

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Sém. Ang./TC: The History of the Book and Material Bibliography (2AN2106)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Emma Depledge

Contenu

Students - especially students of literature - consult hundreds of books during the course of their studies, and yet few of them have received instruction on the history of the book, how books were made, how they circulated, or on how to read material texts to gain insight into the initial reception of the authors and texts that we study. This course will provide a comprehensive overview of each of these topics.

The seminar aims to provide students (1) with a new approach to literary texts and European literary history, (2) the technical vocabulary needed to describe material texts and their production, (3) a set of conceptual tools for understanding and analyzing material books, (4) the skills needed to develop "bibliographic" projects independently, and (5) transferable skills (bibliography, metadata management, scientific description) to increase their employment opportunities.

Students will become familiar with the processes involved in the production of books, from paper production to the production of type, and from composition and printing to book binding. They will create their own books by making paper, by typesetting, and by using a hand press during a visit to the Swiss Museum of Paper, Writing and Printing (Basel).

Students will also learn how to produce formal descriptions of books (*) by consulting incunabula and other rare books in the collection of the Historical Library of the Venerable Class of Pastors at the BPU of Neuchâtel.

The course is aimed at all students of literature. It may be of particular interest to those who enjoy hands-on learning and to students considering careers or further study in museums, libraries, curation, and the book trade.

Forme de l'évaluation

Project – descriptive bibliography of books in the BPU. Project and deadline to be arranged with course tutor (100%)
Rattrapage – project - descriptive bibliography of books in the BPU (100%).

Documentation

A course reader will be available for purchase.

Pré-requis

- Regular attendance. No more than three justified absences will be allowed (see institute regulations).
- Reading of the assigned texts for each week's seminar
- Active participation during in-class discussions
- Completion of a bibliographic project

Forme de l'enseignement

Weekly seminar (2h) – hands-on learning, workshop style
Visit to museum in Basel

Objectifs d'apprentissage

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Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Examine what material books can tell us about a text's initial reception
- Develop the requisite skills and knowledge to use online databases and repositories related to book history and bibliography
- Apply appropriate vocabulary to describe book production and material texts
- Analyse material texts from the period 1500-1800
- Develop the ability to safely handle material books
- Communicate the defining features of a book using descriptive bibliography
- Identify traces of material production and book use within extant rare books
- Communicate ideas orally and in written assignments

Compétences transférables

- Carry out a critical analysis
- Discuss complex issues and interactions
- Develop hands-on, pro forma modelling skills using Excel
- Manage a project
- Carry out critical and evidence-based analyses