

ENGLISH 4313/5013—Fall 2008
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Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:00 in BAC 238, except on those days when we will meet in the university archives.

Course Description

Room: 238 BAC
Monday & Wednesday, 2:30 - 4:00

If you are a student with a documented disability who anticipates needing accommodations in this course, please inform me after you meet with Jill or Suzanne in Disability/Access Services, in the Student Resource Centre, lower floor of the old SUB. jill.davies@acadiau.ca 585-1127 or suzanne.robicneau@acadiau.ca 585-1913.

In this course students will be introduced to bibliography, histoire du livre, the sociology of the text, editorial principles, and the present and future of textual / book studies. Each of the aforementioned components of the course will be delivered as a more-or-less self-contained module. In the bibliography module students will become familiar with enumerative, descriptive, and analytical bibliography. In the book history module students will be introduced to the processes of production as well as the products (texts) of the handpress period. The sociology of the text module will follow D.F. McKenzie's lead in considering how the material form of texts determines their meaning by, keeping with McKenzie, examining the roles of all concerned with the making, distribution, and reception of the text. Through this module students will be introduced to work being done in the history of reading. The introduction to editorial principles will provide students with the ability to distinguish between the activities appropriate to producing scholarly, diplomatic, or "camera-ready" editions, and the uses to which each approach is aimed. From the preceding modules students will acquire the necessary vocabulary and theoretical underpinnings to examine and critique the current state of "the text" in the module devoted to the present and future of textual studies. In this final module students will be introduced to principles of editorial responsibility through xml encoding, as well as being introduced to recent concepts of electronic textuality.

TEXTS

Paper

Chartier, Roger. *The Order of Books*.

Greetham, D. C. *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*.

Greg, W. W. "The Rationale of Copy-text." *Studies in Bibliography* 3: 19 - 36.

McKitterick, David. *Print, Manuscript, and the Search for Order, 1450 – 1830*.

McKenzie, D. F. *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*. Port Chester, NY: Cambridge UP, 1999.

Electronic

Electronic Literature Collection, vol. 1 < <http://collection.eliterature.org/1/> >

Foxe, John. *Book of Martyrs Variorum Edition Online*

Studies in Bibliography

ASSIGNMENTS

Module exams: 75%

Each module has an exam that factors to 15% of the total grade for the course. While the exams are based on the reading for each module, each exam will be nuanced to address class discussion. A portion of time is set aside in each class for you to interrogate the material assigned for that day. The questions you ask may well re-appear as exam questions. Thus, it is in your best interest to attend every class.

Final Project: 25%

The final project has two components. First, you will prepare an enumerative bibliography of the material for your Honours or Masters thesis. Second, you will compose an analytic and a descriptive bibliography on a book assigned to you from Acadia's Special Collections.

PARTUS PRIMUS

Dates

Wednesday, September 3 - Wednesday, September 24

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Content

Bibliography

In the first part of the course we will investigate the general state of knowledge of bibliography amongst the participants in the class. Once a baseline is established we will delve as deeply as necessity dictates and time allows into the science of enumerative, descriptive, and analytical bibliography.

The first part of every class is set aside for your questions on the reading you will be expected to have done for that class. If there is any aspect of what you've read that confuses you or that you think warrants clarification, you should ask, because you are going to be examined on the reading at the end of this module.

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An enumerative bibliography is a complete list of all items in a defined category such as 'those books held at a particular library,' 'those items published by a particular press,' 'those items published in a particular country,' 'those items published during a particular time span,' etc. (See Greetham, pp. 13 - 46.) Obviously, most such bibliographies are more fine-grained than any of the foregoing: for example, 'those items in Acadia's library on the subject of bibliography,' or 'those items in Acadia's library dealing with your thesis topic,' or 'those items in or accessible electronically through Acadia's library dealing with your thesis topic and published within the past ten years.

Descriptive bibliography is, simply put, the complete physical description of a book or manuscript. (See Greetham, pp. 153 - 68).

Analytic bibliography is concerned with the means of production of a given physical text. "How was it printed? Who printed it? Where was it printed? On to what medium was it printed? What typefaces were used?" are examples of the kind of questions we will consider when we prepare an analytical bibliography. (See Greetham, pp. 112 - 51.)

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Schedule

Wed., Sept. 3: Introductions, course outline, discussion, & thought experiments. For Sept. 8, read W.W. Greg's Rationale of Copy-text; and Greetham's Introduction (1-12), and "Bibliography of Printed Books," 77 - 91.

Mon., September 8: Questions on the reading. An introduction to Textual Studies.

Prior to Wednesday's class read Greetham pp. 153 - 68.

Wed., September 10: Rare Books Room visit. For class on Sept. 15, read Greetham pp. 112 - 51.

Mon., September 15: Analytical bibliography. In preparation for presenting your thesis list, read Greetham pp 13 - 46.

Wed., September 17: Student thesis reference lists: toward developing enumerative bibliographies.

Mon., September 22: A discussion of bibliography as exam preparation.

Wed., September 24: First Module Exam

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Texts

Greetham, D. C. *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*.

Greg, W. W. "The Rationale of Copy-text." *Studies in Bibliography* 3: 19 - 36.

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Exam

Students will be responsible for pp. 1 - 168 of Greetham's *Textual Scholarship* for the First Module exam. This will be an in-class, closed book, 1 1/2 hour exam, on Wednesday, September 24.

PARTUS SECUNDUS

Dates

September 29 - October 15

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Content

In the second module students will be introduced to *histoire du livre*, or history of the book, or, as it is increasingly called, book history.

Schedule

September 29: Introduction to Book History: Cuneiforms, papyrus, mss, paper, ink

October 1: Gutenberg

October 6: Europe from Gutenberg to the c18th

October 8: Caxton & England to the c18th

October 13: Thanksgiving - no class

October 15: Second Module Exam

Texts

McKitterick, David. *Print, Manuscript, and the Search for Order, 1450 – 1830*.

Foxe, John. *Book of Martyrs Variorum Edition Online*.

PARTIS TRIENTIS

Dates

October 20 - October 29

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Content

Sociology of the Text

October 20: Open discussion on the changes McKenzie marks or marked to Bibliography

October 22: The sociology of texts, bibliography, & book history

October 27: McLuhan, hot & cool media, & can you doubt that the medium is the message?

October 29: Third Module Exam

Texts

McKenzie, D. F. *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*. Port Chester, NY: Cambridge UP, 1999.

PARTIS QUADRANTIS

Dates

November 3 - November 17

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Content

In the fourth module students will develop their own set of editorial principles, based on the study of both traditional and evolved, print and digital, editorial purposes.

Schedule

November 3: Articulation of Principles

November 5: Rare Books Room work on "your" text

November 10: Problems? ; Present your text & your principles to class

November 12: Fourth Module Exam

Text

As chosen from Acadia's Rare Books Collection

Partus Quintus

Dates

November 17 - December 1

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Content

In the fifth module students will be introduced to electronic literature and possible futures for "the book."

Schedule

November 17: Foxe's Variorum Edition online

November 19: vol. 1 of the ELC

November 24: E-readers & e-reading

November 26: How would you make your Rare Book an e-book?

December 1: Fifth Exam Module

Texts

Foxe, John. *Book of Martyrs Variorum Edition Online*

Electronic Literature Collection, vol. 1 < <http://collection.eliterature.org/1/> >