



Summer Abroad Program: BMS312Y0 Topics in Book & Media Studies (Updated December 15, 2023 – subject to change)

The Rise of the Modern Book in Renaissance Italy

Instructor: Prof. PAOLO GRANATA

Email: paolo.granata@utoronto.ca

Classroom in Siena: TBD

COURSE OVERVIEW

A decade following Gutenberg's invention of movable type in the mid-1400s, Italy emerged as the cradle of the European printing revolution. With Venice serving as the Silicon Valley of the Renaissance, dozens of early printing startups transformed the concept of the book. A community of entrepreneurs, inventors, and humanists introduced a number of typographical innovations and editorial ideas that were crucial to the rise of the modern book. This summer course will equip students with a comprehensive understanding of early Italian printing history, portraying Renaissance Italy as an innovative ecosystem of print culture in the humanistic tradition, from the incunable to the hand-press period, analyzing all components of the life cycle of the book, from paper making to typography and bookbinding.

This course will provide students with the opportunity to visit some of the iconic locations of the Italian print culture tradition. From Bassiano to Venice, following the footsteps of Aldus Manutius, the 'Prince of Renaissance Printers,' guided by his motto 'Festina Lente' ('make haste slowly'), students will be involved in experiential learning activities and workshops held by scholars, experts, and conservationists in these historical places.

Additionally, this course delves into the practices of bibliography, exploring the distinct features of typography and the intricate material details of the printing process, while also highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of book history in Renaissance Italy.

Prerequisite: None

Recommended Preparation: BMS331 BR=1

Video report from the 2023 course: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtZY8RFJ_9U

FIELD TRIPS AND SITE VISITS

- Vatican Library, Rome
- Museo Aldo Manuzio, Bassiano (LT)
- Museum of Print, Subiaco (RM)
- Malleus Castle Calligraphy Workshop, Recanati (MC)
- Scriptorium Fonte Avellana, Serra Sant'Abbondio (PU)
- Monastero di San Silvestro in Montefano (AN)
- Fabriano's historic papermakers factory (AN)
- Fabriano Paper and Watermark Museum (AN)
- Fondazione Fedrigoni Fabriano (AN)
- Biblioteca Gambalunga, Rimini (RN)
- Biblioteca Malatestiana, Forlì (FC)
- Biblioteca Archiginnasio, Bologna
- Palazzo Pio, Carpi (MO)
- Abbazia di Praglia (PD)
- Biblioteca Antoniana, Padova
- Stamperia d'Arte Busato, Vicenza
- Tipoteca, Museum of Typography (TV)
- Museo Stampa Remondini in Bassano del Grappa (VI)
- House of Aldus Manutius, Venice
- Museum of Jewish Printing, Soncino (CR)
- Publishing House Enrico Tallone Alpignano (TO)
- Royal Library, Turin
- Museo Civico della Stampa, Piazza (CN)
- Biblioteca degli Intronati, Siena.

MARKING SCHEME	WORTH	DUE
Field Trip Test #1 (Lazio)	10%	August 13
Field Trip Test #2 (Marche/Romagna)	10%	August 22
Field Trip Test #3 (Emilia/Veneto)	10%	August 27
Field Trip Test #4 (Piemonte)	10%	August 27
Group Project	30%	August 31
Participation	30%	Ongoing

BIBLIOGRAPHY (excerpts and further readings available on Quercus):

- E. KWAKKEL, *Books Before Print*, ARC Humanities Press (2018).
- S. WERNER S, *Studying Early Printed Books, 1450-1800: A Practical Guide*, Hoboken (2019).
- S. CLEMOND and H. FLETCHER, *Aldus Manutius: A Legacy More Lasting Than Bronze*, Grolier Club (2015).
- M. LOWRY, *The world of Aldus Manutius: business and scholarship in renaissance Venice*, Blackwell (1979).
- L. HOWSAM, *The Cambridge companion to the history of the book*, Cambridge University Press (2015)



Students are expected to read required readings before class to come prepared to participate in discussions, activities, and workshops. Field trips participation is mandatory.

