INSTRUCTOR: Michael Laird  
Classroom: HRC 2.212 Feldman Room  
Times: Mon. 1:00pm - 3:45pm  
512-668-4621  
michael.laird@mail.utexas.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT:  
Micah Erwin  
501-269-1538  
micah.erwin@att.net

Students will meet at the reception desk on the 2nd floor of the HRC (2.200).

GOALS:  
Utilizing primary source materials from the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center,  
the course will offer an introduction to the Book Arts. The student will become familiar  
with specialized research tools and techniques that are daily utilized by Special  
Collections Librarians, rare book dealers and collectors. The course seeks to foster a  
sense of connoisseurship in the Books Arts in the broadest sense, including (but not  
limited to) the medieval manuscript, Incunabula and other early printed books, Gothic  
and Renaissance bookbindings, emblem books of the 17th-century, the French Illustrated  
book (18th-century), English Color-Plate Books (19th-century), the English Private Press  
movement, Children’s Books, Modern Illustrated books. Throughout the course the  
relationship between the antiquarian book trade, private collectors, and Special  
Collections Libraries will be explored.

TEXTBOOKS:


**EVALUATION:**

Grades will be based on written assignments and oral presentations (45%), “Executive Summaries” of the Readings (10%), “Curator’s Presentation to the Acquisitions Committee” (10%), mid-term Quiz (5%), term project (20%), and class participation (10%) as below:

Assignment 1 (due Sept. 27, 2010): Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts (Observations) = 15% (written: 10%, oral: 5%)
Assignment 2 (due Oct. 25, 2010): Early Printed Books (Observations) = 15% (written: 10%, oral: 5%)
Assignment 3 (due Nov. 15, 2010): Early Modern Books (Observations) = 15% (written: 10%, oral: 5%)

Mid-term Quiz (terminology, taken from seminars and readings) = 5% (Oct. 11, 2010)

“Curator’s presentation to the Acquisition Committee” (5-8 min. oral presentation, with written notes to be distributed to the instructor and to each member of the class) = 10% (Nov. 29, 2010)

Final Project: Aspects of the Book Arts (Exhibition Catalog, either printed or online) = 20% (due before Dec. 6, 2010, 1:00pm CST); NB: topics for Final project must be approved by Instructor on or before Nov. 15, 2010

Executive Summaries: 10% (see below)

Class Participation (throughout Semester) = 10%

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**Class 1**

August 30, 2010 (Monday)

**Introduction / Medieval Manuscripts**

**Proper Handling Techniques of Rare Materials**

Introduction to “Studies in the Book Arts”
Introduction to the Harry Ransom Center
Discussion of Assignment 1
Sign-up for brief meeting with Instructor / TA week of August 30, 2010

**Advance Readings:**


September 6, 2010 (Monday)
**Labor Day holiday** (no class)

Class 2
September 13, 2010 (Monday)
**Manuscripts**
**Book Structure Terminology**

Continue Manuscript production
Examination of HRC manuscripts

**Advance Readings:**


Understanding Illuminated manuscripts / Michelle Brown. Fine Arts Reference -- ND 2889 B76 1994 (Reference)

Class 3
September 20, 2010 (Monday)
**Ranuzzi Manuscripts**

Examination and discussions of HRC Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts from the Ranuzzi Collection

**Advance Readings:**


A Guide to Western Historical Scripts from Antiquity to 1600 / Michelle P. Brown. HRC REF – Z 105 B769 1990 REF.

Class 4  
September 27, 2010 (Monday)  
**Manuscript Presentations**  
**Introduction to Early Printed Books**

Assignment Due: Manuscript Observations (informal oral report: 5% final grade)  
Assignment Due: Manuscript Observations (formal written report: 10% final grade)

Examination and discussion of HRC Incunabula

**Advance Readings:**


A New Introduction to Bibliography / Philip Gaskell. HRC REF – Z 116 A2 G27 REF and HRC REF -- Z 116 A2 G27 1995 REF (pp. 6-153)

Johann Gutenberg and his Bible: a historical study / Janet Ing Freeman. PCL Reserves -- Z 241 B58 IS4 1988

Class 5  
October 4, 2010 (Monday)  
**Incunabula & Post-Incunabula**

Examination and discussion of Early Printed Books in the HRC Collections

**Advance Readings:**

Printing and the mind of man: a descriptive catalogue illustrating the impact of print / Carter, John. PCL Reserves: -Q- Z 4 C3 (pp. xv-xxxiii and skim catalogue entries).

The art & history of books / Levarie, Norma. PCL Reserves: -Q- Z 4 L58 (skim pp. 67-168)
Art of the printed book, 1455-1955; masterpieces of typography through five centuries / Pierpont Morgan Library. PCL Reserves: -Q- Z 121 P58 1973 c.3 (skim pp. 1-51 and passim.)

Class 6  
October 11, 2010 (Monday)  
16th and 17th-century Printed Books (including Emblem Books)

Mid-Term Quiz: Terminology (5% of final grade)  
Examination of Renaissance and Baroque books in the HRC Collections  
Examination and Discussion of Emblem books in the HRC Collections

Advance Readings:

Studies in Seventeenth-Century Imagery / Mario Praz. HRC REF – N 7740 P72 REF.

