

## **EN7054 History of the Book: Texts, Contexts, Cultures**

10 ECTS credits

Thursdays 3-5pm, Hilary Term 2010-2011 [tbc]

**Course Instructor:** Crawford Gribben ([crawford.gribben@tcd.ie](mailto:crawford.gribben@tcd.ie))

Students who successfully complete this course should show evidence of:

- Research and presentation skills appropriate to progress in their degree pathway;
- Competent knowledge of book history theories and methodologies, which may be drawn from the disciplines of history, art history, bibliography, classical languages, cultural theory, gender studies, literary criticism, musicology, religious studies, translation studies and visual studies;
- Clear understanding of the evolution of the book as a material object; the changing technologies of publication; the development of literacy and changing habits of reading; the relationships between text, image and other forms of cultural production; the impact of changing contexts of publication; and the networks of dissemination, reception and influence between authors, publishers, readers, commentators, critics and other receivers of texts;
- Communication of this knowledge in the context of assessment appropriate to successful progression in their degree pathway.

### **Assessment**

Assessment for this course is designed to evaluate the degree to which the course learning objectives have been met. The final assessment for this course will be designed to suit your professional needs and will result in a document useful to the progress of your career. This document may take the form of an essay for publication, a conference proposal and paper, a thesis chapter or mixed media project, and its form and topic will be negotiated with the course leader. A writing sample should be around 3000 words in length. The deadline for this assessment is the final week of the course and it should be emailed to the course leader ([crawford.gribben@tcd.ie](mailto:crawford.gribben@tcd.ie)).

### **Seminars**

Weekly seminars will address the broad themes of the course indicated in the reading list and organized around three key categories- the text as a material object, texts and readers and texts and authors. Seminars will explore various theories and methodologies associated with book history through the weekly assigned reading, classroom discussion, course exercises and guest lectures.

Trinity students should attend seminars in Arts Block 3129. Students in NUIG and UCC should attend seminars in the relevant local location.

### **Required Texts**

You should obtain copies of David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery, *An introduction to book history* (2005); and David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery (eds.), *The book history reader*

(BHR), (second edition, 2006). Other weekly reading will be taken from various book and journals detailed below.

### **Assignments**

- Each student will be required to lead one group discussion on the assigned reading over the course of the term. This may include a short presentation on the material read, but should focus primarily on using directed questions to stimulate group discussion relating to the week's reading. This will allow participants to demonstrate their knowledge of book history theories and methodologies and hone their presentation and teaching skills.
- Each student must complete a final document or project in accordance with the guidelines stated under course assessment and in consultation with the course leader due on the final week of the course.

### **Course Schedule**

#### *Week 1 Definitions*

Robert Darnton and the 'communications circuit'

#### *Week 2 Basic principles of bibliography*

Reading: Jan-Dirk Muller 'The body of the book' pp 182-189 in BHR

#### *Week 3 The process of book production*

Reading: D.F. McKenzie 'The book as an expressive form' pp 35-46 in BHR

#### *Week 4 Production technologies*

Reading: Jeffrey Todd Knight "'Furnished" for action: Renaissance books as furniture' in *Book History*, xii, (2009), pp 37-73

#### *Week 5 No class*

#### *Week 6 Reading over time*

Reading: William St. Clair, *The reading nation in the romantic period*, (Cambridge, 2004), chapter 1 'Reading and its consequences', pp 1-18; *An introduction to book history*, chapter 6 'Readers and Reading', pp 100-117

#### *Week 7 READING WEEK*

#### *Week 8 Authorship and ownership*

Reading: *An introduction to book history*, chapter 4 'Authors, authorship, and authority', pp 66-84; John Brewer 'Authors, publishers and the making of literary culture' pp 318- 326 in BHR

#### *Week 9 Reading and access to texts*

Reading: Stephen M. Colclough, 'Procuring Books and Consuming Texts: The Reading Experience of a Sheffield Apprentice, 1798' in *Book History*, iii (2000), pp 21-44; Kate Flint 'Reading practices' pp 416-423 in BHR

Week 10 *Bible production in early modernity*

Reading: Isabel Hofmeyr, *The portable Bunyan: a transnational history of the Pilgrim's Progress*, (Princeton, 2004), pp 11-41

Week 11 *The changing nature of authorship*

Margaret J. M. Ezell, *Social authorship and the advent of print* (Baltimore, 1999), pp 45-60

