



**Anth S-1140 | Summer 2015**

**Icons: A Material History of Harvard**

Monday & Wednesday 8:30–11:30 AM

Classroom Location: Sever 105

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<http://isites.harvard.edu/k94557>

Office hours by appointment

## DESCRIPTION

This course explores how material culture creates and supports the frameworks within which people live. To this end, we investigate the creation and perpetuation of Harvard University through its icons: material symbols of the school. From the *Veritas* shield to sweatshirts, printing type to the John Harvard statue, each object, place, image, and song is an opportunity to examine Harvard's history and significance. Topics include modernization, secularization, consumerism, gender, hierarchy, and surveillance. Tours, scavenger hunts, and field trips around campus foster object- and experience-based learning. Students gain critical thinking skills, as well as new perspectives on American cultures and histories.

Class meetings include a combination of lectures, discussions, tours, exercises, and videos on and around campus. The required textbook is a (old, masculine) popular history of Harvard. Other weekly readings provide additional (newer, critical, diverse) perspectives on Harvard's material culture, icons, and history.

## Grading:

10%: participation

30%: in-class/take-home exercises

30%: final project: Icon iMovie

30%: final exam

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## DAILY SCHEDULE (10% participation, 30% exercises)

### WEEK 1

**Monday June 22: introduction to the course; what is an icon?**

- *Exercise 1: deconstructing icons*

**Wednesday June 24: thinking through things**

- read: Knappet chpt 1, chpt 5 pp. 85–99
- *exercise 2: icons of you*

### WEEK 2

**Monday June 29: the charter & the shield**

- read: Morison chpts 1–2; Ulrich (Y&G 2004:1-16); Wright (Y&G 2004:17-38)
- guest lecture/tour @ 10:00AM: Harvard University Archives
- *exercise 3: shield safari (a scavenger hunt)*

**Wednesday July 1: printing type**

- read: Morison chpt 3; Lord (Y&G 2004:39-52); Minardi (Y&G 2004:53-68)
- **MEET @ PEABODY MUSEUM @ 8:30AM: lecture/tour Digging Veritas**

- guest lecture/tour @9:30AM: Houghton Library, 17th-century books/print room
- *exercise 4: two biographies*

### **WEEK 3**

#### **Monday July 6: the Yard**

- read: Morison chpts 4–8; Schwager (Y&G 2004:87-116); *Anth S1140 iMovie Assignment Guide*
- **MEET @ LAMONT LIBRARY @ 8:30AM: iMovie training**
- tour @ 10:30AM: Crimson Key's Harvard Yard Historical Tour
- *exercise 5: tour critique*

#### **Wednesday July 8: John Harvard?**

- read: Morison chpts 9–11
- *movie & discussion*: John Harvard
- *plein air exercise 6: The Golden Toe*
- **ICON SELECTION DUE**

### **WEEK 4**

#### **Monday July 13: *In memoriam*: remembering the dead**

- read: Morison chpts 12–13
- tour @ 10:30AM: Widener Memorial Library
- *exercise 7: Men of Memorial Hall*

#### **Wednesday July 15: *10 Thousand Men of Harvard***

- read: Morison chpts 14–15; Bruce (Y&G 2004:139-148)
- *movie & discussion/exercise 8: Harvard Beats Yale 29-29*

### **WEEK 5**

#### **Monday Jul 20: the pudding pot**

- read: Lepri (Y&G 2004:147-158); Hoganson (Y&G 2004:117-128)
- tour @10:30AM: Harvard Theatre Archives
- *exercise 9: acting gender*
- **PROJECT DRAFTS/STORYBOARDS DUE**

#### **Wednesday July 22: brick**

- read: Ingold (2007); Hicks (Y&G 2004:245-270)
- tour @ 10:30AM: the bricks of Sever Hall
- *exercise 10: brick-a-thon (a scavenger hunt)*

### **WEEK 6**

#### **Monday Jul 27: the Harvard sweatshirt**

- read: Mullins (2013); Jenkins (2013)
- *exercise 11: Coop-scoop (a scavenger hunt)*

#### **Wednesday Jul 29: Wrap up and Review Session**

- Faust (Y&G 2004)
- self-guided tour @9:00AM: Women of Harvard walking tour
- Review session (in Radcliffe Quad)

### **WEEK 7**

#### **Monday August 3: **PROJECT PRESENTATIONS/PROJECTS DUE****

#### **Wednesday August 5: **FINAL EXAM****

## READINGS

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### required textbook (at the Coop)

- Samuel Eliot Morison, *Three Centuries of Harvard, 1636–1936* (1986 [1936]).

