

History 420
The Book: From Gutenberg to the Internet
Mondays 1:30-4:20 in Firestone Library

This seminar is meant to arrive at an understanding of the printed book as a force in history and literature from the time of Gutenberg to the present. It will be thematic rather than chronological in organization, although it should convey a general idea of the history of books in the West over the last five centuries. Because it will study books both as objects and as vehicles for transmitting ideas, it will include a great deal of hands-on instruction by book professionals--printers, editors, publishers, binders, and bibliographers. Students will experiment with setting type, correcting proof, writing catalogue copy, analyzing rare editions, and appreciating art work. Interspersed with these practical activities will be seminar sessions on the history of books as a field of study.

1. Feb. 3: What Is a Book? Scheide Library, Firestone

Introduction to the seminar
Session with Paul Needham in the Scheide Library, Firestone

2. Feb. 10: What Is Book History? Seminar Room.

David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery, eds., The Book History Reader (Routledge, New York, 2002), part one. Firestone Z4.B665 2002

3. Feb. 17: Composition and Printing. 185 Nassau St.

Session with John Bidwell and Robert Milevski at 185 Nassau Street.
Philip Gaskell, A New Introduction to Bibliography, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1972, pp. 1-145. Firestone: Z116.A2 G27.

4. Feb. 24: Orality and Literacy. Seminar Room.

The Book History Reader, part two.

5. March 3: Gutenberg and His Invention. Firestone (room to be announced).

Session with Blaise Agüera y Arcas in Firestone
Janet Ing, Johann Gutenberg and His Bible, New York, Typophiles, 1988.
Firestone: Z126.Z7I55 1988

6. March 10: Books From the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. Seminar Room.

Henri-Jean Martin, The History and Power of Writing, University of Chicago Press, 1988, pp. 182-396. Firestone Z40.M3713 1994.

Spring Recess, March 15-23

7. March 24: Binding and Illustrations. Firestone, Graphic Arts.

Session with Scott Husby and Rebecca Davidson, Graphic Arts and Preservation Departments, Firestone.

William Ivins, Prints and Visual Communication, New York, Da Capo Press, 1969. Firestone: Graphic Arts: NE 430.XI85 1969.

Gaskell, A New Introduction to Bibliography, pp. 146-153.

8. March 31: Copyright and Censorship. Seminar Room.

Mark Rose, Authors and Owners: The Invention of Copyright, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1993. Firestone: KD1300.R67 1993.

9. April 7: Bibliography, Book Collecting, and Libraries: Firestone, Rare Books.

Session with Stephen Ferguson and Lara Moore, Rare Books Department
Gaskell, A New Introduction to Bibliography, pp. 311-360.

10. April 14: Authors, Readers, and Modern Literature. Seminar Room.

The Book History Reader, parts three (excluding essay by Rose) and four.

11. April 21: Publishing in the Twenty-First Century. Princeton University Press.

Session with Brigitta van Rheinburg and others in the Princeton University Press
Jason Epstein, Book Business. Publishing Past Present and Future (Norton, New York, 2001). Firestone: Z280.E67 2001.

12. April 28: The Internet and the Future. Seminar Room.

Anne B. Keating, The Wired Professor, New York University Press, New York, 1999. Firestone: LB2331.K35 1999, pp. 1-70.

Robert Darnton, "The New Age of the Book"