

## School of Information Management

# INFO 536 BOOKS AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Trimester 1, 2013

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Name and Contact Details

Dr Sydney J. Shep, Senior Lecturer in Print & Book Culture  
Wai-te-ata Press : : Te Whare Tā O Waiteata  
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Office hours: by appointment

### Trimester Dates

Monday 4 March – Friday 7 June 2013

### Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 15 March 2013.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 17 May. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an *'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late'* including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

### Class Times and Room Numbers

**Internal classes:** Wednesdays 10:30-12:30 in Wai-te-ata Press, RB006 [**NOTE change of venue**]

**Open learning classes:** Wednesdays 5:00-6:30pm, via I-Conferencing

### Course Delivery

Internal students will meet for seminars and hands-on workshops; open learning students will participate in synchronous internet conferencing. All students will undertake web-based activities coordinated through our BlackBoard course pages. Assignments 1 and 2 include two external electronic resources: Zotero and Weebly. For those unfamiliar with Zotero or Weebly, online tutorials are available for reference and review and a discussion forum on technical matters will be open throughout the duration of the course.

### Expected Workload

In this course we will be using BlackBoard to post week-by-week instalments of short background information and discussion questions to help guide your readings for each module. This background information is meant to give you a skeletal framework onto which you can place your critical engagement with the module readings, with your own resource discoveries, and your contributions to our networked environment. Much information is exchanged at the weekly seminars as we elucidate content as well as theoretical and/or methodological approaches found in the readings. This means that your attendance at these seminars is crucial, as is your participation in the discussion.

To achieve satisfactory grades, a time commitment of approximately 12 hours per week is required for the INFO 536 course. Part of this time will be taken up in your weekly session. The remaining time should cover:

- reading set texts and articles — you are expected to have read these BEFORE the weekly session;
- completing practice exercises, and looking at reference sources, online databases, and World Wide Web resources;
- reading additional, non-required material on the topics;
- thinking about the module and taking notes on assigned practical work in preparation for the weekly session;
- writing assignments.

## Course Learning Objectives

By the conclusion of INFO 536, students should be:

1. Conversant with the history of the book, and the book's relationship to other modes of communication such as oral, manuscript, and digital;
2. Equipped to describe the physical nature of the book using the conventions of descriptive bibliography;
3. Familiar with issues in rare books and special collections management;
4. Knowledgeable about resources and scholarship related to New Zealand book history and print culture;
5. Familiar with using online bibliographic, exhibition-building, and digital humanities tools.

## Course Content

INFO 536, Books and the Information Society, examines the role of the book as written text, material object and cultural transaction in the contemporary information landscape, emphasising descriptive bibliography, rare books and special collections, artefacts in the digital domain, communication and information design, and New Zealand print culture. It is coordinated by Dr Sydney Shep, who integrates the unique letterpress teaching laboratory of Wai-te-ata Press into much of her teaching. This course will be of interest to prospective rare book and special materials librarians, archivists, conservators, antiquarian booksellers, those who want to research historical methods of information technology, and those who desire practical training in effective information design. INFO 536 is offered in both internal and open learning modes. Internal students have access to Wai-te-ata Press, Victoria's letterpress printing laboratory and research facility. Open learning students will engage with letterpress using a range of interactive electronic teaching tools, and are encouraged, wherever possible, to visit a local letterpress studio. This course has been updated in content and delivery to account for new developments in the field of book history and bibliography, in technological interfaces for best teaching and research practice, and in response to past student evaluations.

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Assessments
Week 1	06.03.13	Books & special collections	Introductory blog post
Week 2	13.03.13	Principles of bibliographic description	BookBlog 1
Week 3	20.03.13	Paper and papermaking	BookBlog 2; A1: presentation
Week 4	27.03.13	Type & type design	BookBlog 3; A1: presentation
	28.3-3.04	<b>Term break I</b>	
Week 5	10.03.13	Printing processes	BookBlog 4; A1: presentation
Week 6	17.03.13	Illustration techniques	BookBlog 5; A1: presentation
	22-28.04	<b>Term break II</b>	
Week 7	01.05.13	Bookbinding	BookBlog 6; A1: presentation
Week 8	08.05.13	Overview of print culture in New Zealand	BookBlog 7
Week 9	15.05.13	The colonial contexts	BookBlog 8
Week 10	22.05.13	Contemporary New Zealand publishing	BookBlog 9
Week 11	29.05.13	Knowledge, power & censorship	BookBlog 10
Week 12	05.06.13	The future of the book in the digital age	A2: online exhibition (due 07.06)

