

Cultures of the Book

ENGL 034, Fall 2020 [entirely remote due to Covid]

Get in touch with the instructor:

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Class Materials

Please purchase these materials ASAP. If for whatever reason you are unable to purchase these materials, please email me and I will arrange to have them sent to you.

- Amaranth Borsuk, *The Book* (MIT Press, 2018)
- Sculpey III in any color (small pack), \$2.38 at Blick
- Package of square dowels, \$5.31 at Blick
 - If you already have 1) wooden chopsticks from takeout that haven't been broken yet, 2) a popsicle stick with a square edge, or 3) any small square stick, you don't need to purchase these, but I recommend it if you aren't sure if you can get an alternative
- At least 3 sheets of papyrus paper, 7"x8.5" (any color), \$2.45 x sheet on Blick
- Any kind of paper glue, like this Elmer's stick, \$2.61 on Blick
 - If you already have some kind of glue for paper, like Elmer's white glue, a glue stick, or rubber cement, you don't need to purchase this
- Construction paper in sheets that are 12" x 18", \$4.15 for a package on Blick
 - If you already have at least 4 sheets of paper that are 12" x 18", you don't need to purchase this

Class Policies and Best Practices

[link to document advocating flexibility, outlining Zoom etiquette, and detailing attendance/participation policies]

Zoom Details

[Zoom invitation inserted here]

Schedule

**** Note to readers of this deposited syllabus: links to assignments and discussion boards will not work, since they were internal to our Canvas site. Contact me for details on any assignment.**

Entrances

Date	Mode	Complete before class	Complete "in class"
Wed 9/2	asynchronous	<p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Welcome to 'Cultures of the Book'!", under the Canvas discussion thread, "Introduction: What's a book to you? (9/2)" 	<p>After watching my introduction, please record your own short introduction video and upload it to the Canvas discussion thread, "Introductions: What's a book to you? (9/2)." You can record directly in the thread by clicking the button that looks like a play button inside a rounded box. Aim to make a 2-3 minute video.</p> <p>In this video, I want you to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) introduce yourself (name, where you're Zooming from, any relevant info you feel comfortable sharing about yourself and why you took the class), and 2) answer the question: <i>What is a book?</i> I'm less interested in the "true" definition of a book than what a book is <i>to you</i>. What do you think of when I say the word "book"? What does it look, smell, feel, sound like? How and when do books enter your life, and what do they mean to you?
Wed 9/9	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leah Price, "Introduction," <i>What We Talk About When We Talk About Books</i> 	<p>Please join our discussion board by 5pm ET today (lecture and prompts for discussion available there).</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leslie Howsam, "Disciplinary Boundaries and Interdisciplinary Opportunities," <i>Old Books, New Histories</i> 	
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[The Book as Object](#)

Date	Mode	Complete before class	Complete "in class"
Mon 9/14	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Book</i>, pp. 1-12 (Intro, "The Original Tablet") Irving Finkel, "Assurbanipal's Library: An Overview," in <i>Libraries Before Alexandria</i> [alternative link] <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasures of the UCLA Library: Cuneiform Tablets (Part 3 of 5) 	<p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [password]

Wed 9/16	asynchronous	<p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irving Finkel Teaches us Cuneiform• A Cuneiform Tablet in the Digital Age• Seeing through clay: 4000 year old tablets in hypermodern scanner <p>To explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Stray Sumerian Tablet (watch the videos, explore the 3D model)	<p>Please complete the "Experiments in Making Books: Cuneiform Tablet" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>
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Mon 9/21	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 12-31 (“The Papyrus Scroll,” “Mineral, Vegetable, Animal,” “The Alphabet,” “Scrolls and the Advent of Paper,” “Paper and Islam’s Golden Age”) <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Make Papyrus Paper or Egyptian Village Revives Papyrus Production • Chancery Papermaking • EDUCE: Imaging the Herculaneum Scrolls • How parchment is made - Domesday - BBC Two • Making Manuscripts <p>To explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution of the Athenians 	<p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]
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Wed 9/23	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsuen-Hsui Tsien, "Documents on Bamboo and Wood," <i>Written on Bamboo & Silk</i>, pp. 96-125 <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bamboo Slips Written with Ancient Classics Unearthed from 2000-year old Tomb • Chinese Arts and Crafts: Wooden Moveable-type Printing 	<p>Please complete the "Experiments in Making Books: Scroll or Bookroll" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>
Mon 9/28	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 36-60 ("From Roll to Accordion to Codex," "The Manuscript Tradition," "Reading and Writing's Shifts") • Peter Stallybrass, "Books and Scrolls: Navigating the Bible" 	<p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]

Wed 9/30	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 31-46 (“A Networked Text,”) • Kevin A. Smith, “The Book as Physical Object” <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threads That Speak: How The Inca Used Strings to Communicate National Geographic <p>To explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Khipu Database Project • Cecilia Vicuña, Chancanni Quipu (2012), Princeton Art Museum 	<p>Please complete the "Experiments in Making Books: Codex" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>
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[The Book as Content](#)

