Course Information

Course Description
Development of libraries and books from earliest time to the present with special reference to their relationship to contemporary social, economic, cultural and political trends. Emphasis is given to American library and book history.

Course Objectives
1. To provide an introduction to the history of books and libraries from ancient times to the present with particular emphasis on placing their growth and development in the U.S., from the beginnings to the present, in historical context.

2. To gain a familiarity of the basic dates, facts, and events relating to the development of books and libraries, as well as a sense of their historical evolution.

3. To gain an understanding of the extent to which libraries are an integral part of the cultures in which they arise and that libraries have always been involved with social, political, and economic affairs.

4. In looking at the development of libraries and books and their historical development, an underlying objective is to gain a historical perspective with regard to the present status of libraries and their probable development and direction in the future.
5. Based on a study of book and library history, it will be the goal and objective of the course for students to identify a topic and prepare a report on it.

Course Overview
This course will consist of the following basic elements: Blackboard and email communication, midterm examination, and reading and research reports.

Course Outline, Calendar, and Assignments

1. Week of: 8-25-10  
   Topic: Introduction  
   Readings: Course syllabus & Blackboard announcements

2. Week of: 8-31-10  
   Topic: Books & Libraries in Antiquity  
   Readings: MH, pp. 1-68  
   PowerPoint: On Blackboard  
   Task: Email weekly reading report

3. Week of: 9-6-10  
   Topic: Books & Libraries in Antiquity  
   Readings: BK, pp. 1-84  
   Task: Email weekly reading report

4. Week of: 9-13-10  
   Topic: Medieval Book & Library History  
   Readings: MH, pp. 84-128  
   PowerPoint: On Blackboard  
   Task: Email weekly reading report

5. Week of: 9-20-11  
   Topic: Medieval & Library History  
   Readings: BK, pp. 85-135  
   Task: Email weekly reading report

6. Week of: 9-27-10  
   Topic: European Book & Library History  
   PowerPoint: On Blackboard  
   Task: Email weekly reading report
7. Week of: 10-4-10  
   Topic: European Book & Library History  
   Readings: BK, pp. 136-215  
   Task: Email weekly reading report

8. Week of: 10-11-10  
   Topic: American Book & Library History  
   Readings: MH, pp. 163-205  
   PowerPoint: On Blackboard  
   Task: Email weekly reading report

9. Week of: 10-18-10  
   Topic: American Book & Library History  
   Readings: MH, 241-297  
   Task: Email weekly reading report

10. Week of: 10-25-10  
    Topic: Book & Library History, Since 1800 & Beyond  
    Readings: BK, pp. 216-268  
    Task: Email weekly reading report

11. Week of: 11-1-10  
    Task: Exam

12. Week of: 11-8-10  
    Task: Identify a research topic and email to instructor

13. Week of: 11-15-10  
    Task: Prepare a preliminary bibliography and email to instructor

14. Week of: 11-22-10  
    Task: Prepare a preliminary outline and email to instructor

15. Week of: 11-29-10  
    Task: Work on research paper and email progress report to instructor

16. Week of: 12-6-10  
    Task: Work on research paper and email progress report to instructor

17. Week of: 12-10-10  
    Task: Snail-mail your research paper to instructor

**Required Textbooks**  

Supplemental Readings: Will be announced via Blackboard.
STUDENT EVALUATION

Grading Parameters
Course grades will be based on the following components:

- 30% - Exam
- 40% - Research Paper
- 30% - Reading Reports

Grading Scale
- 90% – 100% = A (Exceptional Achievement)
- 80% – 89% = B (High Achievement)
- 70% – 79% = C (Average Achievement)
- 00% – 69% = E (Failing)

Submission of Course Assignments

1. Reading Reports: By the Friday of each week, email to the instructor a reading report of your weekly reading. This should consist of a summary, analysis and critique of what you have read. Limit reports to 3-5 pages (double-spaced).


   1. Topics: Select a topic from the field of Library and Book History and prepare a report (ca. 15-20 pages, double-spaced) in accordance with the course schedule.

   2. Thesis and Outline: Diana Hacker’s A Writer’s Reference, 4th ed. (1999) notes: “Before you begin writing, you should decide on a tentative thesis and construct a preliminary outline. Remain flexible, however, because you may need to revise your approach later. Writing about a subject is a way of learning about it; as you write, your understanding of your subject will almost certainly be deepened.”

   3. Basic elements of the paper:
      a. The Introduction: This should state the purpose of the paper and review what research has been done on the topic.
      b. The Report: Discussion and analysis of the topic.
      c. The Conclusions: Summarize your conclusions and state recommendations as to future possible areas of research.