

Fall 2018 Heyman Center Friends/Carl Hovde Colloquium

The Book

Thursdays, 5.00-7.00 p.m.

Joseph Howley

This colloquium will be led by Joseph Howley, Associate Professor of Classics. It will explore the history of the book throughout world history, beginning with antiquity and proceeding to the present day. It will consider 1) the relationship between the history of the book and the history of writing, 2) major inflection points in book technology and culture and how they differ around the world, 3) the book and book culture in popular and literary imaginations, 4) the book today and its future. A schedule of topics is laid out below; a course packet will be provided containing all of the readings, with the exception of Hrabal, which will be available at Book Culture on 112th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam. Recommendations for additional reading will be provided upon request.

Sept. 13: The origins of writing and the book in antiquity

Readings from Homer, Plato, Lucian, Martial, and Augustine

Oct. 4: The European revolution

Reading: Trithemius, *In Praise of Scribes*

Oct. 18: The book in the Chinese world; Bibliomania part 1

Reading: Whitfield, "The Official's Tale"; Sun Ts'ung-t'ien, *The Bookman's Manual*

Nov. 1: Book people and reading publics; Bibliomania part 2

Reading: Blades, *The Enemies of Books*; Collins, "The Unknown Public"

Nov. 15: The book and the modern imaginary

Reading: Hrabal, *Too Loud a Solitude* (with Bradbury, "Bright Phoenix")

Nov. 29: The future of the book

Reading: Uzanne, *The End of Books*

Dec. 6: Possible make-up day, if needed

Recommended text:

Bohumil Hrabal, *Too Loud a Solitude*. Mariner Books, 1992. ISBN 978-0156904582

Optional text:

Participants desiring a wide-ranging scholarly introduction to many aspects of the history of the book around the world may be interested in:

Michael Suarez and H. R. Woudhuysen (eds.), *The Book: A Global History*. Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0199679416

Please note that this book will not form part of the set reading assignments for the course, but it will enrich any student's interest in the topics discussed.