Date	Mode	Complete before class	Complete “in class”
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Mon 10/5	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 61-74 (Introduction, "Starting the Presses," "Type's Founding," "The Press Itself") <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Machine that Made Us, Stephen Fry documentary 	<p>Virtual visit to the Common Press!</p> <p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]
Wed 10/7	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 74-81 ("The Body of the Book," "Opening the Book") 	<p>Please complete the "Anatomy of an Early Printed Book" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>
Mon 10/12	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 81-93 ("The Intimate Book," "Type and Face") 	<p>Virtual visit to the Kislak Center!</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id]

			<p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [password]
Wed 10/14	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eric Nebeker, "The Heyday of the Broadside Ballad" Kris McAbee and Jessica C. Murphy, "Ballad Creation and Circulation" Paxton Hehmeyer, "The Social Function of the Broadside Ballad" Making a Broadside Ballad (not necessary to read the entire book but you should at least look at some of the videos of printing and the final performance) 	<p>Please complete the "Exploring the World of Early Modern Broadside Ballads" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>
Mon 10/19	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Book</i>, pp. 94-109 ("The Aldine Revolution and Portable Libraries," "Intellectual Property," "The Crystal Goblet") 	<p>Virtual visit to the Kislak Center!</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [password]
Wed 10/21	asynchronous	Workshop	<p>Please visit the "Cultures of the Book" wiki assignment page and complete your task:</p>

			writing a short post proposing a topic for investigation on our wiki and adding it to our discussion board .
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The Book as Idea

Date	Mode	Complete before class	Complete "in class"
Mon 10/26	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Book</i>, pp. 111-117 and 125-135 ("Defining the Artist's Book," "Stéphane Mallarmé's Book as 'Spiritual Instrument',") <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists' Books 	<p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [password]

Wed 10/28	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 117-125 (“William Blake’s ‘Illuminated Printing’,” “An Aside on Printing Methods: Intaglio and Relief Printing”) <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British Library, William Blake's Printing Process 	<p>Please complete the "William Blake as Book Artist" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>
Mon 11/2	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 135-146 (“Ed Ruscha’s Democratic Multiples,” “The New Art of Making Books”) • Johanna Drucker, "Self-Reflexivity in Book Form" 	<p>Virtual visit to the Kislak Center!</p> <p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]
Wed 11/4	asynchronous	<p>Pick one of the following manifestos to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Robertson, "Time in the Codex" 	<p>Please complete the "Book Manifestos" assignment and post it to our discussion</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve McCaffrey and bpNichol, "The Book As Machine" • Stéphane Mallarmé, "The Book as Spiritual Instrument" <p>Pick one of the following manifestos to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulises Carrión, "The New Art of Making Books" • Anne Waldman, "My Life A Book" • Vilém Flusser, "The Book" • Dick Higgins, "A Book" 	board by midnight ET today.
Mon 11/9	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 146-195 ("The Book's Ideas," "The Book as Virtual Reality," "The Book as Cinematic Space," "The Book as Recombinant Structure," "The Book as Ephemera," "The Book as Mute Object") 	<p>Virtual visit to the Kislak Center!</p> <p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]
Wed 11/11	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johanna Drucker, "The Virtual Codex from Page Space to E-Space" 	<p>Please complete the "Digitizing Artists' Books" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>

The Book as Interface

Date	Mode	Complete before class	Complete "in class"
Mon 11/16	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 197-208 (Introduction, "Talking Books") • Tiffany Chan, Mara Mills, Jentery Sayers, "Optophonic Reading, Prototyping Optophones" <p>To watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Rubery, The Optophone 	<p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]
Wed 11/18	asynchronous	<p>Workshop: Mediawiki Formatting</p> <p>Please work through the page videos on how to use our class wiki. Relevant due dates are on the assignment page.</p>	
Mon 11/23	asynchronous / no class	<p>Please use our allotted meeting time to work on your "Cultures of the Book" wiki assignment. I'll be available to you on email throughout the day (10am-5pm ET) to</p>	

		answer any questions or set up a quick Zoom to go over any problems you encounter working with the wiki.	
Mon 11/30	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 208-229 ("Digital Affordances," "Project Gutenberg (E-texts and E-books)," "The Internet Archive," "Google Books") • Kirstyn Leuner, "Book to E-Text," The Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media <p>To watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Archive 	<p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p> <p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]
Wed 12/2	asynchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Book</i>, pp. 230-244 ("E-readers," "Bookish Paratexts") 	<p>Please complete the "Patent for a Future Reading Device" assignment and post it to our discussion board by midnight ET today.</p>
Mon 12/7	synchronous	<p>To read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Book</i>, pp. 244-258 ("Interactivity and the Digital 	<p>Join the Zoom call, 3:30-5pm EST.</p>

		<p>Book," "Colophon or Incipit?")</p>	<p>Zoom URL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom link] <p>Meeting ID:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [zoom meeting id] <p>Meeting password:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [password]
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Exits

Date	Mode	Complete before class	Complete "in class"
12/9	asynchronous	Goodbyes	I invite you to post a reflection to our discussion board, " What is a book now? " See the prompt on the discussion board.