

MASTER OF ARTS CULTURAL STUDIES (GCST)

May 23, 2025

Graduate Program Committee Chair: Professor **P. Ives** (Political Science); Co-ordinator, Curatorial Studies: Professor S. Keshavjee (History); Professors: A. Failler (Women's and Gender Studies, J. H. Wills (English); Associate Professors: B. Christopher (English), B. Cornellier (English), P. C. Manfredi (English), C. Mattes (History), M. Racette-Campbell (Classics), K. Ready (English), C. Tosenberger (English), D. Wolf (English); Assistant Professors: A. Singh (Women's and Gender Studies), Adjunct Professor: S. Borys; Instructor: Sam Popowich (Library)

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 **February 1** for all 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 TOEF, IELTS, or Duolingo scores.

TEXTS AND CULTURES

Specialization Advisor: Peter Ives

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 MA 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; or a Duolingo score of 125. Please note that the TOEFL and Duolingo 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.

MINIMUM COURSE AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 24 credit hours of course work is mandatory, including the required courses listed below. 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.

Required Courses:

GCST-7103(3) Research Methods and Practices

GCST-7104(3) Concepts in Cultural Studies

GCST-7105(3) Capstone

Topics Courses:

GCST-7112/3 Topics in Cultural Theory

GCST-7122/3 or /6 Special Studies in Cultural Theories & Practices

GCST-7160/3 Topics in Cultures of Young People

GCST-7780/3 Topics in Critical Race Studies

GCST-7740/3 Topics in Local, National, and Global Cultures

GCST-7811/3 Topics in Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures

GCST-7802/3 The Idea of the Museum

GCST-7820/3 Topics in Visual Cultures

GCST-7840/3 Topics in Textual and Literary Studies

GCST-7850/3 Topics in Media & Communication Studies

GCST-7851/3 Topics in Curatorial Practices

GCST-7901/3 Topics in Gender & Sexuality

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

Maximum Time to Graduate: 3 years

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 MA 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.

MINIMUM COURSE AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Required Courses:

GCST-7103(3) Research Methods and Practices
GCST-7105(3) Capstone
GCST-7831(6) Practicum in Curatorial Studies

Topics Courses:

GCST-7112/3 Topics in Cultural Theory
GCST-7122/3 or /6 Special Studies in Cultural Theories & Practices
GCST-7160/3 Topics in Cultures of Young People
GCST-7780/3 Topics in Critical Race Studies
GCST-7740/3 Topics in Local, National, and Global Cultures
GCST-7811/3 Topics in Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures
GCST-7802/3 The Idea of the MuseumGCST-7820/3 Topics in Visual Cultures
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GCST-7850/3 Topics in Media & Communication Studies
GCST-7851/3 Topics in Curatorial Practices
GCST-7901/3 Topics in Gender & Sexuality

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