Proposal for Accelerated BA/MA Degree
in Material Culture and Public Humanities

Submitted by Program in Art History (SOVA, CAUS)
and the Department of Religion and Culture (CLAHS)

The Program in Art History and the Department of Religion and Culture propose that their undergraduate majors be allowed to enroll in an accelerated degree program for the MA in Material Culture and Public Humanities.

Once accepted, students may double count a maximum of 12 credit hours toward undergraduate and graduate degrees (each credit hour counts toward both degrees at the same time): a maximum of 6 of those from 4000-level courses and all others from graduate level courses (see list below)

Admission

• In order to gain admission to the program, students must be of junior status, about to enter their last 12 months of work toward their BA
• Applicants must have attained –in-major GPAs of at least 3.5 (overall 3.0)
• Applicants must complete formal applications to the Graduate School at Virginia Tech
• Required application materials will include the GRE, a writing sample, personal statement, three letters of recommendation and all other materials requirement by the Graduate School
• Students must be accepted into the MA program prior to the beginning of the semester in which they would enroll in courses to be used on the accelerated program.

Process for identifying potential students and faculty advisors, and for mentoring during program

The MA in Material Culture and Public Humanities program currently offers two information sessions for interested undergraduates (one in the fall and one in the spring). The sessions often attract undergraduate majors in Religion and Culture, Art History, Architecture, and other design and humanities disciplines and are key venues for attracting students to the graduate program. In addition both the Program in Art History and the Department of Religion and Culture assign each of their majors to advisors; those advisors are important conduits for information about the MA. It is expected that in addition to those advisors, students enrolled in the accelerated program would be assigned to a faculty in the MA who is actively involved in the program (as the MA students currently are) for advising and mentorship.
Curriculum
• A maximum of 12 credits of graded coursework may be used in the program
• No more than 6 of the double-counted credits may be at the 4000 level; all others must be offered for graduate credit
• A grade of B or higher must be earned in each course to be double counted
• Courses must not be taken pass-fail if a graded option is available

Applicable courses include all 4000-level offerings in the Program in Art History and the Department of Religion and Culture:

* ART 4384: Topics in Art History
* RLCL 4324: Topics in Religion and Culture
* APS 4034: Appalachian Languages and Cultures
* APS 4094: Appalachian Community Research
* APS 4044: Appalachian Folk Cultures
* APS 4414: Issues in Appalachian Studies
* HUM 4034: Functions or Popular Culture
* HUM 4044: Topics in Humanities and Film
* HUM 4104: Explorations in Advanced Humanities Topics
* JUD 4424: Advanced Topics in Jewish Culture, History and Thought
* REL 4074: Topics in Religion and Intellectual History
* REL 4414: Topics in Biblical Studies
* REL 4424: Islam and the Modern World

*Note: All classes require approval by the Director(s) of the MA Program in Material Culture and Public Humanities for inclusion in an accelerated program.

**Note: The Program in Art History waives 4484: Topics in Methodology and Criticism for students enrolled in ART/HUM 5104 Historical and Theoretical Frameworks in Material Culture and Public Humanities

All other double-counted units must come from the following set of 5000-level Material Culture and Public Humanities courses:
• ART/HUM 5104: Historical and Theoretical Frameworks in Material Culture and Public Humanities
• ART/HUM 5204: Research Methods in Material Culture and Public Humanities
• HUM 5304: Material Culture and Public Humanities in the Public Sphere
• ART 5564: Exhibition Design and Display
• ITDS 5124: Preservation of Historic Interiors
• HIST 5424: Public History