



ENG 510 Introduction to Book Arts Syllabus

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Materials charge: \$10.00



Print shop/bindery hours: Block Fridays 3:15-5:30 p.m. and by appointment

Class meets from 10 to 3, with a brief lunch break on two block-break Fridays (September 30, October 28) and on 1st Saturday of block 4 (December 3), in the Van-Etten Lacey House, lower level.

Press time: At your first workshop, you will sign up for 2 additional hours of press time during block 2 to finish your first letterpress project. There may be need to additional press time after the second workshop as well.

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);
- *Typesetting* (setting a forme of type using line lengths, quads, spacing, slugs and leads, etc.);
- *Page design* (i.e., using white space, images v. text, book types);
- *Paper* (e.g. paper folding, grain, resistance and pliancy, printing on dry v. damp painting);
- *Ink* (consistency, mixing, using the Pantone guide, applying, clean-up);
- *Relief printing* (with type-high movable type, plates, printing blocks, etc.);
- *Pulling prints* (various historical presses including wood/iron hand presses, platen presses, cylinder presses, care and safety of the iron hand press; locking up formes and use of furniture and galleys; fine press work vs. “daredevil” printing on an iron press; using make-ready; inking formes; creating proofs, and creating editions.);
- *Book structures* (i.e., non-adhesive structures v. adhesive structures; impositions and folding patterns; signatures; binding techniques and stitches; book board).

Make: a single sheet (French-fold) letterpress printed book, a broadside, a hard-bound book, a lasting contribution to Book Arts at Cornell.

Requirements

1. Attend and participate in all workshops.
2. Complete homework tasks as articulated by instructor, showing up for press time according to the sign-up.
3. Produce a single-page book featuring text and image. Edition: 10.
4. Produce a collaborative broadside.
5. Produce a hard-bound book.
6. Distribute type, furniture, spacing, and galleys by deadline.*
7. Contribute to Book Arts at Cornell by dedicating at least one hour 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; also by arrangement);
 - help set up a small exhibition of letterpress printed work and bookbinding by Cornell faculty and staff for the October 22 Homecoming Open House (design layout and prepare labels);
 - help clean up after the alumni letterpress workshop at Homecoming, Saturday, October 22, at 3 p.m.;
 - staff the Homecoming Open House at the Foxden Press and the Center for the Literary Arts (October 22, 2-5 pm) and help clean up afterwards;
 - create content for the web site of the Foxden Press (news stories, videos, interviews).

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

Schedule

Workshop 1, September 30 (with Prof. Stavreva): Share examples of letterpress printing and book arts; introduce paper grain awareness with hands-on tear-downs and folding exercises; introduce the press and reinforce printing terminology and location of equipment in the print shop as well as safety protocols; learn basic typographic vocabulary and develop basic typesetting skills. Observe a demonstration on lock-up, inking, and making ready the printing “forme.” Using metal and wood type, design a smart and simple French-fold booklet in the Dandelion series of Foxden Press. Sign up for **two more hours of press time during block 2**, when you will finish a limited edition of your beautiful hand-printed booklet under the guidance of Prof. Stavreva.

Workshop 2, October 28 (with Prof. Hankins) on the Broadside, a genre of poetic poster (about 12” x 18” or so) which combines text and visuals. We will design and print one group broadside using metal and/or wood type as well as a rich selection of dozens and dozens of retro letterpress blocks with beautiful and/or amusing images from Professor Hankins’ private collection, and a sampling of rare wooden type also from her private stash. Be thinking about quotations and designs you would like to use for the project. Depending on our timely success with the group broadside, we may attempt individual broadsides as well, so be thinking about your own ideas.

Workshop 3, December 3 (with Prof. Mouton) on Bookbinding: Learn the basics on gathering, folding, and sewing signatures, making case bindings, and putting it all together. Create a 5"x8" hard-bound journal. Bring any letterpress printed work created in earlier sessions that you wish to incorporate.

👉 Note that this session breaks the pattern, and will be held on the first Saturday of Block 4 rather than block break.

***To earn credit for this class, you must distribute all type and printing blocks by 3rd Friday of block 4, December 16.**