

Methods in the History of the Book English 259/History 2321
Graduate Seminar
Fall 2015

Course website: look for the website isite format (the canvas site is not operational): <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k112569>

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Office hours: Thursday 3-5, Barker 145, 6-0573 lprice at fas

In order to allow hands-on access to the objects we are discussing, the class will meet in a few different locations—we'll meet in Tues 2-4 in **Barker 269**, EXCEPT in weeks marked as meeting in Houghton Library and on Dec 1 when we'll meet in the Basement Seminar Room of Robinson Hall.

This seminar will introduce students to methods and debates in the history of the book and of reading. Issues will include material bibliography; competing models of authorship, printing, and reading; changing practices in the production, circulation and use of the printed word.

Primarily for graduate students; open to advanced undergraduates by consent of the instructors.

Requirements:

--Active and informed **participation** including **discussion board posts** due 24 hours before the relevant week's class and other **short written exercises**; no extensions except for documented medical or family emergencies. (40%)

--A 10-minute **oral report on your final paper** (which will ordinarily be in draft at this point) to be presented to the seminar at the final class meeting; please note that this **final meeting will run 2-6 rather than 2-4**, and schedule accordingly. (10%)

--A **research paper (ca. 20 pages or 5,000 words)**, prefaced by an abstract (around 100 words) **due at noon MONDAY Dec 21, 2015** (last day of final exams) **to the course dropbox**; this paper will center on a book or other object chosen from your own research interests, which should be selected as early as possible in the semester and will normally form the focus of the short exercises as well. The paper must engage with a primary source with some reference to its material form and historical context (of production or reception, for example). It should build both on textual analysis and on the historiographical and theoretical readings for the course. **No extensions or incompletes will be given except in documented emergencies.** (50%)

Books on order at the COOP.

David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery (eds), *The Book History Reader*. London: Routledge, 2006; 978-0415359481; \$37.95. (If possible, please buy the SECOND edition (2006) rather than the first; not all the readings for the course are contained in the first, 2002, edition.)

Chartier and Cavallo, *A History of Reading in the West*. Amherst: Univ of Massachusetts Pr, 2003. 978-1558494114; \$27.50. (buy if possible)

Michelle Levy and Tom Mole (eds), *The Broadview Reader in Book History*. Ontario: The Broadview Press, 2014. 978-1554810888; \$49.95. (buy if possible)

Recommended but not required titles, on sale at the Coop AND on reserve at Lamont.

Philip Gaskell, *A New Introduction to Bibliography*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 1995. 978-1884718137; \$39.95

David C. Greetham, *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*. New York: Garland, 1994. 978-0815317913; \$41.79

David C. Greetham, *Theories of the Text*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. (no longer in print; only on reserve in Lamont)

Simon Eliot and Jonathan Rose, *A companion to the History of the Book*. Malden, MA: Wiley- Blackwell, 2007. 978-1405192781; \$45.23

Marc Bland, *A Guide to Early Printed Books and Manuscripts*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. 978-1405124126; \$90.94

David Pearson, *Provenance Research in Book History: a Handbook*. London: The British Library, 1994: 1-11. Introduction (cp)

SYLLABUS

BHR indicates a reading from The Book History Reader.

HRW indicates a reading from A History of Reading in the West.

(cp) designates items available on the course website

PART I: Historiography and methods**Week I (9/8): Introduction**

Start thinking about your paper topic

handout from Raymond Williams, *Keywords*

Week II (9/15): Approaches to the history of the book

Discussion board post due

1) Histories of the book

Thomas R. Adams and Nicolas Barker, "A New Model for the Study of the Book." *BHR*

Robert Darnton, "What is the History of Books? Revisited." *Modern Intellectual History* 4 (2007): 495-508. (cp)

Peter McDonald, "Ideas of the Book and Histories of Literature: After Theory?" *PMLA* (January 2006): 214-228. (cp)

2) **Histories of reading**

Michel de Certeau, Introduction and "Reading as Poaching." *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. Steven F. Rendall. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984: xi-xxiv and 165-176. (cp)

Stanley Fish, "Interpreting the Variorum." *BHR*

James Hankins, *Plato in the Italian Renaissance*. Leiden: Brill, 1990: 18-26. Section of introduction entitled "Toward a Typology of Reading in the Fifteenth Century." (cp)

Michael Warner, "Uncritical Reading." *Polemic: Critical or Uncritical*. Ed. J. Gallop. New York: Routledge, 2004: 13-38. (cp)

In class: choose a keyword from the following list; you should follow your term over the course of the semester, thinking (and commenting in class or on the discussion board) about its relation to the current primary and secondary readings, and we'll hold an informal roundtable on your keywords in the penultimate week of class

Amanuensis

Author

Bibliography

Book

Censor

Copy

Edit

Edition

Index

Magazine

Manuscript

Navigation

Newspaper

Paratext

Periodical/serial

Print (or printer)

Publish (or publisher)

Read (or reader)

or any other term for which you can make a convincing case

Week III (9/22) [Houghton Seminar Room]: Studying the book--bibliography

Philip Gaskell, *A New Introduction to Bibliography*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 1995: 5-170. (skim)

David C. Greetham, *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*. New York: Garland, 1994: 153-68. On descriptive bibliography.

Thomas G. Tanselle, "A Description of Descriptive Bibliography." *Studies in Bibliography* 45 (1992):1-30. On-line article < <http://bsuva.org/wordpress/studies-in-bibliography/>>. [Choose volume 45 from the menu.]

