

Carleton University
Fall 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English Language and Literature

ENGL 2910A: Book Arts Workshop
Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the department.

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Carleton University is located on the traditional and unceded territory
of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation.

***** This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. *****

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 texts, reproduction of early medieval bookhand, creating and printing linocuts, paper marbling, 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.

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

Final project	33%
Reflective writing	33%
Attendance, participation, and communication	33%

Note: 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. Here are some of the expectations for the final third of the course mark:

Students must email Larry and Robin in advance to notify us of absences or late arrivals.

Students are expected to stay home if unwell for any reason. Otherwise, students are expected to attend every class meeting in its entirety. Absences due to work or to other classes are not excused.

Students are expected to remain focused and invested during classtime (e.g., no cell phone use in the classroom).

Students are expected to be responsible and collegial whether working collaboratively or independently.

Students are expected to be conscientious and respectful when using the lab outside of classtime.

Students are expected to ask questions when anything (content or process) is unclear.

Students are expected to pursue opportunities to learn and to bring their learning into our discussions. This includes exploring/reading/viewing relevant materials on Brightspace.