Reading: Roland Barthes 'The death of the author' pp 277-280 in BHR

## **Selected Bibliography**

**General Reading:** David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery, *An introduction to book history*, (2005); David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery (eds), *The book history reader*, (second edition, 2006); Robert Darnton, 'What is the history of the book?' in *The kiss of Lamourette: reflections in cultural history*, (1990), pp 107-135; *The Cambridge history of the book in Britain*, 5 vols (1999-date); Hugh Amory and David D. Hall (eds), *The colonial book in the Atlantic world, a history of the book in America*, vol. 1 (1999); Scott E. Casper, Jeffrey D. Groves, Stephen W. Nissenbaum, and Micheal Winship (eds), *A history of the book in America: the industrial book 1840-1880*, vol. 3, (2007); Raymond Gillespie and Andrew Hadfield (eds), *The Irish book in English, 1550-1800, The Oxford history of the Irish book*, vol. 3, (2006); *Book History* journal for the Society for the History of Authorship, Readers, and Publishing; Asa Briggs and Peter Burke, *A social history of the media from Gutenberg to the Internet*, (second edition, 2005); Elizabeth L. Eisenstein, *The printing press as an agent of change: Communications and cultural transformations in early-modern Europe*, 2 vols, (1979); Robert Fraser and Mary Hammond (eds), *Books without borders volume 1: the cross-national dimensions in print culture*, (2008); Joad Raymond, *Pamphlets and pamphleteering in early modern Britain*, (2003);

**Texts as Material Objects:** Adrian Johns, *The nature of the book: print and knowledge in the making*, (1998); M. Pollard, *A dictionary of the members of the Dublin book trade 1550-1800: based on the records of the Guild of St. Luke the Evangelist Dublin*, (2000); James Raven, *The business of books: booksellers and the English book trade*, (2007); Joseph Moxon, *Mechanick exercises on the whole art of printing* (1683-4), Herbert Davis and Harry Carter (eds), (1962); A.F. Johnson, *Type designs: their history and development*, (1966); C.H. Bloy, *A history of printing ink, balls, and rollers, 1440-1850*, (1967); Harry Carter, *A view of early typography up to about 1600*, (1969); James Moran, *Printing presses: history and development from the fifteenth century to modern times*, (1973); Richard Hills, *Papermaking in Britain, 1488-1988: a short history*, (1988); Howard M. Nixon and Mirian M. Foot, *A history of decorated bookbinding in England*, (1992); Harold Love, *Scribal publication in seventeenth-century England*, (1993); David McKitterick, 'Customer, reader and bookbinder: buying a Bible in 1630,' *The Book Collector* 40, (1990), pp 382-406;

**Texts and Readers:** Guglielmo Cavallo and Roger Chartier (eds), *A history of reading in the west*, (1999); William St. Clair, *The reading nation in the romantic period*, (2004); Bernadette Cunningham and Maire Kennedy (eds), *The experience of reading: Irish historical perspectives*, (1999); Heather Jackson, *Romantic readers: the evidence of marginalia*, (2005); Jacqueline Pearson, *Women's Reading in Britain: A dangerous recreation 1750-1835*, (1999); James Raven, Helen Small and Naomi Tadmor (eds), *The practice and representation of reading in England*, (1996); Peter Clark, 'The ownership of books in England, 1560-1640: the example of some Kentish townfolk,' in Lawrence Stone (ed), *Schooling and society: studies in the history of education*, (1976), pp 95-111; David Cressy, *Literacy and the social order: reading and writing in Tudor and Stuart England*, (1980); R. J. Ferenbach (ed), *Private libraries in Renaissance England: a collection and catalogue of Tudor and Early Stuart book lists*, (1992); Niall Ó Ciosáin, *Print and popular culture in Ireland 1750-1850*, (second edition, 2010);

**Texts and Authors:** Richard B. Sher, *The enlightenment and the book: Scottish authors and their publishers in eighteenth-century Britain, Ireland, and America*, (2006); Isabel Hofmeyr, *The portable Bunyan: a transnational history of the Pilgrim's Progress*, (2004); Trish Loughran, *The republic in print: print culture in the age of U.S. nation building, 1770-1870*, (2007); Cynthia J. Brown, 'The interactions between author and printer: title pages and colophons of early French imprints,' *Soundings* 23, (1992), pp 33-53; John Feather, *Publishing, piracy and politics: an historical study of copyright in Britain*, (1994); Richard Burt, *Licensed by authority: Ben Jonson and the discourses of censorship*, (1993); Peter W.M. Blayney, *The texts of King Lear and their origins*, (1979); David Norton, *A textual history of the King James Bible*, (2005);

#### **Online Resources:**

Society for the History of Authorship, Readers, and Publishing [www.sharpweb.org](http://www.sharpweb.org)

English Short Title Catalogue [http://estc.bl.uk/F/?func=file&file\\_name=login-bl-list](http://estc.bl.uk/F/?func=file&file_name=login-bl-list)

Nineteenth Century Short Title Catalogue <http://www.tcd.ie/Library/collections/databases.php>

Early English Books Online <http://www.tcd.ie/Library/collections/databases.php>

Eighteenth Century Collections Online <http://www.tcd.ie/Library/collections/databases.php>

The Reading Experiences Database <http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading>

The Library History Database <http://www.r-alston.co.uk/content/libraryhistory>

The Grubb Street Project <http://grubstreetproject.net>

Introduction to annotated bibliography

<http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill28.htm>