		
Select at least two elective courses to reach 13 credit minimum:		6
Total Credits		13

¹ Prerequisite: no prerequisites. The course explores the field of material culture, introducing the range of approaches and topics within it. Faculty, staff, and professionals from different disciplines and fields

are invited to discuss their work and perspective, and discuss current literature.

² The intent of this requirement is to have an intensive small-size seminar to teach the methods used by material culture scholars, a set of tools for analysis, hands-on training and more familiarity with material culture theories, themes and objects. If students are unable to take this course prior to their intended graduation date, they may consult the program director about other courses that fit these same goals.

³ Other courses can be selected as electives from traditional disciplinary approaches and content, but must be approved by the chair of the Material Culture Advisory Committee. Students must work closely with both their advisor within their home major and an advisor among material culture advisors to assure that both major and certificate requirements are fulfilled.

Students must earn a minimum 2.000 GPA on required certificate coursework. Completed courses listed within the certificate curriculum, whether or not they meet a specific requirement, are included in the calculation of the GPA.

ELECTIVES

- An internship/practicum experience is recommended, but not required.
- Work closely with your certificate advisor and major advisor to ensure that both major and certificate requirements are fulfilled.
- Other traditional disciplinary approaches and content courses may count as electives, but must be approved by the chair of the Material Culture Advisory Committee.

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHRO 212	Principles of Archaeology	3
ANTHRO 337	Lithics and Archaeology	3
ANTHRO 352	Ancient Technology and Invention	3
ANTHRO/AMER IND 354	Archaeology of Wisconsin	3
ANTHRO 370	Field Course in Archaeology	3-6
ANTHRO 391	Bones for the Archaeologist	3
ANTHRO 696	Archaeological Methods of Curation	1-3
ART HIST 210	A History of the World in 20 Buildings	3
ART HIST/CLASSICS 300	The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Greece	3-4
ART HIST/CLASSICS 304	The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome	3-4
ART HIST 305	History of Islamic Art and Architecture	3
ART HIST 307	From Tomb to Temple: Ancient Chinese Art and Religion in Transition	3
ART HIST 308	The Tastes of Scholars and Emperors: Chinese Art in the Later Periods	3
ART HIST 364	History of American Art: Art, Material Culture, and Constructions of Identity, 1607-present	3-4
ART HIST/RELIG ST 373	Mecca, Cairo, Istanbul, Delhi: Great Cities of Islam	3

ART HIST/ ASIAN 379	Cities of Asia	3
ART HIST 413	Art and Architecture in the Age of the Caliphs	3
ART HIST/ ASIAN 428	Visual Cultures of India	3
ART HIST 440	Art and Power in the Arab World	3
ART HIST 457	History of American Vernacular Architecture and Landscapes	3
ART HIST 468	Frank Lloyd Wright	3-4
ART HIST 475	Japanese Ceramics and Allied Arts	3
ART HIST/ RELIG ST 478	Art and Religious Practice in Medieval Japan	3
ART HIST 506	Curatorial Studies Exhibition Practice	3
ART HIST 601 & ART HIST 602	Introduction to Museum Studies I and Introduction to Museum Studies II	6
ART HIST/HISTORY/ JOURN/L I S 650	History of Books and Print Culture in Europe and North America	3
DS 355	History of Fashion, 1400–Present	3
DS 421	History of Architecture and Interiors I: Antiquity through 18th Century	3
DS 422	History of Architecture & Interiors II: 19th and 20th Centuries	3
DS 430	History of Textiles	3
DS 642	Taste	3
FOLKLORE 320	Folklore of Wisconsin	3
FOLKLORE 439	Foodways	3
FOLKLORE/ L I S 490	Field Methods and the Public Presentation of Folklore	3
FOLKLORE 540	Local Culture and Identity in the Upper Midwest	3
GEOG/ URB R PL 305	Introduction to the City	3-4
GEOG 342	Geography of Wisconsin	3
HIST SCI 222	Technology and Social Change in History	3
JOURN/ HISTORY 560	History of U.S. Media	4
LAND ARC 260	History of Landscape Architecture	3
LAND ARC 677	Cultural Resource Preservation and Landscape History	3
SCAND ST/ FOLKLORE 440	Scandinavian American Folklore	3
THEATRE 327	History of Costume for the Stage	3

