Course Objectives – This course, with an emphasis on the hand-press period, is designed as a practical introduction to all facets of the physical book as it is encountered in rare book collections, to the voluminous scholarly and trade literature surrounding it, and to the often arcane terminology employed by rare book professionals. As a materials-centered course, the approach will combine dimensions of art history and industrial archaeology. The course will also touch on issues relating to collecting, preserving, and cataloging of rare books. At the conclusion of this course the student will be more attuned to subtle features of the cultural products under examination, will possess a vocabulary capable of expressing these features, and will be able to explain them, making valid inferences about their manufacture, history, and condition. The students will also be introduced to basic reference works and the major authors in the rare books field.

Schedule – Class meets Saturdays at 9:10 AM in Room 214, Mullen Library (Rare Books & Special Collections Dept.) Attendance is mandatory.

Prerequisites –
- Students should be familiar with the system of Roman numerals.
- They should be familiar with the MARC bibliographical format. Those who have not yet studied cataloging may wish to consult [http://www.loc.gov/marc/umb/](http://www.loc.gov/marc/umb/)

CARTER. *ABC for book collectors* (8th ed.) Oak Knoll Press, 2004

On reserve – BOWERS. *Principles of bibliographical description.* Chapters 5-7 are required, together with Appendix I, a Digest of the Formulary. It’s a good idea to begin reading these ahead of schedule since they are heavy sledding and require time to digest.

See topical units for additional reserve readings.

Recommended – McKerrow. *An introduction to bibliography for literary students.* Unlike Bowers, McKerrow is eminently readable, and a perusal of this work in advance of reading Bowers can make the latter less incomprehensible.

Grading –

40% of grade - 4 quizzes on terminology in Carter (10% each)
20% of grade - Presentation and written analysis of 1 rare book from RBSC collection.
10% of grade - Presentation and written evaluation of 1 bibliographical source found in the Rare Books reading room at LOC

30% of grade - Final exam
NOTE: A missed exam or failure to turn in assignment on time will result in a 0 (zero) for that portion of the grade. Plan ahead!
CLASS SCHEDULE:

Jan 19th:
- Expectations
- Syllabus
- Registration
- Parts of a Book
- Handling of books
- Writing surfaces intro

FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: CARTER pp. 1-60
- Read: GASKELL pp. 57-77; 214-230

Jan 26th:
- Discuss Carter 1-60
- Lecture: Paper
- Dealer Catalogs

FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: CARTER pp. 61-120
- Read: GASKELL pp. 1-8; 154-159
- Examine dealer catalog and be prepared to discuss.
- Prepare for Quiz 1

Feb 2nd

QUIZ 1 on Carter pp. 1-60
- Discuss Carter 61-120
- Discuss Dealer Catalogs
- Lecture: Paper / illustration processes

FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: CARTER 121-178 (up to “Publication”)
- Read: GASKELL pp. 266-273
- Prepare for Quiz 2

Feb 9th

QUIZ 2 on Carter 61-120
- Discuss Carter 121-178
- Lecture: Illustration processes II
- Student selection of rare book for presentation due.

FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: CARTER pp. 179 “publication”-end
- Read: GASKELL pp. 146-153
- Prepare for Quiz 3
Feb 16th

QUIZ 3 on Carter 121-178
Discuss Carter 179-end
Lecture: Bindings I.

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FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: GASKELL pp. 231-250
- Select bibliography in LOC Rare Books reading room for report.
- Prepare for Quiz 4

Feb 23rd

QUIZ 4 on Carter 179-end
Student selection of bibliography due
Lecture: Bindings II

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FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: GASKELL pp. 9-39 ; 207-213

Mar 1st

Lecture: Type I
Video: Typecasting

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NO CLASS March 8th!

FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: GASKELL pp.; 40-56 ; 78-145

Mar 15th

Lecture: Type II
Composition, imposition, presswork
Video: Format

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NO CLASS March 22nd!

FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: GASKELL 160-206
- Read: BOWERS 193-268 (chapters 5 & 6)

Mar 29th

Lecture: Descriptive bibliography

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FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: GASKELL 313-360
- Read: BOWERS (Chapter 7 & Appendix Digest of the Formulary)

Apr 5th

Lecture: Descriptive bibliography

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FOR NEXT CLASS:
- Read: FLEEMAN: “Introduction” and “abbreviations” from *A bibliography of the works of Samuel Johnson*. (on electronic reserve)
- Read: GASKELL 251-310

April 12th
STUDENT REPORTS ON BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
Lecture: Descriptive bibliography

FOR NEXT CLASS:

April 19th
Lecture: Descriptive bibliography

FOR NEXT CLASS:

April 26th
Lecture: Rare Book cataloging

FOR NEXT CLASS:

May 3rd
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS ON RARE BOOK DUE
Lecture: Review

May 10th
FINAL EXAM