INLS 857-001: Seminar in Rare Books Syllabus

Spring 2018: January 10 to April 25; Wednesdays, 12:20–3:05 p.m.

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Course Description
This course is an introduction to rare books and special collections librarianship within the context of today’s landscape of knowledge and information resources. It will provide a basic outline of the fundamentals of defining, developing, and administering rare book collections. This course is aimed at those interested in careers in the humanities and general academic research, and is a blueprint for further study to those interested in careers in special collections.

This course is a 3 credit course and can only provide a broad overview of the profession. Our main goal will be to cultivate your understanding of books as material objects and cultural resources with rich histories.

Class Sessions
Course location: Room 504, Wilson Special Collections Library.

In this course, we will regularly examine and discuss books from the Rare Book Collection and other special collections at Wilson Library. To maintain the integrity of collection materials please observe these rules during all class sessions:

- The classroom is outfitted with open shelving and a coat rack. Please put away all bags and coats prior to class. You may use loose leaf paper and pencil to take notes, but no bound notebooks or pens. Laptops, tablets, and smartphones may be used in class.
- Please wash your hands thoroughly prior to class.
- No food or drink is permitted in the classroom, including water.

Active participation in the course is a key component of the course design. To facilitate discussion, please bring with you to each class three questions from the readings that you would like to discuss.

Assignments
This course is built around a portfolio assignment that you will submit in multiple stages. This assignment is designed to mimic the types of work required of rare book professionals, giving you a practical model for thinking through your readings and class sessions.

Assignments will test your writing skills, and require you to visit the reading rooms of the Wilson Library independently, outside of class, to perform research.

Grading
Grading is according to the system for Graduate Grades on the registrar’s website:
http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/grades/explanation-of-grading-system/

H  High Pass
P  Pass
L  Low Pass
F  Fail
IN Incomplete: a temporary grade that converts to an F* unless the grade is replaced with a permanent grade by the last day of classes for the same term one year later
AB Absent from Final Examination: a temporary grade that converts to an F* unless the grade is replaced with a permanent grade by the last day of classes for the same term one year later

Participation in class: 30%
Portfolio part one: 10%
Portfolio part two: 10%
Portfolio part three: 10%
Portfolio parts four and five: 10%
Portfolio presentation: 10%
Final Portfolio submission: 20%

This course and your academic work are governed by the UNC Honor Code. Please see in particular, Part II. B. Academic Dishonesty.

Plagiarism is a serious offense. Please attribute all ideas, work, and quotations from others in your written work using full citations.

Course Communication
The Sakai site will facilitate course communications. I will send messages to you directly using Sakai’s email function, which will be available retrospectively in the Email Archive. Please also check for Announcements. Because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, you must use your secure UNC accounts for email communication with me. Office hours by appointment will allow for in-person communication outside class time.

Required Texts

You should be reading the book over the course of the semester. Relevant terms will be highlighted for different classes under the heading “Carter.” There is a new 9th edition available, updated with new terminology by Nicolas Barker and Simran Thadani, which you may also purchase—the 8th edition is specified because of the availability of the PDF version.

Required readings will be listed for each class session under the heading “Gaskell.”

**Bowres**, Fredson. *Principles of Bibliographical Description* (Princeton, 1949); reprinted since 1994 (with an introduction by G. Thomas Tanselle) by Oak Knoll Press. Required readings from Bowres are posted to Sakai, so it is not necessary to purchase this book—however, you may find it prudent to invest in a copy.

**Schedule Overview**
January 17: The History of U.S. Rare Book Collections; Rare Book Librarianship and Professional Standards
**January 24: No Class**
January 31: Book Production in the Hand-Press Period: Part One
February 7: Book Production in the Hand-Press Period: Part Two
February 14: Bibliographical Description
February 21: Bibliographical Analysis
February 28: Illustration, Industrial Book Production
March 7: Bindings, Provenance, and Rare Book Research
**March 14: No Class, Spring Break**
March 21: Collection Development
March 28: Access: Cataloging and Description
April 4: Public Services, Outreach, and Digital Environments
April 11: Preservation and Conservation
April 18: Security / Presentations part one
April 25: Presentations part two / Guest Panel

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**Class Schedule: Readings and Assignments**

**January 10**: Introduction & Orientation: What Is a Book? What Is the Study of Books? What Is a Rare Book? What Are Rare Book Collections?