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Acquisition of skills to describe and analyze objects of multiple types, scales and media that constitute the material world across time and space.
2. Understanding of the complex and multiple ways that objects and people relate in both the past and in the present using trans-disciplinary perspectives.
3. Ability to interpret and otherwise make meaning from objects using methods and theories from multiple disciplines including but not limited to art history, archaeology, anthropology, design, folklore/folklife studies, geography, history, literary studies, landscape history, and science studies.
4. Discernment of the importance of materiality and making in the production and shaping of culture.
5. Fluency in using research resources and tools appropriate for specific kinds of objects.
6. Demonstration of particular skills for object-based research projects, as well as online and in-person exhibitions, using objects and collections to prepare students for careers that include positions in museums, archives, and other professional contexts.
7. Coherent presentation of ideas in multiple media (oral, visual, digital, and written).

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS ADVISING & CAREER CENTER

The Advising & Career Center (ACC) fosters undergraduate students' personal, academic, and professional development. Through advising, academic planning, and career education, we support students as they navigate the college experience – from exploring our majors as prospective students to becoming Human Ecology alumni.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Each Human Ecology student is assigned to an academic advisor in the Advising & Career Center. Human Ecology academic advisors support academic and personal success by partnering with current and prospective Human Ecology students as they identify and clarify their educational goals, develop meaningful academic plans, and pursue their own Wisconsin Experience.

To explore academic advising resources or schedule an appointment with a Human Ecology academic advisor, visit Academic Advising in Human Ecology (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/scheduling/>).

*Note for students who are thinking about declaring the material culture certificate as well as the art history certificate: undergraduate students may request permission to complete both the material culture certificate and the art history certificate but **only one course** can overlap between the two certificates. Please consult with the Art History undergraduate advisor, Teddy Kaul (ejkaul@wisc.edu), with any questions related to the art history certificate.*

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Each Human Ecology student is assigned to a career advisor in the Advising & Career Center. Active engagement in the career development process is a vital component of a student's personal growth in college and future success as a lifelong learner, professional, and global citizen. Human Ecology career advisors help prepare students for life post-graduation through individual and group advising and integration of career readiness throughout our curriculum.

To explore career development resources or schedule an appointment with a Human Ecology career advisor, visit Career Development in Human Ecology (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/careers/scheduling/>).

CAREERS: WHAT CAN MATERIAL CULTURE DO FOR YOU? LIFE-PRACTICE AND CAREERS

Interdisciplinary practice is central to material culture analysis. Significant engagement with material culture can have a noteworthy positive effect on students from a wide range of majors in their preparation for future careers. Understanding principles of design, analyzing the cultural meaning of physical objects, and gaining knowledge of varied systems of making, distributing, and using artifacts and consumer goods throughout history are all broadly applicable learning outcomes. The curricula of the 21st century often place extra value on science and technology, to the detriment of the study of the arts and humanities. The Material Culture Program helps integrate these and other disparate spheres into a university education. One undergraduate student summed it thus:

I ended up being able to use what I learned in material culture for my research in human computer interaction and design. I think having a background in material culture strengthened my skills as a user experience designer (which is what I will be doing at Intel after graduation).

Erica Lewis, 2016
Undergraduate certificate student
Engineering/Materials Design

Other material culture certificate holders have gone on to careers in museums, galleries, historic sites, historic preservation, digital media, design practice, universities, and business. Another former student comments:

Having worked in museums large and small, in education, exhibition design and development, collections, and interpretation—I draw on my background in Material Culture on a daily basis. As a historian, the practice of reading and contextualizing objects as primary sources is essential. But even more than an academic approach, the empathy one develops when learning to understand the world through the stuff of daily life is invaluable to the interdisciplinary collaboration of today's workplace.

Anna Altschwager, 2004
Creative Director
Thinkwell Group

opportunities on the Human Ecology scholarships webpage (<https://humanecology.wisc.edu/academics/scholarships/>). To be eligible for these awards, scholarship recipients must be registered as full-time Human Ecology students. For further questions on the scholarship application, please contact the School of Human Ecology Scholarship Coordinator at scholarships@sohe.wisc.edu.

SUPPORT RESOURCES

Human Ecology students experiencing personal, academic, or financial challenges should contact SoHE Academic Deans Services (<https://advising.humanecology.wisc.edu/academic-dean-services/>). Additional campus resources include the Financial Aid Basic Needs website (<https://basicneeds.students.wisc.edu/>), Office of Student Assistance and Support (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>), and University Health Services (<https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/>).

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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The School of Human Ecology (SoHE) awards many merit and need-based scholarships each year. Students can learn more about these