

As an exhibit designer and preparator at the Utah Museum of Natural History, I am involved in a very challenging and satisfying area of the museum profession, but I am limited in advancing to jobs of greater responsibility due to the lack of a formal degree. I would like to broaden the scope of my capabilities and progress in this field, as I thoroughly enjoy my work and plan to focus my career in the museum profession. I would like to expand my skills to include a knowledge of art conservation because it relates to the display of objects.¹ Rather than attend an undergraduate program at another university or certification program at a centre for conservation studies out of the country, I am proposing a similar course of study here at the University of Utah. The University Studies program offers me the opportunity to develop a preparatory curriculum related to the field of art/object conservation. The completion of this curriculum set will serve as qualification for continued studies in a graduate conservation program. No departmental program (single or joint) at the University of Utah offers this grouping of classes.

Patterned after a select group of national programs offering primary degrees in this field, this curriculum is also similar to certification programs available in Canada and Australia. The purpose of these introductory (undergraduate) programs is to provide instruction in the disciplines pertinent to the field of art/object conservation. These classes are designed to introduce basic information and skills to the student, suggesting graduate studies to further prepare for a career as a conservator.² The variety of preparatory classes help the student to develop a working knowledge of cultural material, the study and interpretation of objects, and the proper techniques involved in collecting and displaying the same.³ Required studies in such programs include course work in science, the humanities (anthropology, art history, language) and studio art. Most of these programs are affiliated with major museums and coordinate undergraduate and graduate level internship programs with those institutions.

With the following set of course work, this proposed program would establish a strong interdisciplinary foundation for continued work in the field of object conservation. This outline structures connections with the University of Utah curriculum in anthropology, art history, studio art, chemistry, ethnic studies, and language. In conjunction with the established course work in these departments, a comprehensive internship program with the staff of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts is suggested. The emphasis of this internship would be in curatorial research of objects from the Owen D. Mort, Jr. African Collection, which are housed at the museum. To further cultivate a strong interest in African art, I would like the opportunity to study this collection. I consider it the focal point of this proposal—where ideas from all of these disciplines will converge to aid in the understanding and interpretation of this unique cultural material.

The study of *anthropology* will present information concerning the evolution and diversity of culture; in which the universal aspects of the production of cultural material will be explored. Specific courses in African culture will evaluate hunter-gatherer tribes and how those tribal societies evolved. A variety of classes on the topics of religion, mythology, kinship, work patterns, sex roles, etc. will provide an in-depth study of the dynamics of society. A related directed study course will concentrate on how tribal orientation and customs are the basis for most of the artworks produced by the African peoples.

Advanced courses in *studio art* offer the opportunity to become familiar in working with a variety of basic components that have been utilized in the production of cultural material. Combined with my existing knowledge of working with woods and metals, courses in clay sculpture and printmaking will offer a balanced understanding of most of those basic materials. These courses deal with the general construction techniques and processes, composition, and interaction of materials utilized in the production of art and functional objects.

The course work in *art history* is designed to enable students to attain competence in a selected area of study and to provide them with training in art historical research methods. My studies will cover a wide range of cultures and time periods in order to help me understand the variety of cultural influences and progressions in the development of art, which directly impacts the cultural material produced in any society. Through directed study projects, I will apply the information and research methods learned to help provide interpretation of African cultural material from the Mort Collection.

The study of the discipline of *chemistry* will orient me to the fundamentals of this science. The basic course work emphasizes descriptive and modern applied chemistry, focusing on the topics of molecular bonding and reaction chemistry. Introductory classes will provide a foundation for future studies in both organic and inorganic chemistry. These aspects of the discipline, with their relationship to material structure and deterioration, are studied in-depth at the graduate level of conservation programs.

Ethnic studies examines areas related to ethnicity, race, culture and other intersections. The course on aspects of African American experiences will help to relate how recent and contemporary lives have been effected by the strong cultural history of tribal Africa.

The study of the *French* language will be beneficial for two reasons. The first is in developing the ability to read and translate traditional art history and cultural reference text. The second benefit will be achieved through a proficient knowledge of how the language is constructed and spoken, as French is a component in the root language of some African dialects.

A museum-based internship suggests the involvement in supervised collection care projects such as collection assessments, re-housing, and exhibition design. Through working with the curatorial staff at the *Utah Museum of Fine Arts*, the research, examination, and treatment of individual artifacts will be encouraged. The goal of the research is to explain connections between these listed disciplines (in relation to the objects) and why each is utilized to develop a working interpretation of the cultural material. The UMFA project also provides an opportunity for me to apply the theoretical and practical skills developed, reinforcing the effect of the program.

My senior project will combine the research and art oriented skills developed through this [proposed] curriculum in producing an exhibition of African cultural material. Although I will not be qualified to perform any conservation on the objects, this project would involve the design, fabrication and installation of the exhibition. I will be responsible for developing the written interpretation concerning the objects and will also present a gallery talk in conjunction with the exhibition. A comprehensive evaluation of the project will be conducted with my advisor, Dr. Mary Francey and Ms. Bernadette Brown, curator of African collections at UMFA.

