



Department of Fine Arts

ART102 Book Art

Book Art and Bookbinding

Summer

Instructor: Piergiorgio Caredio

Office Hours: Weekly, to be arranged with the Instructor

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Course Description

We begin with a short history of the book, how it evolved from clay tablets, through papyrus to paper. The course will focus on European methods of book-making and we also will explore other traditions for example Japanese and Coptic. Then, we will discuss the historical development of the codex and how it was actually constructed. Working hands-on, we will explore techniques of folding papers, learning about the grain of paper and boards sewing binding with tape, constructing a “case binding” and the design of book covers. We will use a variety of materials both modern and traditional throughout the course, including different types of papers, clothes, leathers, vellum, silk, linen, etc.

The student will be led through the construction of several books utilizing different techniques; although the focus of the class is to acquire knowledge of historic book-binding, students are also encouraged to use their imagination to create their own designs and to think of book-binding as an artistic project with limitless possibilities.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course

Course Hours

The course meets once a week for a total of 15 hrs hours a week. Total contact hours are 45. Suggested credits are 3



Student Learning Expectations

The completion of minimum 5 examples of Book Art.

Course Outline

Week by Week Description:

- Week I*** Presentation of the course and tour of the workshop. Brief overview of the history of the book and book-binding. Discussing the basic techniques of book-binding and the different elements which make a book unique.
- We will begin working on a variety of small simple bookbinding projects such as concertina, notebooks, “agenda”. These small projects we will continue to work on throughout the semester in the midst of our more complex book-binding projects.
- Overview of different types of book covers, both hard covers and soft covers. Working hands-on we will create our first book cover in the classic “half-bound” style or another design of the student’s choice, using pages that are already bound.
- Complete construction of a blank book beginning with cutting the pages, folding them to arrive at 10-15 sets of 8 pages. Preparing the end-pages (first and last pages). Stitching by hand the pages to the binding tapes. Reinforcing the binding, sewing the headband and bookmark ribbon.
- Week II*** Planning and construction of the cover design building upon our first assignment. Final assembly of the cover with the internal pages.
- Creating a complete blank book building upon our last assignment, this time using three bands for our book-binding.
- Full bound cover in leather (or synthetic leather for students who prefer not to use animal products). Our binding will use bands in relief on the spine of the book.
- Complete construction of a hard cover book using traditional Japanese book-binding techniques.
- Week III*** We will take two weeks to create a book using a more complicated internal binding technique with two bands hidden within the cover.
- Finalizing our work in progress, reviewing the projects we have

completed throughout the semester and preparing for the final exhibition.

Assignments:

- 5 examples of pamphlet bindings, artwork content
- One Japanese designed drop-back box, fully lined to house experimental artwork using brush and ink

Textbook and required materials:

Smith K „Bookbinding for Book Artists“
 Taylor T „The Artful Storybook“
 Cowley D „TheWorld of the Book“
 Lark Books „Five Hundred Handmade Books“.

Recommended optional materials/references:

VV.AA. "Maestri Rilegatori per il Cantico delle Creature" Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio della Provincia di Macerata, 2002
 VV.AA. "Leopardi Bookbinding competition" Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio della Provincia di Macerata, 1998
 Bologna G. "Legature" Mondadori, Milano 1998

Grading System

Participation	10%
Portfolio	70%
Individual Presentation	20%

Grading scale

98-100 A+	88-89,99 B+	78-79,99 C+	68-69,99 D+
93-97,99 A	83-87,99 B	73-77,99 C	63-67,99 D
90-92,99 A-	80-82,99 B-	70-72,99 C-	60-62,99 D-
<59,99 F			



Course Policy

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lectures and excursions and actively participate in classroom discussions. Only one absence per course is allowed during the 3 weeks of the program. All other absences are considered unexcused. Each unexcused absence will incur an academic penalty of 10% off the overall grade of the course missed. A student having more than 3 unexcused absences will earn an “F” in their course work and if they accumulate such absences in more than one course, will be dismissed from the program.

Retests/makeup tests

Not applicable.

Excursions

N/A