

L 307-TH: The Nature of the Book

Instructor: Alan Orr

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Office Hours: Friday, 1-3 PM (or by appointment)

Course Description:

This course examines the recent literature concerning the emergence of print culture since the introduction of moveable print to Western Europe in the 15th century. Particular themes and issues explored will include the relationship of the new media of the printed book to the existing media of orality and manuscript, the social, economic, and political circumstances under which books were produced and consumed, and the evolving nature of reading practices. Authors studied will include Elizabeth Eisenstein, Adrian Johns, Anthony Grafton, Roger Chartier, Ann Blair, D. F. Mackenzie, Lisa Jardine, and Carlo Ginzburg.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of a Theory course at MICA students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of core principles, concepts, and arguments of theoretical discourses in a specific field of inquiry.
- Demonstrate the ability to interpret and analyze a body of theory, whether social, cultural, historical, literary, aesthetic, moral, or political in order to uncover underlying assumptions and consequences.
- Discover new applications and extensions, including applications and extensions in the fields of art.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate theories in the specific domain and critically assess competing theoretical explanations.
- Develop the ability to write effective essays demonstrating the above capacities

Readings (in chronological order):

- Eisenstein, Elizabeth L. *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. (for purchase)
- Johns, Adrian. *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998. (for purchase)
- Ginzburg, Carlo. *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*. Trans. Tedeschi, John and Anne. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980. (for purchase)
- McKenzie, D. F. "The Sociology of a Text: Orality, Literacy, and Print in Early New Zealand." *The Library* 6th Ser. VI (1984): 333-365. (Moodle)
- Jardine, Lisa and Anthony Grafton, "'Studied for Action': How Gabriel Harvey read his Livy," *Past and Present* 129 (1990): 30-78. (Moodle)

- Blair, Ann. “Reading Strategies for Coping with Information Overload, ca. 1550-1700.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 64 (2003): 11-28. (Moodle)
- Chartier, Roger. “Languages, Books, and Readings from the Printed Word to the Digital Text.” *Critical Inquiry* 31 (2004): 133-152. (Moodle)
- Grafton, Anthony. “Apocalypse in the Stacks?: The Research Library in the Age of Google.” *Daedalus* 138 (2009): 87-98. (Moodle)

Requirements:

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| • Participation | 20% |
| • Mid Term Examination | 20% |
| • Short Essay (4-5 pp.) | 20% |
| • Final Essay (8-10 pp.) | 40% |

NOTE: *All written assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course. Any incomplete writing assignments will result in a failing grade for the entire course.*

ATTENDANCE: *Unexcused absences will result a correspondingly lower participation grade. Unexcused absence from three or more classes will result in a failing grade.*

Writing Assignments:

Mid Term Examination:

The Mid Term Examination will be closed book. I will distribute an essay question a week in advance and students are strongly encouraged to form groups and discuss the course material prior to writing in class. Stationary will be provided in the form of Blue Books.

Essay Style:

All references, paraphrases, quotations etc. must be properly footnoted and acknowledged. Please follow format as laid out in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (essentially an abridged *Chicago Manual of Style*). *Those already familiar with MLA style parenthetical referencing of sources and who prefer it may use that format. Unreferenced and poorly referenced papers will be given correspondingly lower grades.*

Academic Policies:

Plagiarism:

Each discipline within the arts has specific and appropriate means for students to cite or acknowledge sources and the ideas and material of others used in their own work. Students

have the responsibility to become familiar with such processes and to carefully follow their use in developing original work.

Policy:

MICA will not tolerate plagiarism, which is defined as claiming authorship of, or using someone else's ideas or work without proper acknowledgement. Without proper attribution, a student may NOT replicate another's work, paraphrase another's ideas, or appropriate images in a manner that violates the specific rules against plagiarism in the student's department. In addition, students may not submit the same work for credit in more than one course without the explicit approval of all of the instructors of the courses involved.