In most small to medium level museums, as in those found in Utah, there is no conservator on staff; collection personnel have adapted some of those skills in conjunction with other responsibilities. In those facilities, people with a diverse set of job skills are a much needed and welcomed asset. I submit that learning these new skills will enhance my effectiveness and marketability in the museum field; receiving a Bachelor of University Studies Degree will provide me with excellent opportunities in the future.

¹ *Conservation* is a highly technical task based on knowledge of the structure and chemistry of the materials involved. It includes preventative action through the creation of a safe environment for storage and display and treatments to stabilize and repair objects. Where needed, restoration techniques are employed to enhance the aesthetic nature while preserving the historical integrity of the item.

² *Conservators* are trained in the theory and specialized practice of the stabilization and preservation of materials. Working in the interdisciplinary field of conservation involves a variety of activities, such as carrying out technical and scientific studies, restoring the structure and reintegration of the appearance of deteriorated cultural artifacts, and establishing the controlled environments necessary for preservation. Specialization in one field of conservation is common; areas of interest include objects, books, works of art on paper, paintings, photographs, textiles, and metals.

³ *Cultural Material* refers to all types of objects ranging from the purely functional through the purely decorative. It encompasses all items contemporary, historic, prehistoric and ethnographic, natural history specimens, archival materials, and works of art. Research and interpretation serve to determine the cultural significance, be that aesthetic, ceremonial, religious, sentimental, or monetarily based.

MAJOR-EMPHASIS COURSES

Code	Course Title	Department	Credit
2111	Human Universals	Anthropology	3
2311	Archaeology	Anthropology	3
3121	Cultures of Africa	Anthropology	3
4171	Myth, Magic, and Religion	Anthropology	3
4181	Family, Power, and Society	Anthropology	3
4184	Hunter-Gatherer Ethnology	Anthropology	3
+	1040 Basic Design	Art	3
	2420 Begin 3-D Figure Sculpture	Art	4
	3340 Begin Printmaking: Woodcut	Art	4
	3420 Interm 3-D Figure Sculpture	Art	4
	4430 Adv Wood Shop Techniques	Art	3
	3000 Arts of Japan	Art History	3
	3200 Renaissance Europe	Art History	3
	3250 Baroque Art in Europe	Art History	3
+	3330 Realism / Impressionism	Art History	3
	5250 History of Prints	Art History	3
	5950 Directed Study / UMFA	Art History	3
	5950 Directed Study / UMFA	Art History	3
	5950 Directed Study / UMFA	Art History	3

MAJOR EMPHASIS COURSES – CONTINUED

Code	Course Title	Department	Credit
1200	Preparation for Gen Chemistry	Chemistry	3
1210	General Chemistry I	Chemistry	4
1230	General Chemistry / Lab I	Chemistry	1
5850	Special Topics - African Am	Ethnic Studies	3
1010	Beginning French I	Language	4
1020	Beginning French II	Language	4
2010	Intermediate French I	Language	4
2020	Intermediate French II	Language	4
Major Emphasis Credit Hours			87
4000 Level or Higher Credit Hours			27

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit /Requirement</u>		
c	1700 American Civilization	History	3	AI	
+	1040 Basic Design	Art	-	FF	
	3000 Arts of Japan	Art History	-	FI	
+	XC Communications 101	SLCC Transfer Credit	3	HF	
+	3330 Realism / Impressionism	Art History	-	HI	
	1510 Science Without Walls	Bioengineering	3	SF	
	2311 Archaeology	Anthropology	-	SI	
	3010 Science of Sexuality	Health Education	3	BI	
	2111 Human Universals	Anthropology	-	BI	
	c	1050 College Algebra	Math	4	QA
	+	2010 Intermediate Writing	Writing	3	WR
1270 Analysis of Argument		Communication	3	QB	

BACHELOR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit /Requirement</u>	
	3610 Curr Trends Critical Thinking	Writing	3	CW
	5850 Special Topics - Af Am	Ethnic Studies	-	DV

BACHELOR OF ARTS REQUIREMENTS

<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit /Requirement</u>	
	1010 Beginning French I	Language	-	Language
	1020 Beginning French II	Language	-	Language
	2010 Intermediate French I	Language	-	Language
	2020 Intermediate French II	Language	-	Language

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Code	Course Title	Department	Credit
+	2600 Strategies for College Success	Ed Psychology	3
+	5965 Learning Strategies for Adults	Ed Psychology	1
+	950 Basic Algebra	Math	NC
+	1010 Intermediate Algebra	Math	3

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS BY COLLEGE

College of Engineering	3
College of Fine Arts [Art: 18 / Art History: 24]	42
College of Health	3
College of Humanities	31
College of Science	15
College of Social and Behavioral Science	18
Graduate School of Education	4
Office of the Associate Vice President for Diversity	3

TOTAL COURSE HOURS YET-TO-BE COMPLETED	100
TOTAL UPPER DIVISION COURSE HOURS	57
Transfer Credit Hours [Elective Only] Salt Lake Community College	62
Listed Credit Hours	<u>119</u>
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION	181