

Carleton University
Winter 2022
Department of English Language and Literature
ENGL 2910A: Book Arts Workshop
Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the department.
Thursdays 11:35–2:25
Format: In Person
Location: Carleton University Book Arts Lab (MacOdrum Library 234)
Master Printer: Larry Thompson
Instructor: Robin Norris
Email: robin.norris@carleton.ca
Office: 1919 DT
Phone: 613-520-2600 x4195
Office Hours: Online by appointment
Carleton University is located on the traditional and unceded territory
of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation.

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 from specimen alphabet to facsimile, 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, Professor Norris, and their classmates.

Course Objectives

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 and Course Materials

MacOdrum Library will provide most of the materials needed to complete the course free of charge. Students should budget \$50 for guest workshop materials, such as a Coptic binding kit. Brightspace will house required readings, websites, and videos, as well as additional resources. For students who desire a textbook, I recommend *The Broadview Introduction to Book History* by Michelle Levy and Tom Mole (Peterborough, ON: Broadview, 2017), which includes timeline, glossary, and bibliography.

Evaluation

Prepared attendance and active participation in class	25%
Quizzes (approx. weekly, based on assigned reading/viewing, may be online)	25%
Reflection journal (approx. 2 x 15 minutes each week)	25%
Final project (due at beginning of class April 7)	25%

Course Structure

Due to the many logistical variables at play in the facilitation of this course, from social distancing to student-centred pedagogy, plans must remain flexible. Therefore, this course outline will provide a rough sketch of the class schedule. Rest assured that updates, assignments, and quizzes will be announced weekly. To give you a sense of the texts and activities we will be exploring, it may help to think of the class as divided into three units of approximately one month each. In January, our primary texts will be several Old English riddles that depict aspects of the book arts. These survive in a thousand-year-old manuscript called the Exeter Book. Activities might include creation of specimen alphabets (contemporary and insular miniscule), folding and binding a quarto, cutting a quill, writing medieval bookhand on parchment, typesetting and printing a line of text. In February, our primary text will be the Old English rune poem, which was printed in 1705. The manuscript was destroyed in a library fire in 1731, so we may create a facsimile of what it may have looked like. Additional activities may include folding and binding an octavo, wood/lino cutting and printmaking using negative and positive space, typesetting and printing a stanza of poetry. In the last third of the course, students will focus on planning and producing their final projects. We also hope to have a special guest conduct a workshop on Coptic binding. Throughout the term, students will encounter manuscripts, early printed books, and other texts from Archives and Special Collections.

Grade Approval Policy

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.

Academic Integrity

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 a final grade of “F” for the course.

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.

Academic Accommodations

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/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-support/>

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>