Emblem Books in the Low Countries / John Landwehr. PCL Reserve – Z 1021.3 L34

The art & history of books / Levarie, Norma. PCL Reserves: -Q- Z 4 L58 (skim pp. 168-215)


Class 7  
October 18, 2010 (Monday)  
Historic Bookbindings

Examination and Discussion of Pre-1700 Bookbindings in the HRC Collections

Advance Readings:


Class 8
October 25, 2010 (Monday)

Presentations: Pre-1700 Printed Books
18th-Century Illustrated Books

Assignment Due: Early Printed Books Observations (informal oral report: 5% final grade)
Assignment Due: Early Printed Books Observations (formal written report: 10% final grade)

Examination and Discussion: 18th-century Illustrated Books in the HRC Collections

Advance Readings:

The printed book in America / by Joseph Blumenthal. PCL Reserves -- Z 208 B58 c.2 (pp. 1-26)

The Art of the French Illustrated Book 1700 to 1914 / Gordon N. Ray. HRC REF: -Q- NC 978 R37 REF

Class 9
November 1, 2010 (Monday)

18th and 19th-century Bookbindings

Examination of 18th and 19th-century Bookbindings from the HRC Collections

Advance Readings:


Victorian Decorated Trade Bindings 1830-1880. Edmund M.B. King. PCL Reserves: Z270 G7 K46 2003


Class 10
November 8, 2010 (Monday)

19th-century Book Arts

Examination and Discussion of 19th-century materials from the HRC Collections
Advance Readings:

A New Introduction to Bibliography / Philip Gaskell. HRC REF – Z 116 A2 G27 REF and HRC REF – Z 116 A2 G27 1995 REF (pp. 189-250)

The printed book in America / by Joseph Blumenthal. PCL Reserves -- Z 208 B58 c.2 (pp. 26-54)

The Illustrator and the Book in England 1790-1914 / Gordon N. Ray. HRC REF: -Q- NC 978 R37 REF.

English Books with Colour Plates / R.V. Tooley – PCL Reserve 016.096 T618S (skim)

Travel in Lithograph & Aquatint / J.R. Abbey – HRC –Q- NE 143 A58 (skim)

Class 11
November 15, 2010 (Monday)

Private Press Movement: Kelmscott / Doves / Ashendene

Examination and Discussion of Private Press materials from the HRC Collections

Advance Readings:

The printed book in America / by Joseph Blumenthal. PCL Reserves -- Z 208 B58 (pp. 55-157)

The private press / Roderick Cave. PCL Reserves -- Z 231.5 P7 C37 1983 (skim pp. 85-347)

The private presses / Colin Franklin. PCL Reserves -- Z 231.5 P7 F7 1991 (skim pp. 9-182)

Class 12
November 22, 2010 (Monday)

Presentations: Early Modern Books

Modern Illustrated Books

Assignment Due: Early Modern Books -- Observations (informal oral report: 5% final grade)
Assignment 3 Due: Early Modern Books -- Observations (formal written report: 10% final grade)

Examination and discussion of Modern Illustrated Books
Advance Readings:


Class 13
November 29, 2010 (Monday)

Curator’s Presentations to the Acquisition Committee
Modern Illustrated Books
Artists’ Books

Assignment Due: Curator’s Presentations to the Acquisitions Committee (15% final grade). Participants deliver informal oral presentation (5-8 minute) to the “Acquisition Committee” in order to solicit support for major acquisition. Presentations are to be accompanied by notes which will be distributed to each “member of the Committee.” Brief discussion to follow each presentation.

Examination and discussion of Modern Illustrated Books and Artists’ Books from the HRC Collections

Advance Readings:


Term Paper Due (20% of final grade)
Due: December 6, 2010 (Monday)

Studies in the Book Arts (Exhibition Catalogue)

Students will submit 10-15 page term paper (Exhibition Catalogue) in which illustrates and describes ONE aspect of the Book Arts that was NOT discussed in class. Suitable formats of the Exhibition Catalogue: MS WORD, PDF or website. Possible topics of interest.

Executive Summaries
In order to generate a greater degree of class participation from each student in the “Studies in the Book Arts” Seminar:

The “Executive Summary” will be consist of at least one unique question and one unique criticism of at least TWO (2) assigned readings for a particular week. This means:

1. a specific QUESTION you might have about the reading(s)
2. a specific CRITICISM you might have of the reading(s)

Please be mindful that “Executive Summaries” are not essays, but very brief Questions and Criticisms in a list format. Quality of observation takes precedence over length of text.

At the beginning of each weekly seminar we will discuss your questions and criticisms about the readings in a round-table format. “Executive Summaries” will be graded for content, and will count toward your fulfillment of the “Executive Summary” Requirement (10%).

Class participation counts towards 10% of the final grade; hence the student is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to present any questions or criticisms about the readings IN CLASS.

A note on Plagiarism

Please do not plagiarize, as instances of plagiarism will result in an automatic F (fail) for the entire course. Plagiarism is defined by the University of Texas at Austin:

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/

STATEMENT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259.