

MASTER OF ARTS CULTURAL STUDIES

Updated June 3, 2021

Graduate Program Committee Chair: Associate Professor B. Cornellier (English); Co-chair, Curatorial Studies: Professor S. Keshavjee (History); Professors: P. Greenhill (Women's and Gender Studies), P. Ives (Political Science), Z. Izydorczyk (English), C. Labrecque (History), M. Reimer (English), C. Rifkind (English), L. Rodriguez (Modern Languages), C. Taylor (Women's and Gender Studies); Associate Professors: A. Balint (French Studies), J. Barter (Religion and Culture), A. Burke (English), B. Christopher (English), B. Cornellier (English), P. DePasquale (English), M. Dyce (Geography), M. Flisfeder (Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications), M. Gibbs (Classics), A. Failler (Women's and Gender Studies), J. Hannan (Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications), S. MacKinnon (Urban and Inner-City Studies), P. Melville (English), H. Milne (English), J. Nagam (History), K. Ready (English), M. Roksandic (Anthropology), H. Snell (English), M. Sweatman (English), C. Tosenberger (English), J. Wills (English), D. Wolf (English); Assistant Professors: C. A. Anyaduba (English), J. Arnold (Conflict Resolution Studies); Instructor: S. Borys.

INTRODUCTION

Cultural Studies is a field of research that moves across traditional disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to understand culture and the arts as part of social, economic, and political environments. Central to the field of Cultural Studies are the questions of what constitutes a text, how some texts, visual images, and cultural artefacts come to be valued over others, and how questions of value relate to the distribution of power and authority.

The MA in Cultural Studies is a degree with two approved specializations: 1) Texts and Cultures, and 2) Curatorial Practices.

Application Deadline:

Application packages will be on hold until ALL required documents are received. The application deadline is **January 15** for Canadian applicants and **December 15** for international applicants. Applications received after the official deadlines will be considered for admission, but financial assistance cannot be guaranteed for late applicants. The start date for the program is in September. For current information on scholarships, please visit the Department and Graduate Studies websites.

How to Apply:

1. Complete the on-line application form available at <https://oa2.uwinnipeg.ca/OnlineAdmissions/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fOnlineAdmissions>
2. Provide official/notarized transcripts of academic work completed to date, sent directly from the issuing institution. If the transcript does not show that a completed degree has been conferred, an official/notarized copy of your diploma or a letter indicating the expected date of graduation is also required.
3. Supply two confidential letters of recommendation from individuals most familiar with your academic work and relevant experience. Letters should be signed and sealed if they are submitted by the student as part of an application package.
4. Attach a statement of interest of 500 words, which includes a brief description of your undergraduate training, your reasons for applying to this program and to the specialization you've selected, and your areas of research interest.
5. If applicable, attach an academic résumé. Pertinent listings include scholarships, awards, grants, and other distinctions; conference papers, other presentations, and publications; and volunteer and community service.
6. Include a writing sample, preferably an essay, written in English, from a recent course with the instructor's comments visible on the essay. The committee will also consider supplementary materials.
7. Applicants for whom English is an additional language should include an official copy of TOEFL or IELTS scores.

TEXTS AND CULTURES

Specialization Advisor: Bruno Cornellier

This course-based MA program is intended to give students an excellent grounding in cultural, literary, textual, and visual studies. It is also ideal preparation for students interested in pursuing further graduate work at the PhD level in English and Cultural Studies (among other related fields), as well as for those interested in pursuing careers in secondary-school teaching, publishing, management, marketing, and other careers in communications and cultural industries, where MA degrees are increasingly valued. Information about specific faculty research interests can be found on faculty members' home departmental websites.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN M.A. IN CULTURAL STUDIES: TEXTS AND CULTURES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT

Applicants should have an Honours or Four-Year BA in English, a joint Honours or Four-Year BA in English and another subject, or an Honours or Four-Year BA in a field that provides the applicant with preparation in cultural, literary, textual, and/or visual studies. (Degrees we will consider include Honours or Four-Year BAs in Anthropology, Art History, History, Politics, Rhetoric and Communication, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies.) Other degrees and/or experience also will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A minimum number of courses in textual studies (the equivalent of 30 credit hours of study at the Honours level or 48 credit hours of study at other postsecondary levels) is required of all students, to be completed either before entry into the program or during a qualifying period.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4-Year Undergraduate degree

Minimum Entry requirement:

Overall GPA of 3.0

A GPA of 3.5 in the major subject

English requirement for applicants for whom English is an additional language:

A minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), or 100 (internet-based), with a score of at least 22 on the writing and speaking component; or an IELTS score of 7.5. Please note that the TOEFL requirement is higher for the MA in Cultural Studies: Texts and Cultures than the general requirement for Graduate Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

The test should have been taken within a year of the date on which a completed application is filed.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Full-time students may complete this program of study over a twelve-month period. Students also may be enrolled in the program on a part-time basis, normally completing the program requirements in two years. All students take 24 credit hours of course work, including the required course in Research Methods and Practice (3 credit hours).

