There are really only three ways we can know about the past: material evidence, such as art and artifacts, manuscripts, and print. This course focuses on the latter, but of course print is also part of the other two categories. Books are physical objects whose existence now testifies to the process of printing and the book trade. Many manuscripts circulated into and out of print, forming a pool from which books could be printed, and they were an important part of knowledge production and exchange during this period. Print itself is, of course, a huge category: pamphlets, ballads, broadsheets, small books printed in relatively large runs and elephant folios with stunningly beautiful hand colored plates all contributed to the print universe. This course tries to provide us with an opportunity to talk and read about the world of print as means for better understanding the material, technological, economic, and intellectual circles that intersected in the early modern printed word.

Means of Evaluation:

4 Class presentations and written reviews of assigned readings: 20%

Paper proposal: 15%

Paper presentation: 15%

Final paper: 50%

Week 1: August 27

Introductions, syllabus review, discussion of student interests, assigning of presentation and review dates,

Week 2: September 3


Week 3: September 10

Read: Helen Smith, “More swete unto the eare/than holesome for ye mynde”: Embodying early modern women’s reading,” *Huntington Library Quarterly* 73(3): September 2010: 413-432; Cathy Shrank, “This
fatall Medea: Reading and the detection of Mary Queen of Scots,” *Huntington Library Quarterly* 73(3): September 2010: 523-541; Julie Crawford, “Reconsidering Early Modern Women’s Reading, or how Margaret Hoby Read Her De Mornay,” *Huntington Library Quarterly* 2010 73(2):192-223. ALL ON BLACKBOARD

Week 4: September 17


Week 5: September 24


Week 6: October 1

Read: Jason Peacey, chapters 1-3 in *Print and Public Politics in the English Revolution* (Cambridge UP: 2013); all posted on BB

Week 7: October 8

Read: first 3 chapters in section 2, “Printing and the Book Trade in Small European Cities” of Benito Rial Costas (Ed), *Print Culture and Peripheries in Early Modern Europe* (Brill, 2013). AVAILABLE THROUGH LIBRARY ON PROQUEST AS AN E-BOOK; PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS AND I WILL HELP

**Paper Proposal Due:** This should include a clear preliminary statement of the argument you hope to make, the primary sources you plan to use, and the historiography with which you are interacting. 1,000 words should suffice.

Week 8: October 15

Read: chapters 4-6 in section 2, “Printing and the Book Trade in Small European Cities” of Benito Rial Costas (Ed), *Print Culture and Peripheries in Early Modern Europe* (Brill, 2013). AVAILABLE THROUGH LIBRARY ON PROQUEST AS AN E-BOOK; PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS AND I WILL HELP

Week 9: October 22

Read: chapters 7-9 in section 2, “Printing and the Book Trade in Small European Cities” of Benito Rial Costas (Ed), *Print Culture and Peripheries in Early Modern Europe* (Brill, 2013). AVAILABLE THROUGH LIBRARY ON PROQUEST AS AN E-BOOK; PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS AND I WILL HELP

Week 10: October 29
Read: chapters 4-7 in section 3, “Printing and the Book Trade in Small Spanish Cities,” of Benito Rial Costas (Ed), *Print Culture and Peripheries in Early Modern Europe* (Brill, 2013). AVAILABLE THROUGH LIBRARY ON PROQUEST AS AN E-BOOK; PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS AND I WILL HELP

Week 11: November 5


Week 12: November 12


Week 13: November 19: Presentations

Week 14: Thanksgiving!

Week 15: 12/3: Presentations

Final paper due: 12/17

Sources:


Adam Fox, *Oral and Literate Culture in England, 1500-1700* (OUP, 2001)

Andrew Petegree, *The Book in the Renaissance* (Yale UP, reprint 2011)


Margaret Spufford, *Small Books and Pleasant Histories* (University of Georgia Press, 1982)


Robin Myers, Arnold Hunt, Giles Mandelbrote, Alison Shell (Eds), *The Book Trade and Its Customers, 1450-1900* (St Paul’s Bibliographies, 1997)


Massimo Rospocher, Jeroen Salman, Hannu Salmi (Eds), *Crossing Borders, Crossing Cultures: Popular Print in Europe, 1450-1900* (Walter de Gruyter, 2019)


Kirk Melnikoff, *Elizabethan Publishing and the Makings of Literary Culture* (University of Toronto Press, 2018)

Gianna Paganini, Margaret Jacob, and John Christian Laursen (Eds), *Clandestine Philosophy: New Studies on Subversive Manuscripts in Early Modern Europe, 1620-1823* (University of Toronto Press, 2020)


