

Historical Book Methodology
Faculty of Communications and Culture / Faculty of Fine Arts
COMS 759/FINA 2321
Graduate Seminar

Dr. T. J. Buell

This seminar will introduce students to methods and debates in the history of the book and of reading. Issues will include material bibliography; competing models of authorship, printing, and reading; changing practices in the production, circulation and use of the printed word. Primarily for graduate students; open to advanced undergraduates by consent of the instructor.

In order to allow hands-on access to the objects we are discussing, the class will meet in a few different locations—please consult the syllabus for the location each week.

Requirements:

- Active and informed **participation** including short written assignments due nearly every week. Normally, please submit your weekly assignments to me at buell@ucalgary.ca. (30%)
- A 5-minute **oral presentation on one of the supplementary readings** (sign-up sheet to be circulated in week 2). (10%)
- A 10-minute **oral report on your final paper** (which will normally be in draft at this point) to be presented to the seminar at one of the final two class meetings. (10%)
- A **research paper (20-28 pages, ca. 5,000-7,000 words)**, prefaced by an abstract (around 100 words) due Tuesday 15 January at noon; this paper will center on a book or other object chosen from your own research interests, which should be selected as early as possible in the semester, so that weekly assignments can be focused on it. The paper must engage with a primary source with some reference to its material form and historical context (of production or reception, for example). It should build both on textual analysis and on the historiographical and theoretical readings for the course. (50%)

Books on order at the UofC bookstore:

Franklin, Benjamin. *Autobiography*. New York: Norton Critical Editions, 1985; 978-0393952940; \$18.99.

Richardson, Samuel. *Pamela*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin/Riverside Editions, 1971; 978-0395111529; \$18.76. (Please buy this edition only, since it contains complete front matter from the first edition, which the Penguin does not.)

Gissing, George. *New Grub Street*, ed. Bernard Bergonzi. New York: Penguin Classics, 1977; 978-0140430325; \$11.70.

Montaigne, Michel (de). *Complete Essays*, trans. Michael Screech. New York: Penguin, 1993; 978-0140446043; \$16.50. (The translation by Donald Frame, Stanford University Press, 1958, would also work well.)

Chartier, Roger. *The Order of Books*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994; 978-0804722674; \$18.95.

On reserve at the Library:

Gaskell, Philip. *A New Introduction to Bibliography*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 1995.

Greetham, David C. *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*. New York: Garland, 1994.

Greetham, David C. *Theories of the Text*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

McLuhan, Marshall. *The Gutenberg Galaxy: The Making of Typographic Man*. University of Toronto Press, 1962

SYLLABUS

Readings marked for oral presentation are suggested but optional for seminar members not presenting on them.

(cp) indicates a reading in the coursepack.

BHR indicates a reading from *The Book History Reader*.

HRW indicates a reading from *A History of Reading in the West*.

Week I (9/20) [FA 209]: Introduction

PART I: A GENERAL OVERVIEW

Week II (9/27) [Robinson Basement Seminar Room]: Approaches to the history of the book

ASSIGNMENT for class: bring to class a statement of the primary source or type of primary source you're interested in (e.g. as the subject of your research paper)

Reading:**1) Histories of the book**

Darnton, Robert. "What is the history of books?"

Adams, Thomas R., and Nicolas Barker. "A New Model for the Study of the Book."

Chartier, Roger. Preface to *The Order of Books*.

2) Histories of reading

Introduction

Chartier, Roger. "Communities of Readers" in *The Order of Books*, pp. vii-xi and 1-23.

Certeau, Michel (de). Introduction and "Reading as Poaching." *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. Steven F. Rendall. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984. xi-xxiv and 165-176. **(cp)**

Fish, Stanley. "Interpreting the Variorum."

Grafton, Anthony. "The Importance of Being Printed: Review of Eisenstein's *The Printing Press as an Agent of Change* (1979)." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 11 (Autumn 1980): 265-286.

Oral presentation on both of the following:

Goody, Jack and Ian Watt. "The Consequences of Literacy." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 5.3 (April 1963): 304-345

and:

Halverson, John. "Goody and the implosion of the literacy thesis." *Man* 27.2 (June 1992): 301-17.

Week III (10/4): Studying the book--bibliography**Reading:****1) Bibliography: Theory and history**

Hall, David. On the history of bibliography in America, to appear in *History of the Book in America*, vol. 5 **(cp)**

Tanselle, G. Thomas. "A Description of Descriptive Bibliography." *Studies in Bibliography* 45 (1992): 1-30.

McKenzie, D. F. "The Book as an Expressive Form."

2) Material bibliography: What was the impact of printing?

Eisenstein, Elizabeth. "Some Features of Print Culture." *BHR*

Eisenstein. "Some Conjectures about the Impact of Printing on Western Society and Thought: A Preliminary Report." *Journal of Modern History* 40.1 (March 1968): 1-56..

Johns, Adrian. Excerpt from *The Nature of the Book*. *BHR*

ASSIGNMENT: Bibliographical exercise due Tues 10/9: Choose a book from the attached list and write a bibliographical description of it with attention to what can be learned from material bibliography in particular. (2-3pp)

Note: In preparation for the exercise, you may want to consult David C. Greetham's *Theories of the Text* or Philip Gaskell's *A New Introduction to Bibliography*. Both are on reserve.

