

**CUS512AC Topics in Cultural Representation and Interpretation: Thinking with Things:
Material Culture of Everyday Life 文化再現與詮釋專題: 日常之物的文化意涵**

Course Title	:	Topics in Cultural Representation and Interpretation: Thinking with Things: Material Culture of Everyday Life 文化再現與詮釋專題: 日常之物的文化 意涵
Course Code	:	CUS512AC
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Class Contact Hours	:	3 hours per week
Category	:	Elective course
Discipline	:	Cultural Studies
Prerequisite(s)	:	Nil
Co-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Exclusion(s)	:	Nil
Exemption Requirements	:	Nil
Brief Course Description	:	This course explores the intricate relationship between humanity and materiality, examining the ways in which people and things interact. Drawing upon scholarship from diverse disciplines, we anchor our inquiry within the realms of cultural representation (encompassing works of art and literature), material exchange (spanning the gift and the commodity), and the intimate quotidian encounters (from toys to apparel and to furnishings). Our investigation navigates the delicate equilibrium between the reification of humans and the anthropomorphization of things, aiming to transcend the traditional subject-object distinction that has hitherto characterized the human-nonhuman relationship. Attending instead to their mutual constitution, we explore not merely how meanings and sociality are constructed through materiality, but also how inanimate objects may function as agents shaping human subjectivity. By

contemplating our existence in this material world as a circular process whereby both humans and nonhumans exert influence upon one another, students will acquire a novel perspective of everyday life within the private, public, and global spheres, ultimately gaining a deeper understanding of their own position within this interconnected thingly world.