Paolo Granata is an Associate Professor in Book and Media Studies at St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. Nurtured by the centuries-old tradition of his Alma Mater, the University of Bologna, his research and teaching interests lie broadly in the areas of media ecology, media ethics, semiotics, print culture, and visual studies.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ITINERARY OF ACTIVITIES

(updated December 15, 2023)

Date	Activity
Monday July 31	<p>Pre-departure online lecture: 10:00am -12:00pm EDT Course Introduction, Syllabus Overview Delivery method: ZOOM (online synchronous EDT Toronto time) Link: https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/88416697910 Meeting ID: 884 1669 7910 Passcode: McLuhan</p>
Monday August 5	<p>The "Prince of Renaissance printers" Aldus Manutius 9:00-1:00 pm Life and work of Aldus Manutius. The medieval manuscript and scribal culture: format, materials, writing supports, script, illumination, binding, decorations. <u>This class will take place in Siena. Room TDB.</u></p> <p>Bibliography Workshop 3:00-6:00 pm Bibliography Workshop at the Biblioteca degli Intronati in Siena.</p>
August 6-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vatican Library, Rome • Museo Aldo Manuzio, Bassiano (LT) • Museum of Print, Subiaco (RM) • Malleus Castle Calligraphy Workshop, Recanati (MC) • Scriptorium Fonte Avellana, Serra Sant'Abbondio (PU) • Monastero di San Silvestro in Montefano (AN) • Fabriano's historic papermakers factory (AN) • Fabriano Paper and Watermark Museum (AN) • Fondazione Fedrigoni Fabriano (AN) • Biblioteca Gambalunga, Rimini (RN) • Biblioteca Malatestiana, Forli (FC)

Monday August 12	The Renaissance Book in Italy 10:00-1:00 pm	The incunabular period, the innovations in typography and its social impact; print culture and cultural revolutions. <u>Siena</u> .
Tuesday August 13	The Book as a Mass Medium 10:00-1:00 pm	Evolution of typography during the hand press period, 1450-1800. <u>Siena</u> .
August 14-18	<i>Course Break (Palio dell'Assunta)</i>	
August 19-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biblioteca Archiginnasio, Bologna • Palazzo Pio, Carpi (MO) • Abbazia di Praglia (PD) • Biblioteca Antoniana, Padova • Stamperia d'Arte Busato, Vicenza • Tipoteca, Museum of Typography (TV) • Museo Stampa Remondini in Bassano del Grappa (VI) • House of Aldus Manutius, Venice • Museum of Jewish Printing, Soncino (CR) • Publishing House Enrico Tallone Alpignano (TO) • Royal Library, Turin • Museo Civico della Stampa, Piazza (CN) 	
Wednesday August 28	Bibliography Workshop 10:00-1:00 pm 3:00-6:00 pm	Bibliography Workshop at the Biblioteca degli Intronati in Siena . Working Groups at the Biblioteca degli Intronati in Siena.
Thursday August 29	Analyzing the Book 10:00-1:00 pm	Practical understanding of books as material objects; bibliographical description and textual bibliography. <i>Working Groups</i> .
Friday August 30	Final Class 10:00-1:00 pm	Course wrap-up. Group Project presentations.

* This syllabus is in Poliphilus, a typeface facsimile of the text of the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, after which it is named, published by Aldus Manutius in Venice in 1499, using a type that had been cut by Francesco Griffo da Bologna.

FIELD TRIPS AND VISITS

Biblioteca Malatestiana, Forlì (FC)

The Malatesta Library in Cesena is the only example of a conventual humanist library perfectly preserved in the building, furnishings and manuscript collection, as recognized by UNESCO, which inserted it in its 'Memory of the World' program in 2008, the first in Italy. A little-known jewel, the library is a splendid Renaissance library which retains the original furnishings and an important collection of illuminated manuscripts.