MINIMUM COURSE AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work is mandatory. Students should arrange their specific distribution of courses in consultation with the Graduate Program Advisor assigned to them or the Graduate Program Committee Chair.

Students are required to obtain a minimum grade of B (grade point of 3.0) in all courses presented for graduation.

Expected Time to Graduate: 12 months for full-time students; 24 months for part-time students

Maximum Time to Graduate: 3 years

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GENG-7103(3) Research Methods and Practice This course aims to equip students with advanced bibliographical and research skills that will support their graduate study. Resources considered include archival, library, web-based, and informational technologies; the course incorporates theoretical and applied methodologies. Each year course material will be integrated with other graduate courses being offered.

GENG-7104(03) Concepts in Cultural Studies This course is a historical and theoretical survey of cultural studies, from the field's emergence as an outgrowth of the British New Left in the 1950s to the study of emergent cultural forms and practices in our globalized and post-industrial present. It includes readings in theory and criticism, each complemented by class discussion about various cultural practices that have the potential to illuminate the radically contextual project of cultural studies. Key concepts covered may include: ideology and hegemony; the articulations of race, gender, and class; colonialism and diasporic identities; popular culture and the politics of taste; museums and curatorial practices.

GENG-7112(3) and GENG-7113(6) Topics in Cultural Theory These courses focus on such questions as: What constitutes a text? How do some texts come to be valued over others? How do questions of value relate to the distribution of power and authority? How do social differences such as race, ethnicity, class, and gender shape and unsettle cultural production and consumption over time? How may "cultural theory" and "critical theory" be situated in relation to one another?

GENG-7160(3) and GENG-7161(6) Topics in Cultures of Childhood These courses focus on such questions as: How has the subject category of "the child," different in different times and places, been used to secure definitions of class, nation, history, and the modern individual? How do digital, filmic, and television texts, texts of material culture such as toys and video games, and oral texts such as family stories and schoolyard games take up and reframe these debates? How does studying texts designed for young readers allow for theoretical investigations into the manufacture of consent in liberal democratic cultures?

GENG-7901(3) and GENG-7902 (6) Topics in Genders, Sexualities, and Cultures These courses focus on such

issues as: the relationship between feminist theory, queer theory, and literary and cultural production; the impact of queer theory on historical considerations and contemporary understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality; the continued relevance of feminism and feminist theory to questions of gender and sexuality; and the development and circulation of terms such as "homosexual" and "heterosexual" and concepts such as "masculine" and "feminine," categories that have a fundamental impact on how we organize and understand cultures, subjectivities, and knowledges.

GENG-7740(3) and GENG-7741(6) Topics in Local, National, and Global Cultures These courses focus on such topics as: the implications of globalization for Canadian and Aboriginal texts and identities; the potential for dialogue and collaboration across nations and cultures; the ways in which local histories and contexts engender different relations to the global; and the language of human rights.

GENG-7811(3) and GENG-7812(6) Topics in Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures These courses will focus on such topics as: historical and contemporary theoretical debates over aesthetics and culture; archiving and public memory; orality and writing; popular cultures and reading publics; copyright and censorship; manual, industrial, and

digital publishing; book production, distribution and consumption; and media institutions.

GENG-7820(3) and GENG-7821(6) Topics in Visual Cultures These courses focus on visual images, the circumstances of their production, and the variety of cultural and social functions they serve. The study of visual culture includes artefacts from all historical periods and cultures, as well as media such as film, television, and the internet. The discourses around seeing and the cultural construction of the visual are taken into account.

GENG-7122(3) and GENG-7131(6) Special Studies in Cultural Theories and Practices These courses encourage students to consult with interested faculty members from English and cognate departments to develop reading courses related to particular areas of cultural theories and practices. Individualized programs for completing the required course work as well as independent study projects are submitted to be approved by the Cultural Studies Graduate Program Committee. Cognate departments include the following, among others: Anthropology; Politics; Sociology; Philosophy; History; Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications.

