CALIFORNIA RARE BOOK SCHOOL

The Renaissance Book, 1400 - 1650
August 2 - 6, 2021

Description:
This course will serve as a comprehensive introduction to the history of the book in early modern Europe, from the beginning of the fifteenth century to the middle of the seventeenth. Our goal will be to use the holdings of the UCLA Special Collections, focusing on Aldines and other pre-1600 imprints, the Getty Research Institute Special Collections, and the Huntington Library to learn to “read” a Renaissance book, both as a physical object and as a carrier of both informational content and cultural values. We will examine in turn how these books were produced, distributed, and used by those who bought and read them. Topics include:

- the transition from manuscript to printed book
- the mechanics of early printing
- famous scholar-printers
- editing and correcting
- woodcuts and engravings
- typeface and its meaning
- the popular print
- bindings
- the Renaissance book trade
- censorship
- the formation of libraries, both individual and institutional
- marginalia as clues to reading practices and information management, and
- researching a Renaissance book, using both print and online sources.

The course is intended for special collections librarians, collectors, booksellers, and scholars and graduate students in any field of Renaissance studies.

Recommended reading / Primary text:

For more information and how to apply please visit:  
http://www.calrbs.org/admissions/

For inquiries email: calrbs@gseis.ucla.edu
Faculty

Craig Kallendorf

Craig Kallendorf is a Professor of English and Classics at Texas A&M University, where he has taught book history at both the undergraduate and graduate levels for thirty-five years. He is the author or editor of twenty-five books and almost 150 articles and reference entries, with a focus on the relationship of the book as physical object to the content it carries. Dr. Kallendorf was the associate editor for antiquity and the Italian Renaissance for The Oxford Companion to the Book. He has catalogued two collections of Renaissance books, as recorded in Aldine Press Books at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center: A Descriptive Catalogue and A Catalogue of the Junius Spencer Morgan Collection of Virgil in the Princeton University Library, with a third catalogue currently in press, and his two earlier bibliographies of Renaissance Italian editions of Virgil formed the basis of his A Bibliography of the Early Printed Editions of Virgil, 1469-1850. A special interest in Renaissance Venice led to the conference he organized in 2007 with Lisa Pon and the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing on “The Book in Venice.” Kallendorf’s latest books, The Protean Virgil: Material Form and the Reception of the Classics (2015) and Printing Virgil: The Transformation of the Classics in the Renaissance (2019), explore the relationship between the physical book and textual interpretation. Dr. Kallendorf’s research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Loeb Classical Library Foundation.

Daniel J. Slive

Since 1988 Daniel J. Slive has developed and curated collections and exhibitions concerning the history of the book in Europe and the Americas, fifteenth through twenty-first centuries, for a range of cultural heritage institutions including independent research, university, and theological libraries. He served as the first Head of Special Collections in the Bridwell Library of the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas from 2008 until 2020. Previously, he worked in professional positions in the Special Collections & Archives at the University of California, San Diego; UCLA Library’s Department of Special Collections; and the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island. From 2004-2007, he was an Associate in the Americana Department of the William Reese Company, a leading antiquarian firm specializing in the history of the Americas, Pacific voyages, world travel, and natural history prior to 1900 as documented in books, manuscripts, and illustrated materials. In this position, he was primarily responsible for the cataloging and description of Latin Americana and European Americana as well as British North American and Caribbean imprints, particularly of the colonial period. Slive holds an M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign; an M.A. in Ibero-American Studies (with an emphasis on colonial Latin America and Amerindian-colonial relations) from the University of Wisconsin at Madison; and a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His interests in Latin Americana include colonial-era imprints, works printed in Amerindian Languages, and illustrated books published throughout the region in the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries.