

Books 1001H: Introduction to Book History

Time: Mondays, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: McLean-Hunter Room, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Instructor: Dr Alan Galey, Faculty of Information

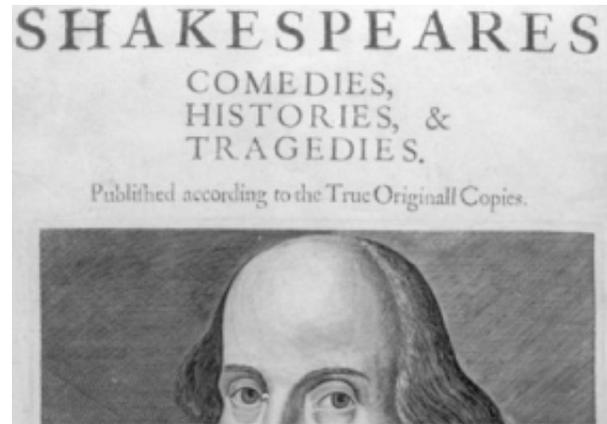
Email: alan.galey [at] [university of toronto domain name]

Response time: usually by end of next business day (excl. weekends)

Main office: Bissell 646

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00, Wednesdays 11:00-noon or by appointment

Course website: portal.utoronto.ca (login required)



Detail from the Shakespeare First Folio title page (1623), from a stolen copy that was [recently recovered](#)

Overview

This foundational course will introduce students to basic topics such as the semiotics of the book; orality and writing systems; book production from manuscript to the latest computer technology; the development of printing; the concept of authorship; copyright; censorship; the economics of book production and distribution; libraries and the organization of information; principles of bibliographical description; print in other formats (newspapers, magazines, advertisements, etc.); reading and readership; editorial theory and practice. We will also study many artifacts and tools of the trade in situ through visits to the Fisher Rare Book Library, Massey College Press, and Coach House Press.

Course texts

Required texts:

D.F. McKenzie. *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999.
D.C. Greetham. *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*. New York: Garland, 1994

Recommended (but not required):

Leslie Howsam. *Old Books and New Histories: An Orientation to Studies in Book History and Print Culture*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2006.

Simon Eliot and Jonathan Rose, ed. *A Companion to the History of the Book*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

The Greetham and McKenzie should be available at the University bookstore, shelved with the Information Studies textbooks. Copies are also on reserve at the Inforum. The Howsam introduction and Eliot & Rose collection can be purchased from most bookstores. Other readings will be available either online, in journals accessible through the U Toronto libraries website, or as photocopies in the Books 1000 binder available at the circulation desk of the Inforum (the Faculty of Information library on the 4th floor of the Bissell building). The reading lists indicate how best to access each reading.

Evaluation

20% Participation
 10% Quasi-facsimile exercise
 30% Archives report
 40% Edition review

All assignments -- with the exception of the quasi-facsimile exercise -- must be submitted electronically to Blackboard as doc(x) or pdf files, in double-spaced 12 pt serif font, and in conformance to MLA style guidelines. Late assignments may not be accepted, or may receive a reduced grade.

Note: essays at the graduate level should be free of errors in grammar or punctuation. Please be sure to proofread your essays carefully before submitting them.

Participation

This mark is determined by the quality of your contributions to class discussion. The course is largely structured by ongoing intellectual debates in book history and related fields, and you should come prepared to engage those debates, not just observe them. This means reading all of the week's assigned materials, allowing yourself enough time to think about them, and coming to class with things to say about them. Participation depends just as much on listening, so you should listen carefully to everyone's contributions, consider the effects of your own comments, and respect all members of the class.

Quasi-facsimile exercise

due in class October 18

This short exercise requires students to prepare a quasi-facsimile of title pages from books from the Fisher collection. The grade is based on how accurately the exercise follows the rules of descriptive bibliography, and how accurately the quasi-facsimile represents its material. Our class on Book History and Bibliography will be in preparation for this assignment, and I will circulate a more detailed assignment description then.

Archives report

6 pages, excluding Works Cited and notes; due by midnight November 1

This assignment requires students to visit a rare book library or archives (such as the Fisher) and become familiar with the contents of a collection of authors' papers or publishers' records. Students will then submit a short report on the contents of these collections and their potential interest to book history researchers. Our class on Authors and Archives will be in preparation for this assignment, and I will circulate a more detailed assignment description then.

Edition review

10-12 pages, excluding Works Cited and notes; due by midnight December 7

Students will evaluate a scholarly edition or similar resource of their choice, and write a short paper in the genre of the review essay. Review essays are like book reviews, only longer and typically structured by an argument that extends beyond evaluation of the book under review. In other words, a review essay uses the evaluation of a given book as an opportunity to think about broader questions. Your review should summarize the resources the edition provides to readers, evaluate the edition's approach to the text, and build an argument about how that edition prompts us to think about broader questions relevant to the course.

A scholarly edition is one which gives a detailed account of how the text was prepared, and indicates where editors have intervened in the text. The subject of your review need not be a print edition; it could be a facsimile or a digital archive, so long as it meets the "scholarly" criterion. Students must consult with me in advance about their choice of edition.