CURATORIAL PRACTICES

Specialization Advisor: Serena Keshavjee

This course-based MA is intended to give students an excellent foundation in both the academic and professional aspects of gallery and museum work. The mixture of theoretical and practical courses in the Curatorial Practices specialization, which includes courses from the Texts and Cultures specialization, will introduce students to critical issues in the study of visual cultures. Students study historical and contemporary curatorial principles in a seminar format as well as engaging in a hands-on Practicum course with individual placements in partnered art institutions, such as the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Plug In ICA, and the Buhler Gallery at St Boniface Hospital. Graduates of the Curatorial Practices specialization will be prepared for employment in visual arts institutions as curators, art historians, critical writers, gallery educators; in the field of communications; and in archival and museum institutions. They may also go on to pursue further doctoral studies in Art History. The specialized courses in Curatorial Practices are open to all students in Cultural Studies

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN M.A. IN CULTURAL STUDIES: CURATORIAL PRACTICES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT

Applicants should have an Honours or Four-Year BA in Art History, a joint Honours or Four-Year BA in Art History and another subject, or an Honours or Four-Year BA in a field that provides the applicant with preparation in cultural, literary, textual, and/or visual studies. (Degrees we will consider include Honours or Four-Year BAs in English, Anthropology, History, Fine Arts, Politics, Rhetoric and Communication, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies). Other degrees and/or experience also will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A minimum number of courses in visual studies (the equivalent of 30 credit hours of study at the Honours level or 48 credit hours of study at other postsecondary levels) is required of all students, to be completed either before entry into the program or during a qualifying period.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Full-time students may complete this program of study over a twelve-month period. Students also may be enrolled in the program on a part-time basis, normally completing the program requirements in two years. All students take 24 credit hours of course work, including the required course in Research Methods (3 credit hours) and the required course in Practicum in Curatorial Practices (6 credit hours).

MINIMUM COURSE AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work is mandatory. Students should arrange their specific distribution of courses in consultation with the Graduate Program Advisor assigned to them or the Curatorial Practices Advisor.

Students are required to obtain a minimum grade of B (grade point of 3.0) in all courses presented for graduation.

Expected Time to Graduate: 12 months for full-time students; 24 months for part-time students

Maximum Time to Graduate: 3 years

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GHIST-7831(6) Practicum in Curatorial Studies/ GENG-7831(6) Special Studies in Cultural Theories and Practices This course combines the theory and practice of curatorial work, public history, and experiential learning for students interested in achieving a university credit by working with a local museum or art gallery. Students are expected to work 6 hours a week in the host institution, as well as to attend classes once a week to gain a theoretical perspective on their work. Partnership opportunities include local galleries and museums.

GHIST-7830(6) The History of Museums and Collecting/ GENG-7821(6) Topics in Visual Cultures Museums do more than just collect art objects; they display and produce culture. This course examines the collecting practices of Western museums, before and after the Enlightenment, as well as ideologies of collecting. We investigate how museums developed in tandem with the discipline of art history, and how both institutions were dependent on nineteenth and twentieth century ideologies of nationalism and colonialism. Students study the functioning of artefacts and collections in the construction of cultural and national identities. Collections from the Medieval, Renaissance and Modern periods may be studied, including European and North American museums and galleries.

HIST-4801(6)/GHIST-7801(6) Advanced Studies in Art History This course addresses interpretations of selected topics in Art History as they have appeared in the literature. Possible topics include Feminism and Art History, Theories and Methods for Art History, or the work of a particular artist, period or movement. Wherever possible, topics are examined through the analysis of materials available in local collections and exhibitions.

HIST- 4815(6)/GHIST-7801(6) Art History and Exhibition Practice This course brings students into first-hand contact with selected art objects in order to learn how to design and mount an exhibition. The class examines works in their social, historical, and artistic contexts, using primary sources and technical resources available locally whenever possible. Students learn the practical aspects of art historical work.

GENG-7103(3) Research Methods and Practice This course aims to equip students with advanced bibliographical and research skills that will support their graduate study. Resources considered include archival, library, web-based, and informational technologies; the course incorporates theoretical and applied methodologies. Each year course material will be integrated with other graduate courses being offered.

GENG-7112(3) and GENG-7113(6) Topics in Cultural Theory These courses focus on such questions as: What constitutes a text? How do some texts come to be valued over others? How do questions of value relate to the distribution of power and authority? How do social differences such as race, ethnicity, class, and gender shape and unsettle cultural production and consumption over time? How may "cultural theory" and "critical theory" be situated in relation to one another?

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