

# ENG 510 Introduction to Book Arts Syllabus

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**Print shop/bindery hours:** Fridays of each block 3:15-5:30 p.m. and by appointment

**Class meets** on block-break Fridays (September 25, October 23, November 20, February 5) from 10 to noon and 1 to 3 in the Van-Etten Lacey House.

**Overall time commitment:** 25-30 hours total, or 6.5 -7.5 hours per block over four blocks including class sessions.

**Course description:** The course will introduce students to the field of book studies, including book arts and page design principles, typesetting, relief printing, and book construction through demonstrations and hands-on experience.

## Student Outcomes:

**Learn** about—

- *Movable type* (terminology related to design and identification; hand typesetting with; storage and cleaning of);
- *Relief printing* (with type-high movable type, plates, printing blocks, etc.);
- *Page design* (i.e., using white space, images v. text, shifting ideals for the book);
- *Paper* (e.g. paper folding, grain, resistance and pliancy, paper-making techniques, printing on dry v. damp painting);
- *Ink* (consistency, mixing, using the Pantone guide, applying, clean-up);
- *Book structures* (i.e., non-adhesive structures v. adhesive structures; impositions and folding patterns; signatures; binding techniques and stitches; book board);
- *Typesetting* (setting a forme of type using line lengths, quads, spacing, slugs and leads, etc.);
- *Pulling prints* (various historical presses including wood/iron hand presses, platen presses, cylinder presses, off-set printing, desktop printers; 3-D printers; care and safety using the iron hand press; locking up formes and use of furniture and galleys; fine press work vs. newspaper [or “daredevil”] printing on an iron press; using friskets, tympan and masking for registration, along with other methods; using make-ready; inking formes; creating proofs, and creating editions.);

**Make:** letterpress printed postcard and book divider, an accordion- and a hard-bound book, a lasting contribution to Book Arts at Cornell.

## Requirements

1. Attend and participate in all workshops.
2. Complete Moodle reading and other homework tasks as described on the schedule.
3. Produce a postcard featuring a text and image combination to contribute to a collaborative accordion-fold book on a common theme. Edition: 10.
2. Produce an accordion book (for the postcards).
4. Produce a hard-bound journal with printed section-dividers, each section-divider to be created by a participant, journal theme to be determined collaboratively by students.
5. Contribute to Book Arts at Cornell by dedicating at least two hours of documented service in one of the following areas:
  - shop upkeep and organization under faculty supervision (any Friday of the block from 3:15 to 5:30 except for October 9; also by arrangement);
  - staffing the Homecoming Open House at the Foxden Press (afternoon of October 20, exact time TBA);
  - attend the lunchtime talk of Chris Fritton on October 26 and write about it for a Cornell publication;
  - create content for the web site of the Foxden Press (history, current events, interviews);
  - contribute an item to the shop's collection of 3-D printed rare and whimsical punctuation points (e.g. the asterism, the dagger, the exclamation dagger, the ampersand, etc.)

Students who complete the course, plus faculty members and the library, will receive a copy of the printed projects. **Students must complete all requirements to receive a copy and course credit!**

## Schedule

**Session 1, September 25:** Introduce course and share examples of letterpress printing and book arts; introduce book structure and paper grain awareness with hands-on tear-downs and folding exercises; basic elements of page design; introduce the press and the printshop and reinforce printing terminology and location of equipment; demonstration of how to make a linoleum printing block).

*Takeaway products:*

French-fold books and accordion books.

*Homework for session #2:* 1) Complete brief readings from ch. 7 “Creating a Concept” and ch. 8 “Envisioning the object” from *For the Love of Letterpress* (on Moodle). 2) Create a rough mock-up (without measurements, with color ideas) of the card, including the text (2-3 lines). 3) Have image drawn or copied on the linoleum block.

**Session 2, October 23:** Work session for postcard project. Learn basic typographic vocabulary and develop basic typesetting skills. Create a visual using a linocut, and hear about other ways of creating images (e.g., wood carving/engraving, collagraphs, linotypes, flongs and stereotypes, dye cuts etc. for letterpress printing). Set and print the linocut **or** the text block. Learn about lock-up; the basics of mixing inks and inking the forme. Learn basic shop protocol for documenting the use of type and printing blocks, tying the forme, and clean-up.

*Homework for session #3:* Sign up for supervised print shop time and finish printing your postcard.

**Session 3, November 20:** Compile collectively the accordion books. Determine theme for the final project. Start developing individual page designs and preparing printing blocks (set your type block, work on linocut blocks, or identify suitable found blocks). Further in-depth introduction to non-adhesive book construction.

*Homework:* Sign up for supervised print shop time and print your contribution to the final, hard-bound journal.

**Session 4, February 5:** Deepen your understanding of paper-making and paper-awareness; understand and bind signatures; introduction to adhesive book-binding; learn how to hard-bind a book with bookboard and bookcloth/paper.

*Final Product* (we may need to use some additional time during the block): a hard-bound, collectively produced journal.

Celebrate, share, and showcase your work! Distribute all type and printing blocks.