

**Carleton University
Late Summer 2023
Department of English Language and Literature**

ENGL 4115B/5120S: Culture and the Text/Book Arts Workshop
Prerequisites: fourth-year standing or permission of the department
Preclusions: N/A

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30–2:30
Location: Carleton University Book Arts Lab, MacOdrum Library 234F
Format: In person

Instructor: Robin Norris
Master Printer: Larry Thompson
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Office: 1919 Dunton Tower
Phone: 613-520-2600 x4195
Office Hours: by appointment

Course description

This experiential learning course immerses students in the practical arts and histories of book production, with its roots in the early Middle Ages. Students will engage in a range of activities representative of the pillars of the book arts, including bookbinding, calligraphy, decoration, and typesetting/printing. Activities may include transcription of manuscript and inscribed texts, reproduction of early medieval bookhand, creating and printing woodcuts and/or linocuts, typesetting and letterpress printing, hand sewing of paper gatherings to create pamphlets or multiple section books, and exploration of manuscripts and early printed books from Carleton's Archives and Special Collections. The class will be held in the MacOdrum Library Book Arts Lab, where students will work collaboratively with Master Printer Larry Thompson, the professor, and their classmates.

Our primary text will be the Old English rune poem. The manuscript was destroyed in 1731, but a transcription was published in 1705. The final project will be a reconstruction, reproduction, deconstruction, or other creative approach to the Old English rune poem. Student-led enquiry will guide our exploration of this text. Questions you may wish to consider include: What does the poem say? How do contemporary editions differ from the 1705 transcription? What was the manuscript like? How do we know? How do runes show up in early medieval English manuscripts and visual arts? In contemporary white supremacy? What is the state of current scholarship on the rune poem?

Learning outcomes

While gaining historical knowledge about the evolution of the codex, students will think about the book/text as object, question the impacts of antiquarianism, and appreciate the multiple parties involved in the creation of text/meaning. Students will also learn to differentiate between analytical and holistic approaches to understanding; to articulate initial assumptions, curiosity, and questions; to grow more comfortable with experimentation; and to reflect on their learning processes.

Texts

MacOdrum Library will provide most of the materials needed to complete the course free of charge. Students should budget \$50 for additional costs. Brightspace will house required readings, websites, and videos, as well as additional resources. There are also a number of books on reserve through ARES. For students who desire a textbook, I recommend *The Broadview Introduction to Book History* by Michelle Levy and Tom Mole (Peterborough, ON: Broadview, 2017). Includes timeline, glossary, and bibliography.

Evaluation

Prepared attendance, active participation, and consistent communication	33%
Reflective writing	33%
Final project	33%

Note: This document is subject to change. You will have a great deal of choice with regard to the focus, design, scope, etc. of the final project, which will likely require a great degree of collaboration and coordination. The other two-thirds of the mark will reflect your work over the entire term. Therefore, there are not a lot of deadlines and assignments to manage, but you will be expected to be fully invested in our Thursday classes. *If you are sick, please do not come to class.* Absences happen, and it is imperative that we keep in touch about who is unavailable, how to make up missed work (for the sake of learning, not for grades), and other changes to our plans. You must commit to communicating and collaborating with your classmates and instructors, and especially to ask questions when anything (content or process) is unclear.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Over the first several class meetings

Student led-enquiry will drive our exploration of the Old English rune poem.

We will visit Archives and Special Collections to view medieval manuscripts, early printed books, and other specimens illustrative of the history of the book.

Students will be introduced to four pillars of the book arts: bookbinding, calligraphy, letterpress printing, and decoration.

We may visit CUAG to see how artists in the current exhibition utilize these skills, techniques, and aesthetics.

In the second half of the term

Students will use class time to work on their final projects. We will begin with group discussion, brainstorming, and other planning activities.

The final project will encourage practice in multiple pillars of the book arts.

The final project will incorporate work that is both independent and collaborative. This will also require sharing advisors, tools, printing time, etc.

For these reasons, it will be a busy month, and impossible to break down the activities of each week.

Wednesday, July 5	Visit Archives and Special Collections.
Monday, July 10	
Wednesday, July 12	We will not be meeting in the lab on this date.
Monday, July 17	
Wednesday, July 19	
Monday, July 24	
Wednesday, July 26	
Monday, July 31	
Wednesday, August 2	Class led by Larry today.
Monday, August 7	No class today.
Wednesday, August 9	
Monday, August 14	All projects will be fully complete by 2:25 PM on this date.
Wednesday, August 16	Presentation of final projects. Final reflective writing opportunity.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Statement on Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation,

including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Special Information Regarding Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD),

psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>