

University of Kentucky
School of Library & Information Science (SLIS)

LIS 604, Section 201 - Library and Book History
Fall Semester 2015

Instructor

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Class Information

- This is an online class with no face-to-face classroom sessions
- Midterm Exam Date: October 26
- Term Paper Due: December 14

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

The course examines the development of books and libraries from the earliest times to the present with special reference to their relationship to contemporary social, economic, cultural and political trends.

Course Objectives

1. The course aims 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 historical context.
2. It also aims to convey 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. Additionally, the course aims to transmit 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, based on their particular interests in book and library history, and prepare a term paper 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: August 26**
Topic: Introduction
Readings: Course syllabus & Blackboard announcements

2. **Week of: August 31**
Topic: Books & Libraries in Antiquity
Readings: MH, Ch. 1-5
PowerPoint: On Blackboard
Task: Email weekly reading report – due: September 6

3. **Week of: September 7**
Topic: Books & Libraries in Antiquity
Readings: BK, pp. Ch. 1-3
Task: Email weekly reading report – due: September 13

4. **Week of: September 14**
Topic: Medieval Book & Library History
Readings: MH, Ch. 6-8
PowerPoint: On Blackboard
Task: Email weekly reading report – September 20

5. **Week of: September 21**
Topic: Medieval Book & Library History
Readings: BK, Ch. 4-5
Task: Email weekly reading report – September 27

6. **Week of: September 28**
Topic: European Book & Library History
Readings: MH, Ch. 9 & 11
PowerPoint: On Blackboard
Task: Email weekly reading report – Oct. 4

- 7. Week of: October 5**
Topic: European Book & Library History
Readings: BK, Ch. 6-7
Task: Email weekly reading report – due: October 11
- 8. Week of: October 12**
Topic: American Book & Library History
Readings: MH, Ch. 10, and: BK, Ch. 8
PowerPoint: On Blackboard
Task: Email weekly reading report – due: October 18
- 9. Week of: October 29**
Topic: American Book & Library History
Readings: MH, Ch. 12, and: BK, Ch. 9
Task: Email weekly reading report – due: October 25
- 10. Week of: October 26**
Task: Exam – due: November 1
- 11. Week of: November 2**
Task: Select a topic for your term paper and email to the Instructor – due: November 8
- 12. Week of: November 9**
Task: Compile a tentative bibliography of sources for your paper and email to the Instructor – due: November 15
- 13. Week of: November 16**
Task: Compile a tentative outline for your paper and email to the Instructor – due: November 22
- 14. Week of: November 23**
Task: Work on the term paper
- 15. Week of: November 30**
Task: Work on the term paper
- 16. Week of: December 7**
Task: Work on the term paper
- 17. Final Week/Week of December 14**
Task: Email term paper to Instructor by Noon, December 14

Required Textbooks

Michael H. Harris, *History of Libraries in the Western World*. Fourth Edition. (Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1995) = MH

Bill Katz, *Dahl's History of the Book*. Third English Edition. (Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, 1995) = BK

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 (these do not receive letter grades, but rather a pass/fail mark).

Grading Scale

A (Exceptional Achievement)

B (High Achievement)

C (Average Achievement)

E (Failing)

Submission of Course Assignments

1. **Reading Reports:** By the Sunday at the end of each week (by 10PM), email to the instructor a reading report of your weekly readings. This should consist of a summary, analysis and critique of what you have read. Length of reports: 4-6 pages (double-spaced).

2. **Term Paper in Book & Library History – Guidelines**
 1. **Topics:** Select a topic from the field of Library and Book History and prepare a term paper (ca. 15-20 pages, double-spaced) in accordance with the course schedule.

 2. **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.
 - d. **Sources:** This should not consist solely of on-line sources, but print sources as well.