**Required Readings**:


Review:


January 17: The History of U.S. Rare Book Collections; Rare Book Librarianship and Professional Standards

PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT PART ONE DUE

Required Readings:


Recommended:

**Review:**
Association of College and Research Libraries. Rare Books & Manuscripts Section. Available online: http://rbms.info Browse the site, read in particular: Commitment to Diversity.

**January 24: NO CLASS**

**January 31:** Book Production in the Hand-Press Period: Part One

**PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT PART TWO DUE**


**Required Readings:**
Gaskell, 1–77.

**Recommended:**

**NB:** It is very important to develop a strong understanding of the technical processes used in historical book manufacture. If you are a more visual learner, you may find it useful to
watch a video that demonstrates the processes; you can find links to many videos of this nature at the end of this syllabus.

**February 7**: Book Production in the Hand-Press Period: Part Two

**Required Readings:**
Gaskell, 78–159

**Recommended:**

**February 14**: Bibliographical Description

**Carter:** “Bibliography,” “Edition and Impression,” “Ideal Copy,” “Issues and States,” “State,” “Variant”

**Required Readings:**

**Bowers:** Chapter 5, Chapter 7, Appendix I: A Digest of the Formulary

**February 21**: Bibliographical Analysis

**Required Readings:**

**February 28**: Illustration, Industrial Book Production

Required Readings:
Gaskell: 189–288

March 7: Bindings, Provenance, and Rare Book Research

Required Readings:
Gaskell 146–153.
Pearson, David. Provenance Research in Book History: A Handbook (New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll, 1998), 1–11. Please also review the table of contents: if there are terms that are unfamiliar to you, review them in Carter. Available on Sakai.

March 14: NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK
March 21: Collection Development

PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT PART THREE DUE

Required Readings:

Listen:
Selected Presentations and Documents from the 2016 RBMS Conference. Please listen to the audio for Plenary Session 3: Collaborating with Diverse Communities, and well as Short Papers: Building Special Collections and Archives. Available online: https://rbms.info/conferences/2016docs/

Review:
Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) http://www.abaa.org
In particular, “About the ABAA: Mission Statement, Guarantee & Code of Ethics”
Bookmans Price Index. RBC Z1000.B74 (WILSON)
viaLibri http://www.vialibri.net
American Book Prices Current https://www.bookpricescurrent.com
Fine Books & Collections http://www.finebooksmsagazine.com
The Book Collector. Z990.B6 (Davis Library, 8th Floor) http://www.thebookcollector.co.uk

March 28: Access: Cataloging and Description

Required Readings:
Association of College and Research Libraries. Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. Bibliographic Standards Committee. Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)
Preface and Introduction, browse remainder. Available online: 
http://rbms.info/dcrm/dcrmb/

April 4: Public Services, Outreach, and Digital Environments

Watch:
Dunye, Cheryl, dir. The Watermelon Woman. 1996. Please watch two scenes:
  • 29:00–30:00
  • 57:00–101:00
Available online here: http://search.lib.unc.edu/search?R=UNCb8189155

Required Readings:
April 11: Preservation and Conservation

Required Readings:
Browse, see especially “Culturally Sensitive Treatment.”

April 18: Security

PORTFOLIO PART FOUR AND PART FIVE DUE

CLASS PRESENTATIONS PART ONE

Required Readings:
Association of College and Research Libraries. Rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

**Review:**

**April 25: Summary**

**CLASS PRESENTATIONS PART TWO**

**Required Readings:**

Closing Panel Guests:
- María Estorino, Associate University Librarian for Special Collections
- Chaitra Powell, African American Collections and Outreach Archivist
- Emily Kader, Rare Book Research Librarian
- Eileen Dewitya, Head of Bibliographic Cataloging Section for Special Collections

**Relevant Web Resources**
American Printing History Association (APHA). [https://printinghistory.org](https://printinghistory.org)
Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA). [http://www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org)
Note resources listed under “About Antiquarian Books.”
California Rare Book School. [http://www.calrbs.org/](http://www.calrbs.org/)
Fine Books & Collections. [http://www.finebooksmagazine.com](http://www.finebooksmagazine.com)
Grolier Club. [http://www.grolierclub.org](http://www.grolierclub.org)
List of Digital Resources (from Kirschenbaum and Werner above, URLs updated 1.4.2016)
Annotated Books Online (Utrecht University): http://www.annotatedbooksonline.com/
The Archimedes Palimpsest (Walters Art Museum): http://archimedespalimpsest.org/
The Atlas of Early Printing (University of Iowa Library): http://atlas.lib.uiowa.edu/
Bodleian Ballads Online (Bodleian Library): http://ballads.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/
The Dickinson Electronic Archives (Dickinson Editing Collective): http://www.edickinson.org/