## Readings

### Required Texts

In addition to required readings available in .pdf in BlackBoard and through Zotero (see Collaborative Spaces below), the required texts are:

- **Robertson, F. (2013). *Print Culture. From Steam Press to Ebook*. London: Routledge.** This work is available as an ebook through the Victoria University Library.
- **Griffith, P., Harvey, R. & Maslen, K. (1997). *Book & print in New Zealand. A guide to print culture in Aotearoa*. Wellington. Victoria University Press.** This work is out-of-print, although copies are available from the Victoria University Library on 3-day loan. The VUW's library's New Zealand Electronic Text Collection has created an electronic, searchable version, which is now available in Web and e-book formats.

### Strongly Recommended Texts

The following texts provide important background and contextual information:

- Bland, M. (2010). *A guide to early printed books and manuscripts*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Eliot, S. & Rose, J. (Eds). (2007). *A companion to the history of the book*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Finkelstein, D. & McCleery, A. (Eds). (2012). *An introduction to book history* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) and (2006) *The book history reader*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Gaskell, P. (1995). *A new introduction to bibliography*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press.
- Howsam, L. (2006). *Old books & new histories. An orientation to studies in print and book culture*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Pearson, D. (2008). *Books as history. The importance of books beyond their texts*. London: British Library.
- Suarez, M. S.J. & Woudhuysen, H.R. (Eds). (2010). *The Oxford companion to the book*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Tanselle, G.T. (2009). *Bibliographical analysis. A historical introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## Materials and Equipment

### Collaborative Spaces

1. We will be using **Zotero** <http://www.zotero.org/>, a free, browser-based tool used to collect, organise, annotate, cite, and share research resources. You are encouraged to install this tool in your browser in advance of our first meeting, and to familiarise yourself with its functionality by starting your own library. Assignment 1 uses Zotero.
2. Our **BookBlog** will be run through BlackBoard's blogosphere. Assignment 3 uses this blog.

### Electronic discussion lists

All students will be expected to subscribe to and interact with the **SHARP-L**, **EXLIBRIS-L**, and **BOOK\_ARTS-L** e-discussion lists for the duration of the trimester. Details on how to subscribe are available in Blackboard. The BB discussion forum will be used for troubleshooting and assignment discussions.

## Assessment

At the beginning of the term, in consultation with the lecturer, each student will select a pre-twentieth-century book which will provide the focus for an intensive forensic study. Detailed information about each assignment is available in our BlackBoard course pages.

Assignment	Length	Percentage	Learning Objectives	Due date
<b>A1: Technologies of the book:</b> Individual seminar presentation & annotated bibliography	7 minute lightning illustrated talk and Zotero-generated annotated bibliography of 10 items based on one physical aspect of your selected book	40%	1,2,5	Presentation in relevant seminar, weeks 3-7; bibliography due on the Friday of that same week
<b>A2: Biography of a book:</b> Individual online exhibition	An online exhibition in Weebly that tells the story of the production, distribution, reception and preservation of your selected book	40%	1,2,5	7.06.13 NO extensions
<b>A3: BookBlogs:</b> weekly blog postings	250-300 words/posting based on readings and discussion	20%	1,3,4	BEFORE weekly f2f or i-conferencing sessions

## Penalties

Assignments submitted or postmarked after they are due will have a **10% per day penalty imposed unless an extension on the basis of a medical problem or family emergency has been granted by the course coordinator in advance, in writing. Please note that there are NO extensions for Assignment 2.**

Assignments submitted or postmarked more than one week after they are due will NOT be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances and the late submission has the PRIOR approval of the course coordinator.

## Mandatory Course Requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 or better, students must attend a minimum of 75% of the scheduled class sessions, participate in class discussions, and complete all of the assignments in the required timeframe.

## Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

## Communication of Additional Information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students, via Blackboard announcements and BB email alerts to all class members. It is essential that your BlackBoard email address is the one you use most frequently and you have arranged to forward messages from your myvuw account.

## Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

## Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.