COURSE OVERVIEW

Description:
This course will examine the history of the book in its various forms, from the beginnings of writing to the present day. We shall focus on the form of the book: the structure and material of scrolls and codices, the art of illustration, and the invention of printing. We shall also examine how alterations in book formats have both transformed and were transformed by societal changes.

Format:
Each class meeting will vary depending upon the material to be covered that day. Typical classes will combine lecture, discussion, and student presentations.

Readings:
Required: 1. Michael Olmert, *The Smithsonian Book of Books*, 1992 (This should be available in the University bookstore. Used and discounted copies can also be purchased on-line) 2. Christopher De Hamel, *Scribes and Illuminators*, 1992 (This will be available on reserve at the library and is also available used on-line) 3. Jason Lute, *Berlin: City of Stones*, 2000 (This should be available in the University bookstore. Used and discounted copies can also be purchased on-line)

You will also be responsible for additional readings. These will be available as PDF files on the class Web site and/or on reserve at the library. You will be expected to keep up with all the assigned readings, as they will be vital to class discussion.

Class Web site:
Readings and handouts will be available on the course Web site:
http://frank.mtsu.edu/~cochrane/Courses.html

Term project:
Each student will research and write a 7- to 10-page research paper that will be due on the last day of lecture.
**Class discussion and presentations:**
Everyone will be expected to participate in discussions about the assigned readings and every class member will also have to give a presentation during the course of the semester.

**Quizzes and exams:**
There will be a midterm, a final, and periodic reading quizzes.

**Assessment:**
A standard ten-point grading scale will be used in this class.

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<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<td>90-100</td>
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<td>59 and below</td>
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A student will earn a C for completing all assignments on time and in a satisfactory manner, sufficient to fulfill the requirements of the course. To earn a B, one must go beyond the minimum requirements of the course and turn in very good work. To earn an A, one must submit excellent work. I shall also take improvement over the course of the semester into account when calculating final grades.

**Grading breakdown:**
- Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Abstract and research sheet: 10%
- Final Project: 20%
- Final exam: 20%
- Participation: 15%

**Lottery scholarships:**
To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. You may qualify with a 2.75 cumulative GPA after 72 attempted hours (and subsequent semesters), if you are enrolled full-time and maintain a semester GPA of at least 3.0. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Lottery recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for a maximum of five years from the date of initial enrollment, or until a bachelor degree is earned. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, review lottery requirements on the web at [http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm](http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm), or contact the Financial Aid Office at 898-2830.

**ADA statement:**
If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or if you have any questions related to any accommodation for testing, note taking, reading, etc.,
please speak with me as soon as possible and contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (898-2783) with any questions about such services.

**EXPECTATIONS**

**Attendance:**
You are expected to attend every class. If you do miss a class, you will still be responsible for the information covered that day and will need to get notes from a fellow classmate.

Tardiness, although sometimes unavoidable, should not become a habit. I structure lectures and discussions so that the main point is presented at the beginning of class. Even if you miss only the first ten minutes, you may not fully understand the material.

**Behavior:**
While you are in class, be considerate of your fellow classmates and of me. If you do have to come late or leave early, do so as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. Also, turn off cell phones before the class begins and do not text during class. I will ask you to leave the class if your behavior is distracting to your classmates or to me. I also do not allow the use of laptop computers during class.

**Participation:**
Fifteen percent of your grade comes from participation, so you should take this very seriously. Absenteeism and tardiness will count against your participation grade, as will inattentiveness or behavior that distracts your classmates or me. The way that I assess participation is as follows: you will earn an A in participation if you attend class regularly, come to class on time, are attentive and engaged in the class discussion, and offer regular, constructive comments. If you fulfill all that criteria but only actively participate in the discussion occasionally, you will earn a B. You will earn a C, if you come to class regularly and seem to be engaged, but do not participate in the discussion. You will earn a D or F if you miss numerous classes, are habitually late, and are not engaged in the discussion. If you text during the lecture, do work for another class, sleep, or are otherwise clearly not paying attention, you will receive a 0 for participation that day, just as if you had been absent.

**Assignments:**
You are expected to hand in your work on time. A hardcopy of your assignment must be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. Papers sent via email will NOT be accepted. Papers handed in anytime after the beginning of class on the day it is due will be considered late and will be penalized by a third of a letter grade. One third of a grade will be taken off for every additional twenty-four hour period that passes until the paper is turned in.

**Exams, quizzes, and presentations:**
I expect you to be present for quizzes and exams at the times that they are scheduled. I will not offer makeup exams unless you have a very good and verifiable
reason for having to miss the exam (this would be along the lines of serious illness or a family emergency and you would need to provide documentation of such a situation). The same will be true of presentations. If you are absent on a day that you were assigned to present, you will not be able to make it up and you will receive a 0 for that presentation. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. If you are late (even by only a few minutes), you may miss the quiz and you will not have an opportunity to make it up.

Communication:
I shall communicate with the class via email, using MTSU email addresses only. I expect everyone in the class to check their email regularly. The easiest way to contact me is through my MTSU email.