### required readings (on the course iSite)

- Carl Knappet, *Thinking through Material Culture* (2005), chpts 1, 5
- Chapters from Laurel T. Ulrich (ed.), *Yards and Gates: Gender in Harvard and Radcliffe History* (2004)
- Tim Ingold, "Materials against Materiality," *Archaeological Dialogues* 14(1):1–16 (2007)
- Colin Jenkins, "Invisible Chains: Consumerism, Debt, and Consciousness," *HamptonInstitution.org* (2013).
- Paul Mullins, "An Archaeology of Hipster Materiality," *Archaeology and Material Culture* blog (2013)

### recommended readings

Available on the course website as .pdf's or links.

- Homi K. Bhabha, *The Location of Culture* (1994), chpt 4, "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse"
- Eilean Hooper-Greenhill, *Museums and the Interpretation of Visual Culture* (2000), chpt 5
- Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (1999), chpt 3 pt 4, "Bodily Inscriptions, Performative Subversions"
- Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man* (1994), chpt 4
- Lauren Langman, "Alienation and Everyday Life: Goffman Meets Marx at the Shopping Mall," *The International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 11(6–8):107–124 (1991)
- Lynn Meskell, "Objects in the Mirror Appear Closer than They Are," in *Materiality*, ed. Daniel Miller (2005)
- Julian Thomas, "Archaeologies of Place and Landscape," in *Archaeological Theory Today*, ed. Ian Hodder (2001)
- Christopher Tilley, "Materials in Materiality," *Archaeological Dialogues* 14(1):16–20 (2007)
- Laurie A. Wilkie, *The Lost Boys of Zeta Psi: A Historical Archaeology of Masculinity at a University Fraternity* (2010), prologue pt 2, pp. 29–40

## **PROJECT: YOUR ICON (30%: 5% draft/storyboard + 25% video presentation)**

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Your Final Project will be a 3-5 minute video component, which you will present to the class. During the course of the Summer Session, you may add Harvard icons to the course Pinterest page (<https://www.pinterest.com/profhodge/hss-anth-s-1140-icons-a-material-history-of-harvar/>). **You will select ONE ICON for your final project.** You will create a 3-5 minute video (iMovie), including a references/bibliography list.

- **ICON SELECTION due July 8**
- **DRAFT/STORYBOARD due July 20 (5%)**
- **FINAL PROJECT presentation on Aug 3 (25%)**
- **NO EXTENSIONS**

Some ideas: narrated powerpoint presentation, video, podcast, walking tour, performance, virtual museum exhibit, mini documentary, etc.

### **presentation component (5%) DUE August 3 NO EXTENSIONS**

Each student will **introduce and show his or her ICON** to the class on Monday Aug 3.

- You will first introduce your icon and describe your research and creative process.
- You will share your short video.
- You will answer Q & A.
- You are encouraged to be creative. Please discuss your plans with the instructor beforehand.

- To receive full credit, the presentation material must be submitted as the Final Project.

### **FINAL EXAM (30%) 8:30 AM Aug 5**

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The final exam will be administered on Wednesday Aug 5 at 8:30 AM. NO EXTENSIONS. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from taking the Final Exam, he or she must make a timely petition the Summer School for permission to make it up.

### **POLICIES**

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#### **attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes. If a student must miss any portion of class, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible. Absences will affect participation and other grades. Students are also expected to be active, engaged, and respectful in class and in all interactions with class members and others.

#### **grading**

Grades reflect the quality and quantity of your work submitted throughout the term according to the grading standards listed below. Undergraduate- and graduate-credit students may earn the following grades:

- A/A–: superior quality, full mastery of the subject; extraordinary or special distinction.
- B+/B/B–: good to very good quality throughout the term, no special distinction.
- C+/C/C–: average command of course material.
- D+/D/D–: a deficiency in knowledge of the material.
- E: failing; deserves no credit; non-submission of work; or failure to withdraw by the withdrawal deadline.

#### **grading:**

A = 100–93%	C+ = 77–79%
A– = 90–92%	C = 73–76%
B+ = 87–89%	C– = 70–72%
B = 83–86%	D = 60–69%
B– = 80–82%	F = <60%

#### **plagiarism (<http://www.summer.harvard.edu/2010/policy/responsible.jsp>)**

“Plagiarism is the theft of someone else’s ideas and work. It is the incorporation of facts, ideas, or specific language that are not common knowledge, are taken from another source, and are not properly cited. Whether you copy verbatim or simply rephrase the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source, the theft is the same... you must take great care to distinguish your own ideas and language from information derived from sources. Sources include published and unpublished primary and secondary materials, the Internet, and information and opinions of other people. You are expected to follow the standards of proper citation and to avoid plagiarism. Two publications, prepared by the Harvard College Expository Writing Program, are available for reference. Writing with Sources: A Guide for Harvard Students is distributed when you check in on campus. Writing with Internet Sources: A Guide for Harvard Students is available on the [Summer School Writing Center](#) website.”