

ENGL G4905y

Text and Culture: *The Book in History*

Gerald Cloud

Thursday 2:10-4

This course provides an introduction to the History of the Book, from the period when the manuscript book gave way to the printed book, through to the industrial book of the 19th century, and into 20th century. The course will be held in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library's seminar room, and draw heavily on the department's rich collections of manuscripts, printed books, and printing realia. Our approach to the topic will introduce students to the history of the book through material examples of codex manuscripts, printed books, the materials of the press and letterpress printing, bibliographical methods, and recent scholarship. We will focus on how to recognize, describe, and analyze various aspects of book production, how books were read (signs of use, ownership, etc.), and circulated. Our examination of the physical book will prepare students to evaluate how the material and paratextual aspect of books contribute to their meaning, the formation of cultural and intellectual practices, and the way in which books were understood and valued.

Required Texts (read then in the following order) available at *Book Culture*
Scribes and Illuminators, Christopher de Hamel
Coming of the Book, Fevbre & Martin
A New Introduction of Bibliography, Gaskell
Cheese and the Worms, Ginzburg
The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe, Eisenstein

Assignments will include 2-3 short assignments, an in-class presentation, and a final paper/project.

COURSE PLAN

Jan 22	Week 1	Introduction
Jan 29	Week 2	The History of the Book
Feb 5	Week 3	The Medieval Book
Feb 12	Week 4	Advent of Printing I
Feb 19	Week 5	Advent of Printing II
Feb 26	Week 6	Descriptive Bibliography
Mar 5	Week 7	Descriptive Bibliography

Mar 12 Week 8 **The Little World of the Book**

Mar 19 SPRING BREAK

Mar 23 Week 10 **Readership**

Apr 2 Week 11 **Authorship**

Apr 9 Week 12 **Printed Books: Force of Change**

Apr 16 Week 13 **Forces cont'd**

Apr 23 Week 14 **Industrial Book**

Apr 30 Week 15 **Illustration & Book Arts, woodblocks to Artists Books**

May 7 Study week