Malleus Castle Calligraphy Workshop

In Recanati stands the Malleus Castle, home of the Bottega Amanuense, a calligraphy workshop, creation of parchments and graduation diplomas since 1988.

A unique place, created and directed by calligraphy master Malleus, where the tradition of calligraphy, hand-copying of books and illuminated manuscripts as in the scriptorium of monks in the Middle Ages is brought back to life. Here the passion for ancient writings and graphics come together to give life to true works of art.

Fabriano Paper and Watermark Museum (AN)

Housed in the monumental complex of the recently restored former Convent of the Dominicans, the Museum represents the image of seven hundred years of local paper tradition. In a large fourteenth-century room on the ground floor, the medieval gualchiera for the manufacture of handmade paper was rebuilt. The Museum is divided into sections, which from the handmade manufacture of the paper and its use of the artefact, pass to the exhibition of the watermarks, with details on the techniques for obtaining them, the visualization of the historical journey of the paper, to the phases of development of this art. In the land of Fabriano, its processing processes and related technology, through historical-thematic documents and cards.

Monastero di San Silvestro in Montefano (AN)

The Hermitage of San Silvestro in Montefano of Fabriano was founded by San Silvestro Guzzolini in 1231 near the fount Vembrici, and a new monastic order was called Sylvestrine Congregation. The hermitage currently houses a dynamic monastic community and features an efficient laboratory of restoration of old books, an historical library boasting 70,000 volumes, and the historical archives of the Sylvestrine Congregation and a guesthouse.

Scriptorium and Monastery of Fonte Avellana (PU)

Fonte Avellana or the Venerable Hermitage of the Holy Cross, is a Roman Catholic hermitage in Serra Sant'Abbondio in the Marche region of Italy. A series of former monk cells were converted to comfortable rooms for the guests, there are also various conference halls and a vast library opened for visitors, as well as the beautiful scriptorium with its 13 windows aligned with the position of the sun. Dante visited Fonte Avellano and described it in the Divine Comedy.

Zona Conce, Fabriano's historic papermakers factory (AN)

The "Le Conce" complex is located in an area of the city that has historically been the site of numerous factories, which, using the water of the Giano river, dedicated themselves to working leather. Since the fifteenth century, the tanneries have been a thriving and well-known industry in the Fabriano area. The building that is now home to Carifac'Arte is composed of two parallel buildings, joined by two high passages; on the upper floors, as they are former tanneries, there are the typical openings of drying rooms or drying racks, shielded by a sort of wooden grating.

Biblioteca Archiginnasio, Bologna

The Archiginnasio is one of the most important palaces in Bologna. Located in the heart of the historic city centre, it has been the home of the Municipal Library since 1838. Two large staircases lead to the upper floor featuring two classrooms (closed to the public) and two lecture halls, one for the "Artisti" (now a reading room) and one for the "Legisti" (known as Stabat Mater Hall). The Anatomical Theatre is also well known and was built in carved wood by Antonio Levante in 1637 to teach anatomy. The famous "Spellati" (Skinned Men) statues by Ercole Lelli are on display inside.

Abbazia di Praglia (PD)

The book and paper art restoration laboratory at Abbazia di Praglia began its activities in 1951. Since the founding of the laboratory, thousands of book and archival cultural goods, works of art on paper and parchment have been restored. In the records that preserve the memory of what has been restored there are almost thirty thousand interventions.

Antonian Library of Padua

The Antonian Library of Padua originated in the first half of the 13th century. Its history is intertwined with that of the community of the conventual Franciscans of the basilica of Saint Anthony. They have been the custodians of the sanctuary since the Middle Ages. Together with other cases unique in Italy among the ancient Franciscan libraries, it has remained substantially intact up to our times, avoiding raids, systematic dispersions, and state confiscations.