Donald F. McKenzie, "The Book as an Expressive Form." *BHR*

[Suggested but not required: David Hall, "Bibliography and the Meaning of "Text," in *History of the Book in America*, vol. 5, pp. 245-55 (cp)

And D. F. McKenzie, "The Dialectics of Bibliography Now," from *The Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts* (1986) in Michelle Levy and Tom Mole (eds), *The Broadview Reader in Book History*. Ontario: The Broadview Press, 2014: 45-63.]

ASSIGNMENT: Bibliographical exercise due to the course dropbox Friday

9/25: Choose a book from Houghton Library (ideally the source that will be the focus of your final paper) and write a bibliographical description of it with attention to what can be learned from material bibliography in particular. (2-3 pp.)

Note: In preparation for the exercise, you may want to consult David C. Greetham's *Theories of the Text* in addition to the reading for the previous week.

Week IV (9/29): Production and transmission

If possible, please attend Alan Galey's talk in MHCH book history seminar (5 October 5pm). Plan to visit one of us in office hours this week.

Elizabeth Eisenstein, "Some Features of Print Culture." *BHR*

Adrian Johns, Excerpt from *The Nature of the Book*. *BHR*

[suggested but not required: Eisenstein and Johns. "How revolutionary was the print revolution?: AHR Forum." Intro. Anthony Grafton. *American Historical Review* 107.1 (February 2002): 84-128 (cp)]

Anthony Grafton, "The Importance of Being Printed: Review of Eisenstein's *The Printing Press as an Agent of Change* (1979)." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 11 (Autumn 1980): 265-286. (cp)

George Hoffmann, "The Montaigne Monopoly: Revising the *Essais* under the French Privilege System," *PMLA* (March 1993): 308-319. (cp)

Week V (10/6): Digital turns

Discussion board post due

Introduction to Jerome McGann, *A New Republic of Letters*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2014: 1-16. (cp)

Alan Galey, "The Enkindling Reciter: E-Books in the Bibliographical Imagination." *Book History* 15 (2012): 210-247. (cp)

W. A. Trettien, "A Deep History of Electronic Textuality: The Case of English Reprints Jhon Milton Areopagitica." *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 7 (2013): n. pag. on-line <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/7/1/000150/000150.html> [note "Jhon" sic]

Matthew Kirschenbaum and Sarah Werner, "Digital scholarship and digital studies: The state of the discipline." *Book History* 17 (2014): 406-458. (cp)

Ted Striphas, "E-Books and the Digital Future" from *The Late Age of Print: Everyday Book Culture from Consumerism to Control* (2009), pp. 19-46, in Michelle Levy and Tom Mole (eds), *The Broadview Reader in Book History*. Ontario: The Broadview Press, 2014: 541-554

[by 10/10 Please post to the course dropbox the Hollis record of the work you'd like to show at Houghton 10/20]

WEEK VI (10/13): Circulation and diffusion

Discussion board post due

William St Clair, "The Political Economy of Reading." John Coffin Memorial Lecture in the History of the Book. London: University of London, 2005.

Revised version, 2012:

http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/Publications/Coffin%20lectures/StClair_PoLEcReading_2012.pdf

[Optional: critiques in Sher, *The Enlightenment and the Book*, 27-30.(cp); and Raven, *The Business of Books*, 231-32. (cp); Thomas Bonnell, "When Book History Neglects Bibliography: Trouble with the 'Old Canon' in The Reading Nation." *Studies in Bibliography* 57 (2005/2006): 243-61. (cp).]

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*. London: Verso, 2006: 22-46. (cp)

Meredith McGill, *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting, 1834-1853*. Philadelphia: U of Penn P, 2007: 1-44. (cp)

Week VII (10/20): Houghton session: show and tell of sources used in seminar members' papers

ASSIGNMENT DUE to dropbox **Fri 10/23, 5pm**: paper prospectus and bibliography

Week VIII (10/27): Reception and use

Discussion board post due

Peter Stallybrass, "Books and Scrolls: Navigating the Bible." *Books and Readers in Early Modern England*. Eds. Jennifer Andersen and Elizabeth Sauer. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002: 42-79. (cp)

Paul Duguid, "Material Matters: The Past and Futurology of the Book." *BHR*

Robert Darnton, "Readers Respond to Rousseau." *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History*. New York: Vintage, 1985: 215-256. (cp)

William Sherman, *Used Books: Marking Readers in Renaissance England*. Philadelphia: U of Penn P: xi-xx; 3-24. Preface and Introduction. (cp)

Reinhard Wittmann, "Was there a reading revolution at the End of the Eighteenth Century?" *HRW*: 284-312

Week IX (11/3): Authorship

Discussion board post due

Harold Love, *Scribal publication in seventeenth-century England* (1993), Chapter 2, pp. 35-65 [fyi this is the same text as *The culture and commerce of texts : scribal publication in seventeenth-century England* (1998)]. (cp)

Leon Jackson, *The Business of Letters. Authorial Economics in Antebellum America*, chapter 2. pp. 53-88. (cp)

Roger Chartier, "The author's hand" in *The Author's Hand and the Printer's Mind* (cp).

Week X (11/10) Thematic wrap-up in class; roundtable on your keywords

Week XI (11/17): Field trip to BOW AND ARROW PRESS

Week XIII (11/24): Thanksgiving break – no class

Week XIV (12/1): STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

NOTE THAT THIS CLASS WILL MEET 2-6 (rather than the usual 2-4pm) and in the Basement Seminar Room in Robinson Hall.

**Final papers due at noon MONDAY Dec 21, 2015 to the course dropbox.
No final exam.**