Consequences:

When an instructor has evidence that a student has plagiarized work submitted for course credit, the instructor will confront the student and impose penalties that may include failing the course. In the case of a serious violation or repeated infractions from the same student, the instructor will report the infractions to the department chair or program director. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the department chair or program director may then report the student to the appropriate dean or provost, who may choose to impose further penalties, including expulsion.

Appeal Process:

Students who are penalized by an instructor or department for committing plagiarism have the right to appeal the charge and penalties that ensue. Within three weeks of institutional action, the student must submit a letter of appeal to the department chairperson or program director, or relevant dean or provost related to the course for which actions were taken. The academic officer will assign three members of the relevant department/division to serve on a review panel. The panel will meet with the student and the instructor of record and will review all relevant and available materials. The panel will determine whether or not to confirm the charge and penalties. The findings of the panel are final. The panel will notify the instructor, the chairperson, division, the student, and the Office of Academic Affairs of their findings and any recommendations for change in penalties.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Learning Resource Center at 410-225-2416, in Bunting 458, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS):

It is the responsibility of faculty and students to follow health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA's Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member's responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to

ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department Guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify and require appropriate personal protective equipment for each art making process, for each student, in all of their classes, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate for their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection are in place

Title IX Accommodation:

Maryland Institute College of Art seeks to provide an environment based on mutual respect that is free of bias, discrimination and harassment. If you have encountered sexual harassment/misconduct/assault we encourage you to report this. Disclosures made to faculty must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator, Title IX Deputy Coordinator, or Title IX Specialist. Disclosures made by students in course assignments are not exempt from mandatory reporting. If you require academic accommodations due to an incident involving sexual harassment or discrimination, please contact Student Affairs at 410.225.2422 or Human Resources at 410.225.2363.

Students with Extended Illness or Cause for Legitimate Absence:

In the case of extended illness or other legitimate absences that may keep the student from attending a class for more than three meetings, students must contact the Student Development Specialist in the Division of Student Affairs so that instructors can be notified. Graduate students must contact the instructor, program director, and the Office of Graduate Studies. Students in art education or professional studies programs must contact the Dean for the Center for Art Education or the Dean of the School for Professional and Continuing Studies, respectively. The appropriate administrator will facilitate a conversation with faculty to determine whether the student can achieve satisfactory academic progress.

Class Schedule:**Week 1 (September 2):**

-Introduction and Overview

Week 2 (September 9):

-Eisenstein, *Printing Revolution*, 3-101.

Week 3 (September 16):

-Eisenstein, *Printing Revolution*, 209-285

Week 4 (September 23):

-Johns, *Nature of the Book*, 1-57

Week 5 (September 30):

-Johns, *Nature of the Book*, Chapter 2 OR 3

Week 6 (October 7):

-Mid Term (Eisenstein and Johns)

Week 7 (October 14):

- Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms* (all).

Week 8 (October 21):

-McKenzie, “The Sociology of a Text” (Moodle)

Week 9 (October 28):

-Movie, “The Ninth Gate”

-Short Paper (Ginzburg and McKenzie) October 30, B425, at 4:30 PM

Week 10 (November 4):

-Grafton and Jardine, “‘Studied for Action’: How Gabriel Harvey Read His Livy” (Moodle);
Blair, “Reading Strategies for Information Overload” (Moodle)

Week 11 (November 11):

- Chartier, “Languages, Books, and Readings” (Moodle)
- Question Workshop for Final Essay assignment.

Week 12 (November 18):

- Grafton, “Apocalypse in the Stacks?” (Moodle)
- Question Workshop for Final Essay assignment.

Week 13 (November 25):

- Thanksgiving (No Class)

Week 14 (December 2):

- Individual Conference for Final Essay assignment at B425 (required)

Week 15 (December 9):

- Movie, “The Name of the Rose”
- Final Paper due December 11, B425, at 4:30 PM

Week 16 (December 16)

- Review and Evaluations