

Course Number & Name: LIS 425 - History of the Book

Description: The course will cover a wide variety of topics concerned with the history and development of the book, both as a physical object and as the bearer of intellectual content. We will look at such things as papyrus, paper, parchment, and other surfaces for written communication; bookbinding; the development of printing types; printing presses; ink; quills; and the other physical objects that went into the development and production of the book. We will also consider the intellectual use to which books have been put: their distribution, collection, and storage; editing texts for publication; the bibliographical description of books; their impact on literacy and industrialization; and the use, misuse, and appreciation of books throughout history. A third area that the course will address picks up the miscellaneous but important issues of the world of libraries (books from selection to use; preservation and conservation; access to information; the present and future of libraries; use and storage of online resources; etc.); the antiquarian and out-of-print book trade; the world of commercial and non-commercial publishing; remainders; handling, storing, caring for, repairing, and conserving books; legal considerations of book/text ownership and use; and other areas of book history. The students will be introduced to the extensive vocabulary of the book world.

- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Audience (level, environment/setting):** students interested in the book as artifact, aesthetics, book production, rare materials librarianship, copyright
- **Student Learning Outcomes** [by number]: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10
- **Topics/List of Lectures:**
 - The vocabulary for all elements of the book, from its component parts to its place in history
 - The materials of book production (papyrus, parchment, paper, inks, leathers, cloth, printing presses, printing types, mechanical typesetting machines, modern printing methods)
 - Bibliographical elements of book history (Enumerative; Descriptive; Historical; Textual)
 - The place of books in Western culture—books as carriers of information
 - Medieval Codicology (the development of the medieval codex in manuscript form)
 - The coming and impact of printing in the world of books
 - The book trade from the earliest codices to the 21st century: the manufacture and distribution of books; bookselling and auctions; remaindered books and other marketing strategies, and so forth
 - Libraries: types, functions and operations, legal issues, etc.

- The movement in the book world from analog to digital: computers and their function in publishing, libraries, reading, information gathering, and preservation of our intellectual record
 - The design and layout of information in analog and digital environments; book format and legibility in all text presentations (on paper and online)
 - Book collection
 - Bibliographic searching and scholarship
 - Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration of library materials
 - Censorship, copyright, property rights, and other legal issues in the book world
- **Suggested Textbooks/Readings**
 - Brookfield, K. *Book*. New York: Knopf.
 - Carter, J. *A B C for Book-Collectors*. 7th ed. Newark: Oak Knoll
 - Chappell, W. *A Short History of the Printed Word*. London: Hartley & Marks
- **Course History:**
 - December 2004: adopted as a course into the curriculum (voted on in 12/04)
 - March 2005: Student Learning Outcomes presented to the faculty
 - November 2005: Course number changed – formerly LIS 532
- **Document prepared by:** Maggie Bush, 12/04