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**Title:**

Adobe Isn't Just for Adoberos: Adobe as Part of a Non-Foundational University Curriculum

**Abstract:**

Much of the scholarship of adobe making and teaching adobe making skills rightfully focuses on training a new generation of adoberos and honing the practices of building with earth. But there is also a valid and meaningful role for adobe in the general, core education of university students of all majors. This paper examines the use adobe making over the last four years as part of the course of study in The Legacy of Ancient Technology; an interdisciplinary, undergraduate Honors class taught at the University of New Mexico. The goal of this course is not to put students on a vocational path. Rather, adobe is used as part of a non-foundational and collaborative curriculum. Students from a wide range of majors—from the sciences to the social sciences, from engineering to the humanities—learn about building with earth in both the classroom and the field as part of larger study of the history of technology and the anthropology of tool users. This paper explores why collaborative, hands-on study of adobe is an especially effective part of a class that intends to connect students to a deep history of their built environment as well as open up a sustainable and successful future. The preservation of adobe architecture and the persistence and flourishing of adobe making skills and traditions depends on more than just those who design and build.