Academic integrity

From Jens-Erik Mai, Faculty of Information: "The essence of academic life revolves around respect not only for the ideas of others, but also their rights to those ideas and their promulgation. It is therefore essential that all of us engaged in the life of the mind take the utmost care that the ideas and expressions of ideas of other people always be appropriately handled, and, where necessary, cited. For writing assignments, when ideas or materials of others are used, they must be cited. [...] In any situation, if you have a question, please feel free to ask. Such attention to ideas and acknowledgement of their sources is central not only to academic life, but life in general. Please acquaint yourself with UofT's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.pdf>"

Special needs

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach the instructor and/or the Accessibility Services Office at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.htm> as soon as possible. The Accessibility Services staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations.

Schedule

* indicates reading not in Greetham or McKenzie; see reading list for full reference

- 13 Sept. Introduction
- 20 Sept. Theoretical models for book history
- readings
 - Darnton, "What Is the History of Books?"*
 - Adams & Barker, "A New Model for the Study of the Book"*
 - Howsam, "Disciplinary Boundaries and Interdisciplinary Opportunities" and "Mapping the Interdisciplinarity"*
- 27 Sept. Book history and bibliography
- readings
 - McKenzie, ch. 1: "The Book as an Expressive Form"
 - Greg, "Bibliography--An Apologia"*
 - Dane, "'Ideal Copy' vs. 'Ideal Texts': the Application of Bibliographical Description to Facsimiles"*
- 4 Oct. Authors and archives
- guests: Jennifer Toews and Rudyard Fearon (Fisher Library)
 - readings
 - Douglas & MacNeil, "Arranging the Self: Literary and Archival Perspectives on Writers' Archives"*
 - Foucault, "What Is an Author?"*
 - Chartier, "Figures of the Author"*
- 11 Oct. Thanksgiving (no class)
- 18 Oct. Case study: the Treaty of Waitangi
- guest: Cara Krmpotich (Museum Studies)
 - quasi-facsimiles due in class
 - readings
 - McKenzie, "The Sociology of a Text: Orality, Literacy, and Print in Early New Zealand"
 - Ross, "Te Tiriti o Waitangi: Texts and Translations"*
 - McKenzie, ch. 2: "The Broken Phial: Non-Book Texts"
- 25 Oct. Manuscript books
- guest: P.J. Carefoote (Fisher Library)
 - readings
 - Greetham, "Making the Text: Bibliography of Manuscript Books"
 - Parkes, "The Influence of the Concepts of *Ordinatio* and *Compilatio* on the Development of the Book"*
- 1 Nov. Hand-press books
- archives reports due by midnight
 - readings
 - Greetham, "Making the Text: Bibliography of Printed Books" (only up to p. 138)
 - Johns, "The Book of Nature and the Nature of the Book"*
 - Gillespie, "The History of the Book"*

- 8 Nov. Case study: the Shakespeare First Folio
- guest: Peter Blayney (English)
 - readings
 - Blayney, *The First Folio of Shakespeare* [Folger Library exhibition catalogue]*
- 15 Nov. Machine-press to digital books
- guest: Jon Bath (iSchool)
 - readings
 - Greetham, "Making the Text: Bibliography of Printed Books" (p. 138 to end)
 - Darnton, "[Google and the Future of Books](#)"*
 - Kirschenbaum, "Editing the Interface: Textual Studies and First-Generation Electronic Objects"*
 - optional: Nunberg, "Farewell to the Information Age"*
- 22 Nov. Typography and binding
- field trip: Massey College Press
 - guest: Brian Maloney (Massey College)
 - readings
 - Greetham, "Reading the Text: Typography"
 - Foot, "Bookbinding and the History of Books"*
- 29 Nov. Case study: James Joyce's *Ulysses*
- guest: Michael Groden (English, University of Western Ontario)
 - readings
 - Groden, Afterword to *Ulysses: the Gabler Edition**
 - Saint-Amour, "James Joyce, Copyright: Modernist Literary Property Discourse"*
 - Max, "The Injustice Collector"*
 - McKenzie, ch. 3: "The Dialectics of Bibliography Now"
- 6 Dec. Field trip: Coach House Press (chbooks.com)
- edition reviews due Dec. 7 by midnight
 - readings
 - MacSkimming, "Printed in Canada by Mindless Acid Freaks"*

Reading list

Adams, Thomas R., and Nicholas Barker. "A New Model for the Study of the Book." *A Potencie of Life: Books in Society*. Ed. Barker. London: British Library; New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2001. 5-43. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Blayney, Peter W.M. *The First Folio of Shakespeare* [Folger Library exhibition catalogue]. Washington, DC: Folger Shakespeare Library, 1991. [photocopy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum; an original copy will be on reserve in Inforum by November; other copies are available in other campus libraries; please note that this book is full of images which don't reproduce all that well as photocopies, so I recommend looking at an original copy if you can]

