Z399/Z681: The Book, 1450 to the Present (Spring 2016)

Wednesday, 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM, Ellison Room, Lilly Library
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Course description: This course is intended to be a survey of the book from 1450 to the present, with emphasis on the development of the book in the West. The course will focus on the physical aspects of the book from the mid-fifteenth through the twentieth centuries, and on some of the many roles of the book in society during this period. There is a high level of interest in the academic world in the related fields of “the history of the book,” “print culture”, and “material culture”, and one of the purposes of this course is to introduce students to current scholarly trends in the history of the book.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate an understanding of:

- the elements of the physical book and how they have changed over time
- the physical, social, and economic aspects of book production and use over time
- the major scholarly trends in the history of the book and related fields

Lilly Library: Class meetings will be held at the Lilly Library, assignments will require use of its collections. Students should acquaint themselves with the Lilly Library’s hours and use policies.

Canvas: This syllabus, class assignments, announcements, and many readings will be made available on Canvas (canvas.iu.edu). Updates to our class schedule or assignments will always be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class meetings, read all the required materials, complete other preparatory activities for class discussion, actively engage in classroom discussions, and complete all assignments.

Required readings: Required readings will be drawn from The Oxford Companion to the Book and a variety of other books and articles, made available to you online via Canvas or other means. I have provided call numbers for some books, though none will be put on physical reserve.

URL: http://iucat.iu.edu/catalog/8744831 (IU Libraries subscription)


Optional readings: These readings are sometimes supplemental, but often cover the same ground as required readings but in more depth or sophistication. I often refer to Gaskell, cited below, which is available for purchase at the Friends of Art Bookshop in the Fine Arts Building Room 121.

[one copy in Lilly Library Reading Room, Z1001 .G248]
Assignments:

Population (20% of final grade):

To participate fully
- complete the weekly readings
- bring copies (paper or electronic) of the readings to class
- prepare provocative questions and comments as assigned

Provocative questions and comments:
Undergraduates should sign up for two sessions; graduate students for four sessions. I will usually supply you with a question to prompt your thinking. Be prepared to discuss your questions and comments in class. Session 5-9 and 13-15 are eligible for responses. Post to discussions in Canvas by preceding Tuesday by 5:00 PM.

'History of a book’ poster assignment (30% of final grade):

This assignment asks you to apply concepts from course readings and class discussion to the interpretation of a selected book and to present your work in the form of a research poster. Posters are due in class on February 17 where you will give a 5 minute presentation of your work. The full assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Final project (50% of final grade):

The final project gives students the opportunity to explore in depth some aspect of the history of the book from 1450 to the present. Researching and creating the project will be a semester-long project, with several opportunities to receive feedback at during the process. The project may be a research paper, an exhibition catalog, an online exhibition, a video, or other creative work. See the full assignment for more details. The parts of the final project are outlined in brief below:

Project proposal (5% of final grade): In the proposal you should strive to articulate why your project is interesting and important. Why should we care about your project? This assignment will not be graded but thoughtful completion of the proposal is required to receive full credit. Due February 10.

Project meetings (5% of final grade): Minimum two meetings with the instructor to fine tune your proposal and check in along the way.

In-class presentation (10% of final grade): Make a professional presentation 10-15 minutes in length, scheduled during our final class meeting. Due April 27.

Final project (35% of final grade): Students turn in final version of project. Due April 27.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Session 1 – January 13
Introduction to the course

Session 2 – January 20
Gutenberg; Printing type; Scholarly approaches to book history

Required readings:
Gaskell, pp. 1-12, “The Hand-printed Book” and part of “Printing type,” (Canvas)

Skim:
Gaskell, pp. 13-39, remainder of “Printing type” (Canvas)

Optional readings:

Session 3 – January 27
Early printed books; Research tutorial on book history

Required readings:
Oxford Companion, Chapter 6, Cristina Dondi, “The European Printing Revolution” (~12 pp.)
Oxford Companion, Chapter 11, James Mosley, “Technologies of Print” (parts 1-3 only, ~14 pp.)

Session 4 – February 3
Presswork; Papermaking; Illustration processes to 1800

Required readings:
Oxford Companion, Chapter 10, Daven Christopher Chamberlain, “Paper” (parts 1-4 only, ~6 pp.)
Oxford Companion, entries for “Composition,” “Imposition,” “Presswork,” “Trade binding,” “Vellum binding”

Optional readings:
Session 5 – February 10
The early modern book; Impact of printing; Change and continuity

Assignments: Project proposal due.

Required readings:
Oxford Companion, Chapter 13, “The Manuscript after the Coming of Print”

Optional readings (read one long and one short, we'll divide up in class):

Optional readings:

Session 6 – February 17
Authority, authorship, and anonymity; The book in the 18th century


Required readings:

Optional readings:
Oxford Companion, Chapter 20A, “History of the Book in Britain c1475-1800”
Oxford Companion, Chapter 22, “History of the Book in France” (through part 6, the 18th C)
Session 7 – February 24
Print and democracy; The American colonial book trade

Required readings:
Selected letters from the correspondence between Matthew Carey and Mason Locke Weems. [to be provided on Canvas]

Session 8 – March 2
The “boring canon”; Job printing; Impact of printing

Required readings:

Session 9 – March 9
Copyright and authorship

Required readings:
Oxford Companion, entry on “Copyright”

March 16 – SPRING BREAK

Session 10 – March 23
Class visit to the Graphic Design Press, Fine Arts Building, 2nd floor. [tentative]
Session 11 – March 30
Printing technologies of the 19th/20th centuries

Required readings:
*Oxford Companion*, Chapter 11, James Mosley, “Technologies of Print” (part 4)

Optional readings:

Session 12 – April 6
Books for children; Popular press in the 19th century

Required readings: To be announced.

Session 13 – April 13
Readers and reading in the 19th/20th centuries

Required readings:

For class discussion, skim:
Various reports on the state of reading in the United States, see list on Canvas.
The Reading Experience Database, [http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/RED/](http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/RED/)

Session 14 – April 20
Publishing and selling books in the 20th century; Paperbacks

Required readings:

Optional readings:
*Oxford Companion*, Chapter 48, “The History of the Book in America” (parts 4-5)
Session 15 – April 27
The Future of the Book

Assignments: Final project due. In-class presentations.

Required reading:

Two of the following (we will divide them up so all are covered):


http://snarkmarket.com/2014/8225

http://books-on-books.com/2014/01/01/bookmark-ringing-the-changes-on-the-end-of-books-2014/

May 4 – EXAM WEEK
Academic dishonesty

There is extensive documentation and discussion of the issue of academic dishonesty in the Indiana University "Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct". Of particular relevance is the section on plagiarism:

3. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered “common knowledge” may differ from course to course.

a. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgment.

b. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever:

1. directly quoting another person’s actual words, whether oral or written;
2. using another person’s ideas, opinions, or theories;
3. paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
4. borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
5. offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment

From: http://www.iu.edu/~code/

Indiana University School of Informatics & Computing policies on academic dishonesty will be followed. Students found to be engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other types of dishonesty will receive an F for the course. As a rule of thumb, when in doubt, cite the source.