Stamperia d'Arte Busato, Vicenza

In a sixteenth-century palace in Vicenza's historic center, the Antica Stamperia Busato, founded by grandfather Ottorino in October 1946, has been based for more than seventy years.

The continuous passage of generations of artists has always marked time in the workshop, from the great masters of the 1900s to contemporary illustrators and artists. In the workshop the scent of ink and paper merge, between the work of the artist and the printer.

Museo della Stampa Remondini in Bassano del Grappa (VI)

Between the 1650s and 1861, the Remondini family managed one of the most successful printing and publishing companies of the time. The Remondini Collection comprises 8522 woodcuts, engravings, and etchings with comprehensive collections of works by some of the greatest designers and printmakers of the Renaissance, including Mantegna, Dürer, Titian, Agostino Carracci, Giulio Campagnola,

Giacomo Franco, and Palma Giovane. The collection comprises both original prints designed by the artist on blocks or plates (stampe d'invenzione), and reproductive prints (stampe di traduzione) handmade by professional printmakers after an artist's painted work. On both occasions, these prints played a crucial role in promoting the circulation of artistic ideas, models, and iconographies on a European scale.

House of Aldus Manutius, Venice

The house of Aldus Manutius in Venice appears to be inhabited, but we can only gaze upon the plaque and meditate on his brilliance from the street. The plaque states: "In this house that belonged to Aldus Pius Manutius the Aldine Academy gathered and from here the light of Greek letters returned to shine upon civilized peoples. The department of Greek letters of the University of Padua in the year 1876 1877 wished to designate this famous place to future generations."

Publishing House Enrico Tallone Alpignano (TO)

The aesthetic utopia of producing contemporary books with a Renaissance spirit still lives in Val Di Susa, close to Turin in Italy. Since the 1930s, the publishing house founded by Alberto Tallone in Alpignano has made 500 years old printing techniques its signature. Enrico Tallone, son of Alberto, revives today his father's passion as well as the tradition of the great historical printers and typographers such as Aldo Manuzio and Giambattista Bodoni. Handset and handmade, Tallone books can count on one of the most excellent collections of lead movable types, used to print on rare paper from the most important makers around the world. Their catalog of limited edition titles is where Renaissance and contemporary meet.

Royal Library, Turin

The Royal Library, founded by Carlo Alberto in 1837, is part of the Royal Museums complex designed by the architect Carlo Amadeo of Castellamonte, residence of the Royal House of Savoy until 1865. It holds important collections of illuminated manuscripts, engravings, more than 2,000 drawings, and, above all, the fund acquired by Carlo Alberto, of Leonardo da Vinci drawings including the Self-portrait, the Face of the Angel, preparatory drawing for the Virgin of the Rocks held in the Louvre, and the Codex on the flight of birds.

Museo Civico della Stampa, Piazza (CN)

Located in the evocative rooms on the ground floor and, in part, on the first floor of the Liber Complex - Polo Culturale delle Orfane, the Civic Museum of Printing in Mondovì allows the public to retrace the history of books and printing, two elements that have a strong identity for the city of Mondovì where, in 1472, the first dated book printed in Piedmont using movable type was produced. The new exhibition, completely renovated and inaugurated in 2022, combines tradition and innovation: multimedia installations, video projections, animations, interviews and 3D reconstructions dialogue with the civic collection of printing machines, one of the richest in Italy, in an immersive and dynamic itinerary, not only to visit, but to experience and discover.

Biblioteca degli Intronati, Siena

The origins of the Library date back to 1758, when the archdeacon Sallustio Bandini donated his library (2,886 volumes) to the University, to finally provide it with an appropriate space for books, hitherto non-existent despite several attempts carried out to build it. Bandini included between the conditions of the bequest the public use of the library and the donation gave birth in the premises of the Sapienza to a pole of cultural attraction of great importance, not only for the significance of the donation, but also for the museum, given the interest long cultivated by the librarian Ciaccheri of collecting drawings of the "primitive" Siennese, with a new and deeper attention to the artistic culture of Siena.