Academic honesty:
I do not tolerate any form of plagiarism or cheating on papers or exams. Assignments or exams on which a student has cheated or plagiarized will receive a failing grade and will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Please read and understand the University policy on academic integrity and misconduct (http://www.mtsu.edu/judaff/integrity.shtml). I will give a “plagiarism quiz” on the second day of class. I will not accept any assignments until the quiz has been taken and passed.

For my part ...
I am available to students who would like to discuss any matter related to the class. I have office hours, which are posted, but I am also happy to meet at other times. Please come to see me to discuss how to go about an assignment, or if you have any other questions.

I shall also do my best to get exams and papers back to you in a reasonable amount of time and I am happy to explain grades and elaborate on comments, if you come to see me. I cannot discuss grades or how I assessed your work over email.
## CLASS SCHEDULE
(The following schedule and readings may be modified in order to respond to the needs of the class. Deadlines for assignments will remain the same.)

### Week 1

**1/19 (W) – Introduction**

### Week 2

**1/24 (M) – Prologue: What is a book?**  
Reading: Smithsonian, Intro and Prologue, pp. 18-25

**1/26 (W) – Incipit: Ancient books**  
Reading: Smithsonian, “Scrolls and Scribes,” pp. 26-43

### Week 3

**1/31 (M) – From Roll to Codex**  
Reading: De Hamel: chapter 1

**2/2 (W) – PRACTICAL: Folding, ruling, writing**  
Reading: De Hamel: chapter 2  
Presentation: Preparing the page

### Week 4

**2/7 (M) – Sacred texts**  
Reading: Smithsonian, “People of the Book,” pp. 43-67  
Presentation: The Blue Koran

**2/9 (W) – PRACTICAL: Pigments, gold, and flourishes**  
Reading: De Hamel: chapter 3  
Presentation: Pigments | Illumination

### Week 5

**2/14 (M) – Literacy and Orality in the Early Middle Ages (Quiz)**  
Reading: PDF: Diebold, *Word and Image*

**2/16 (W) – The Book as Argument**  
Reading: Smithsonian, “Illuminating the Dark Ages,” pp. 68-91

### Week 6

**2/21 (M) – PRACTICAL: Binding**  
Reading: Smithsonian, “From the Edge Beyond,” pp. 91-109  
Presentation: Sewing
2/23 (W) – Books for Kings (Quiz)
Reading: PDF: Art, War, and the Morgan Library’s Picture Bible

Week 7

2/28 (M) – Image on the Edge (Quiz)
Reading: PDF: Camille, Image of the Edge
Presentation: Macclesfield Psalter

3/2 (W) – LIBRARY: Books for Everyone (ms facsimile) | ABST. DUE
Reading: PDF: De Hamel, Illuminated Manuscripts, chapter 6
Presentation: Hours of Mary of Burgundy | Hours of Jeanne d’Evreux

SPRING BREAK

Week 8

3/14 (M) – The Archaeology of the Book

3/16 (W) – MIDTERM

Week 9

3/21 (M) – The Early Printed Book
Reading: Smithsonian, “The Gutenberg Revolution,” pp. 112-139

3/23 (W) – LIBRARY: Printing Press
Reading: Smithsonian, “Yes, We Have Now Bananas,” pp. 141-177

Week 10

3/28 (M) – Manuscripts in the Age of Print | RESEARCH SHEET DUE
Reading: Smithsonian, “To Print or Not to Print,” pp. 178-197

3/30 (W) – Japanese books (Quiz)
Reading: JSTOR: McCormick, “Genji Goes West”
Presentation: Japanese Books

Week 11

4/4 (M) – LIBRARY: Mayan Books (Quiz)
Reading: JSTOR: Douglas, “Figures of Speech”
Presentation: Mayan Codices

4/6 (W) – The Business of the Book
Reading: Smithsonian, “The Best of the Past,” pp. 224-233
Presentation: Kelmscott Chaucer
**Week 12**

4/11 (M) – **Picture Books**  
Reading: Smithsonian, “A Picture’s Worth,” pp. 234-265  
Presentation 13: Children’s book

4/13 (W) – **The Infinite Library**  

**Week 13**

4/18 (M) – **The Modern Book (Quiz)**  
Reading: PDF: Bartram, *Bauhaus, Modernism, & the Illustrated Book*  
Presentation: Words in Freedom

4/20 (W) – **The Graphic Novel**  
Reading: Lute, *Berlin: City of Stones*  
Presentation: Graphic Novel

**Week 14**

4/25 (M) – **LIBRARY: Artists Books**  
Reading: Smithsonian, “Last Words,” pp. 298-307  
Presentation: Artist book

4/27 (W) – **Explicit?: The Book in the Digital Age | PROJECT DUE**  
Presentation: The digital book

**FINAL: TBA** (when the exam schedule is completed, it will be posted at [http://www.mtsu.edu/records/sfexam.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/records/sfexam.shtml))