

LIS 604-020
Library and Book History
Summer II 2007
M. J. O'Hara

COURSE SYLLABUS

Office: 1351 POT
Class Time: TR 4:30-7:00 (LCLI 359)
Office Hours: TR 1:30-4:15; & by appointment
Telephone: 257-8046 (Office)
Mailbox: 1215 POT, English Department
E-mail: mjohar00@uky.edu

Prerequisite: None

Textbooks:

- 1) Libraries in the Ancient World, Lionel Casson; New York: Norton, 2003
- 2) Library: An Unquiet History, Matthew Battles; New Haven, Yale UP, 2001
- 3) The Evolution of the Book, Frederick Kilgour; New York, Oxford UP, 1998

Purpose of the course: To provide an introduction to the history of books and libraries in the Western World from ancient times to the present with particular emphasis on their growth and development in this country from colonial times to the present.

Learning objectives:

- To acquire a basic knowledge of the most important dates, facts, events, and personalities in the history of books and libraries.
- To acquire in-depth knowledge of a specific aspect of the history of books in general and the history of libraries in America.
- To be able to explain how libraries are both products of the cultures in which they are situated and an influence on those cultures.
- To explain how social, political, and economic conditions have influenced the production of books and the construction of libraries at various times and places.
- To explain how contemporary libraries have evolved historically and how they are likely to develop in the future under the influence of information technology.

Methodology:

- The course will consist of lectures and discussions of assigned readings. The discussions will be most useful if everyone prepares thoroughly for each class and participates actively in class activities and discussions.
- Discussions will be based on assigned readings from the textbooks and handouts, but students are also expected to do supplemental reading and/or internet research so as to be able to contribute to the discussion.
- Each class will have a primary theme, but fruitful digressions will also be welcome.
- Class discussions will be supplemented by guest lecturers and local field trips.
- Students will have the option of writing a term paper or taking a final exam on the last day of class, Thursday, August 2. The exam will consist of two parts: 1) 25 short-answer questions based on the readings and discussions – worth 25% of the exam grade; 2) one of the following essay questions (my choice): 1) Describe the evolution and development of the library from its origin to the present day; 2) Describe the evolution and development of the book from its origin to the present day. The essay question will be worth 75% of the exam grade.

Course Components and Grading

- 1) mid-term exam (15%)
- 2) book report (20%)
- 3) field trip reports (20%)
- 4) individual presentation (20%)
- 5) final exam or term paper (25%)

Attendance

● Since the success of the course depends on contributions from every student at every session, attendance is expected. At the same time, I understand that things happen. Therefore, any absence that meets the criteria of Students Rights and Responsibilities (up to 4) will be excused. Any unexcused absence beyond 2 will lower your course grade by one letter, although no grade will be lower than E. An unexcused absence during a class in which a student is scheduled to present will result in a grade of 0 for that activity. Absence from the final exam will not be excused unless it meets the criteria of SRR.

Absences (See Section 5.2.4.2 of Student Rights and Responsibilities for official UK policy on absences):

- A request to have an absence excused must be made on the form attached to this Syllabus.
- Students are responsible for attendance from the date their names appear on the official Class Roster.
- UK Regulations require that requests for an excused absence be submitted with written documentation.
- Please note the following provision from Sec 5.2.4.2 of SRR:

If attendance is required or serves as a criterion for a grade in a course, and if a student has excused absences in excess of one-fifth of the class contact hours for that course, a student shall have the right to petition for a "W", and the faculty member may require the student to petition for a "W" or take an "I" in the course. (US: 2/9/87; RC: 11/20/87)

Incompletes

A grade of Incomplete will not be given unless it is mandated by UK Regulations.

Office Hours:

You do not need an appointment to see me during office hours. However, it is a good idea to let me know beforehand if you want to see me at a particular time so that I can reserve a slot for you.

E-MAIL: Please e-mail me any time you have a question. Put the following on the Subject line: LIS 604 (Your name).

NB: Please turn off cell-phones, beepers, and pagers.