

Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Winter 2019	ART-HIST 349	MW 9:30-10:50	Antonetti
Course Title	Degree/Distro Fulfillment		
Special Topics in Baroque Art: History of the Book	300 level Distribution		



This course is designed to introduce you to the history and art of the book, particularly in the Western world, and particularly in the early modern period. As I approach it, this course has three separate, but inter-related, emphases or themes. The first is about *seeing* the book as a physical artifact - how to look at a book as a biblio-archaeologist would. To do this you will learn to uncover information about the nature, purpose, and implications of a book's material features: its type, paper, printing, illustration, and binding.

The second theme is the impact of the book on European society. That is, the book not only as a commercial commodity and as the primary vehicle for the transmission of ideas but also as an expression of the *mentalité*, or mind-set, of all those who came in contact with it: author, printer, publisher, seller, binder, illustrator, reader, and censor.

And the third theme that will weave through our investigations is the mutability and transience of the *text*, the sometimes fragile and tenuous transmission of a work from edition to edition, century to century, civilization to civilization. In exploring this theme we will be mainly concerned with the question of how the physical form of a book affects the way a text is understood and disseminated.

Over the course of the semester you will have the advantage of being able to work with many “real” examples of manuscripts and printed books from the McCormick Library of Special Collections in order to learn the basic taxonomy of the book, that is, to be able to identify and name its parts. You will also develop the ability to ascertain what these physical objects can tell us about their creators’ varied intentions and anticipated audiences. You will be able to do this simply by virtue of what you discover by *examining* them attentively, quite apart what you learn by *reading* them. In other words, books are “primary sources” from several points of view, and you should finish the semester more aware of how many different kinds of things books can tell us.

## Required Textbooks

Warren Chappell, *Short History of the Printed Word* (Hartley and Marks Publishers; Revised, Updated, Subsequent edition, 2000) ISBN-13: 978-0881791549

Joseph A. Dane, *What is a Book? The Study of Early Printed Books* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2012) ISBN-13: 978-0268026097

## Assessments