Bowers, Fredson. *Principles of Bibliographical Description*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1949. [copy on reserve in Inforum: 010 B786PA ; other copies are available in other campus libraries, including the Fisher's reference collection]

Chartier, Roger. "Figures of the Author." *The Order of Books: Readers, Authors, and Libraries in Europe Between the Fourteenth and Eighteenth Centuries*. Trans. Lydia G. Cochrane. Stanford, CA: Stanford UP, 1994. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Darnton, Robert. "Google and the Future of Books." *New York Review of Books* 56.2 (12 February 2009): <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22281>

Darnton, Robert. "What Is the History of Books?" *Daedalus* 111.3 (1982): 65-83. [<http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/86327>]

Dane, Joseph A. "'Ideal Copy' vs 'Ideal Texts': The Application of Bibliographical Description to Facsimiles." *Abstractions of Evidence in the Study of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books*. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2009. 77-94. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Douglas, Jennifer, and Heather MacNeil. "Arranging the Self: Literary and Archival Perspectives on Writers' Archives." *Archivaria* 67 (2009): 25-39. [<http://journals.sfu.ca/archivar/index.php/archivaria/issue/view/449/showToc>; note: it might be necessary to access this url from a U of T internet connection]

Eliot, Simon, and Jonathan Rose, ed. *A Companion to the History of the Book*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. [on reserve in Inforum: 002.09 C737C; also held in other libraries under different call numbers]

Foot, Mirjam M. "Bookbinding and the History of Books." *A Potencie of Life: Books in Society*. Ed. Nicholas Barker. London: British Library; New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2001. 113-26. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Foucault, Michel. "What Is an Author?" *The Foucault Reader*. Ed. Paul Rabinow. New York: Pantheon, 1984. 101-20. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum] [Note: this is a much-excerpted and -anthologized piece, and may be acquired from many sources. It won't surprise students in our class to know that versions may differ. For example, the version cited here contains material not in the version in Donald Bouchard's *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* (Cornell UP, 1977) or in the Routledge *Book History Reader*. The situation proves some of Foucault's own points nicely, even if by accident...]

Gaskell, Philip. *A New Introduction to Bibliography*. 1972. Winchester: St Paul's Bibliographies; New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll P, 1995. [copy on reserve in Inforum: 686.209 G248N; also held in other libraries under different call numbers]

Greetham, D.C. *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*. New York: Garland, 1994. [course textbook; on reserve in Inforum: 010.44 G816T; also held in other libraries under different call numbers]

Greg. W.W. 1998/1932. "Bibliography – An Apologia." *Sir Walter Wilson Greg: A Collection of His Writings*. Ed. Joseph Rosenblum. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1998. 135-57. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Groden, Michael. Afterword. *Ulysses: The Gabler Edition*. By James Joyce. Ed. Hans Walter Gabler et al. New York: Vintage—Random House, 1986. 647-57. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Gillespie, Alexandra. "The History of the Book." *New Medieval Literatures* 9 (2007): 245-86. [journal available online through U of T Libraries; due to an interface problem you'll need to download it via a U of T internet connection on campus -- proxy authorization from off-campus seems not to work for this journal]

Howsam, Leslie. *Old Books and New Histories: An Orientation to Studies in Book History and Print Culture*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2006. [on reserve in Inforum: 002 H866P; also held in other libraries under different call numbers]

Johns, Adrian. "The Book of Nature and the Nature of the Book." *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1998. 1-57. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum, and available as e-book from library catalogue]

Kirschenbaum, Matthew G. "Editing the Interface: Textual Studies and First Generation Electronic Objects." *TEXT* 14 (2002): 15-51. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]
MacSkimming, Roy. "Printed in Canada by Mindless Acid Freaks." *The Perilous Trade: Book Publishing in Canada, 1946-2006*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2007. 167-95. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Max, D.T. "The Injustice Collector." *The New Yorker* 82.18 (19 June 2006): 34. [http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2006/06/19/060619fa_fact]

McKenzie, D.F. *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999. [on reserve in Inforum: 010.42 M156BA]

Nunberg, Geoffrey. "Farewell to the Information Age." *The Future of the Book*. Ed. Nunberg. Berkeley: U of California P, 1996. 103-38. [on reserve in Inforum: 028.5 F996F; also held in other libraries under different call numbers; an electronic version is available from his website, but note that the pagination differs from the published version: <http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~nunberg/farewell.pdf>]

Parkes, M.B. "The Influence of the Concepts of *Ordinatio* and *Compilatio* on the Development of the Book." *Medieval Learning and Literature: Essays Presented to Richard William Hunt*. Ed. J.J.G. Alexander and M.T. Gibson. Oxford: Clarendon, 1976:115-41. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

R.M. Ross. "Te Tirini o Waitangi: Texts and Translations." *New Zealand Journal of History* 6 (1972): 129-57. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]

Saint-Amour, Paul K. "James Joyce, Copyright: Modernist Literary Property Metadiscourse." *The Copyrights: Intellectual Property and the Literary Imagination*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 2003. 159-98. [copy in Books 1001 binder in Inforum]