Early English Books Online: http://eebo.chadwyck.com/home   [Subscription Only]
Eighteenth-Century Book Tracker (Benjamin Pauley): http://benjaminpauley.net/c18booktracker/
Eighteenth Century Collections Online: https://www.gale.com/c/eighteenth-century-collections-online-part-i   [Subscription Only]
Emily Dickinson Archive (Harvard University): http://www.edickinson.org/

English Short Title Catalogue: http://estc.bl.uk/
Folger Digital Texts (Folger Shakespeare Library): http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/
The French Book Trade in Enlightenment Europe (University of Western Sydney): http://fbteeuws.edu.au/main/

Gallica (Bibliothèque nationale de France): http://gallica.bnf.fr/
Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke Database (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin): http://www.gesamtkatalogderwiegendrucke.de/

Google Books: http://books.google.com/books
The Great Parchment Book (London Metropolitan Archives): http://www.greatparchmentbook.org

HathiTrust Digital Library: http://www.hathitrust.org/
Implementing New Knowledge Environments (University of Victoria): http://inke.ca/
Impositor (Folger Shakespeare Library): http://titania.folger.edu/impositor/
Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (British Library): http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/

Internet Archive: https://archive.org/
Listen to Wikipedia (Stephen LaPorte and Mahmoud Hashemi): http://listen.hatnote.com/
Mapping Colonial Americas Publishing Project (Brown University): http://cds.library.brown.edu/mapping-genres/
The Open Utopia (Stephen Duncombe): http://theopenutopia.org/

Reading Experience Database (Open University): http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/
The Shakespeare Quartos Archive (Bodleian Library, Folger Shakespeare Library, and MITH, University of Maryland): http://www.quartos.org/
Visualizing Variation (Alan Galey): [http://individual.utoronto.ca/alangaley/visualizingvariation/](http://individual.utoronto.ca/alangaley/visualizingvariation/)
What Middletown Read (Ball State University): [http://www.bsu.edu/libraries/wmr/](http://www.bsu.edu/libraries/wmr/)

**Videos Demonstrating Book Manufacture**
With thanks to Deborah Leslie for compiling this list

**General**
- *The Art of Making a Book* (hand press): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T17aCX2iBBY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T17aCX2iBBY)

**Papermaking**
- *Chancery Papermaking*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-PmfV_cZU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-PmfV_cZU)
- *Handmade papermaking and handcasting type*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MTb7N9jNY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MTb7N9jNY)

**Hand Printing and Printmaking**
- *Het drukproces in Museum Plantin-Moretus*. A series of ten unnarrated videos put out by the Musea Stad Antwerpen. Watch in this order:
  - Cutting the punch: [https://youtu.be/ACSht0n8a?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/ACSht0n8a?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Creating the matrix: [https://youtu.be/HcAoBhpjo-?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/HcAoBhpjo-?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Casting type: [https://youtu.be/q98JWhe3xF?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/q98JWhe3xF?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Setting type: [https://youtu.be/FwRbXrmpG?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/FwRbXrmpG?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Tying up the galley: [https://youtu.be/7JYacTYtM?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/7JYacTYtM?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Imposing: [https://youtu.be/yfR0lNvSZY?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/yfR0lNvSZY?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Letterpress printing: [https://youtu.be/I06il4AWJS?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/I06il4AWJS?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Engraving: [https://youtu.be/l0oU-g3UICY?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/l0oU-g3UICY?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Etching: [https://youtu.be/KVyxLBC41-U?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19](https://youtu.be/KVyxLBC41-U?list=PL1DD2DC2ECAE66A19)
  - Woodcut Printing: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgCYovIFRNY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgCYovIFRNY)

**Binding**
- *Bookbinding 101*, [https://www.youtube.com/user/BookbindersChronicle/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/BookbindersChronicle/videos). A series of nine videos on hand bookbinding. Watch the videos in reverse order as they appear on the page, starting with “Sewing with cloth tapes.”