

AAP 373 – Material Life and Culture in the medieval and early modern world

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General information

This is a new module which has retained a substantially ‘traditional’ structure insofar as the classes are to be based on lectures and seminars. However, the module also contains some key elements of Inquiry-Based Learning. AAP 373 is therefore a good example for those who wish to implement smaller components of IBL into the existing structure of their modules.

IBL tasks and assessment

1. The second hour of each two-hour class will be devoted to seminar sessions based on discussions of particular articles or papers. Each week, students will be required to produce a 100-word summary of the seminar discussion to be submitted on WebCT. This helps to foster deeper learning of the material as well as critical reading and writing skills.
2. A second small piece of assessment involves presenting the findings (speaking to a Powerpoint of the work which is carried out for one of the major pieces of assessment. Not only does this ‘model the process of research’ insofar as independent work is presented to peers, it increases student confidence as practitioners of their discipline.
3. One of the major pieces of research involves students interacting with online museum databases. Students must themselves search for and deploy appropriate resources for this essay, which therefore fundamentally becomes a student-directed inquiry process. See ‘Useful weblinks’ for URL’s for a variety of museums.