Week IV (10/11) [Houghton Seminar Room]: Continuities between past and present

ASSIGNMENT for class: complete self-test of your e-research skills. We will have an in-class discussion of strategies and resources.

Reading:

Hamesse, Jacqueline. "The Scholastic Method of Reading." *HRW*

Saenger, Paul. "Reading in the Later Middle Ages." *HRW*

Stallybrass, Peter. "Books and Scrolls: Navigating the Bible." *Books and Readers in Early Modern England*. Eds. Jennifer Andersen and Elizabeth Sauer. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002. 42-79. (cp)

Blair, Ann. "Reading Strategies for Coping with Information Overload ca. 1550-1700," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 64.1 (January 2003): 11-28. On-line via HOLLIS or at this URL:
<http://muse.jhu.edu.ezp1.harvard.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_ideas/v064/64.1blair.pdf>.

Duguid, Paul. "Material Matters: The Past and Futurology of the Book." *BHR*

McGann, Jerome. "The Rationale of Hypertext":
<<http://www.iath.virginia.edu/public/jjm2f/rationale.html>>.

Oral presentation:

Cavallo, Guglielmo. "Between Volumen and Codex: Reading in the Roman World." *HRW*

ASSIGNMENT due Mon 10/15, 5pm: bibliography of secondary sources you plan to use for your research paper

Week V (10/18) [Robinson Basement Seminar Room]: The future of the book

Reading:

McLuhan, Marshall. *The Gutenberg Galaxy: The Making of Typographic Man*. University of Toronto Press, 1962.

Oral presentations: (there may be multiple presentations, depending on enrolment—suggestions for books on which to present are also welcome)

ASSIGNMENT due Mon 10/22, 5pm: Close reading of a quotation from your primary source to elucidate a relevant theme (e.g. attitudes toward books, authors, readers, intellectual property, among other possibilities) (2-3pp)

PART II: SOME CASE STUDIES—16TH-18TH

Week VI (10/25) [Fine Arts Seminar Room]: Montaigne and the book: Learned reading and writing in the 16th century

Reading:

Montaigne, Essays [esp. I, 25 (of pedantry); II, 10 (of books); II, 33 (story of Spurina); III, 3 (three kinds of association); III, 13 (of experience)]

Grafton, Anthony. "The Humanist as Reader." *HRW*

Jardine, Lisa and Anthony Grafton. "'Studied for action': How Gabriel Harvey Read His Livy." *Past and Present* 129 (November 1990): 30-78

Hoffmann, George. *Montaigne's Career*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. ch. 2

Hoffmann, George. "The Montaigne Monopoly: Revising the *Essais* under the French Privilege System," *PMLA* (March 1993): 308-319.

Oral presentation:

Chartier, Roger. "Reading matter and popular reading: Renaissance to 17th century."

ASSIGNMENT due Monday 10/29, 5pm: report on the printing history of your selected source and on the evidence you can find for its reception (2-3pp)

Week VII (11/1) Printing exercise: meet at the UofC Press Boardroom.

Reading:

Start reading Pamela. Please use the edition by Houghton Mifflin/Riverside Editions, 1971, since it contains complete front matter from the first edition, which the Penguin does not.

Gaskell, Philip. *A New Introduction to Bibliography*, SKIM PP. 5-170 (On reserve)

No oral presentation this week.

ASSIGNMENT due Monday 11/5, 5pm: Prospectus of final research paper. Present the primary source you will study and the question(s) you will pose; include a bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Week VIII (11/8) [Houghton Seminar Room]: Enlightenment I: Richardson's Pamela
Reading:

Finish Pamela.

Darnton, Robert. "Readers Respond to Rousseau." *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History*. New York: Vintage, 1985. 215-256. (cp)

Genette, Gérard. "Introduction," *Paratexts: Thresholds of Interpretation*, trans. Jane E. Lewin. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997. (cp)

Oral presentations

ASSIGNMENT due Monday 11/12, 5pm: research report on the genre of your primary source and its place in the range of contemporary genres, with particular attention to 2 or 3 comparanda (2-3pp).

Week IX (11/15) The Enlightenment II

Foucault, Michel. "What is an Author?" (1969). *BHR*

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 1991. 22-46. (cp)

ASSIGNMENT due Monday 11/19, 5pm: research report on the historical context of your primary source (2-3pp)

Week XI (11/29) [Houghton Seminar Room]: The Victorian three-decker

Reading:

Gissing, New Grub Street

Kipling, Rudyard. "The Three-Decker."

<http://gateway.proquest.com.ezp1.harvard.edu/openurl?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2003&xri:pqil:res_ver=0.2&res_id=xri:lion-us&rft_id=xri:lion:ft:po:Z200304951:2>.

Bourdieu, Pierre, "The Field of Cultural Production." *BHR*

Eliot, Simon. "The Business of Victorian Publishing." *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*, ed. Deirdre David. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. 37-60. **(cp)**

Oral presentations:

ASSIGNMENT due Monday 12/3, 5pm: Tentative thesis statement and paper outline

Week XII-XIII (12/6 and 12/13) Student presentations on research papers in progress

Final papers due at noon January 15, 1999

No final exam.