Print and Society in Early Modern England
Course Guide 2018-19

Outline

The invention of printing in the late fifteenth century brought about a media revolution, comparable to the rise of the codex in the fourth century and the internet in the twentieth. Print profoundly affected every aspect of early modern English politics, religion, culture, and society. This Specified Subject explores both the medium of print and its impact in the period c.1500-c.1750. You will be introduced to the burgeoning discipline of the ‘history of the book’, by studying the technology and economics of the book trade; the growth in output; the physical make-up of books as material artefacts; the nature of bookselling and bookshops and their connection with literacy and reading practices; the relationship between print, manuscript, and orality; the emergence of new genres (newspapers, pamphlets, cartoons); the nature of authorship; attempts by the trade, government, and churches to regulate, control, or punish authors, printers, and booksellers; and the substantial role of women in the book trade. The paper will also examine the impact of print on political, religious, and intellectual culture. Print facilitated new forms of polemical debate and promoted the formation of the ‘public sphere’. It also played a significant role in the construction of religious, political, provincial, and national identities and enabled the communication of new knowledge across continents. The increasing quantity of cheap print, in the form chapbooks, ballads, novellas, news, and almanacs, sold to ordinary readers, has given rise to questions about the reception and meaning of new ideas and knowledge at all levels of society. We will, finally, consider the impact print has had on our scholarly interpretation of the period, and the methodological issues it raises for historians.

The paper includes local fieldtrips: the University Library’s hidden printing museum, where you will learn to print using a hand press; another to the UL Rare Books Room to analyse a seventeenth-century collection of printed tracts; and visits to two libraries, Samuel Pepys’s at Magdalene and the Peterhouse Perne Library. Teaching will be provided through an integrated combination of lectures, discussion classes, supervisions, and local field trips. The paper will be of especial interest to those contemplating careers in the media, publishing, authorship, and of course academic research.

Course history

The paper was first taught in 2015-16 by Professor Mark Goldie and Dr Kate Peters. In 2016-17 it was taught by Professor Goldie and Dr Arnold Hunt. In 2017-18 the option was suspended.

Teachers in 2018-19

Professor Mark Goldie (mag1010) and Dr Kate Peters (mkp30)

Examination

- Three-hour unseen; answer 3 questions; undivided paper
- There will always be a question set on each of the lecture topics

Faculty norms for Specified Papers

- Teaching hours: 28-34 hours, to include 4-7 supervisions
- Reading list: 100-150 items
- Exam paper: 18-22 questions (with one or two either/ors)
Teaching regime for this paper

- Michaelmas: 8 one-hour lectures; 2 one-hour classes; 2 two-hour fieldtrips
- Lent: 8 one-hour lectures; 2 one-hour classes; 2 two-hour fieldtrips
- Easter: 1 (or 2) one-hour revision class(es)
- Supervisions, 4 per student; in either term
- Total contact hours: 31 (or 32)
- The classes are hands-on practical exercises
- Supervision topics match the lecture topics
- Fieldtrips:
  - University Library: Historical Printing Room: 2 hours
  - University Library: Rare Books Room: Verney Collection: 2 hours
  - Peterhouse: Perne Library: 1 hour
  - Magdalene College: Pepys Library: 1 hour

Moodle

There is a Moodle site for this paper.

Times

Lectures and classes as per Faculty Lecture Timetable.
Fieldtrips will usually be at 2 pm.

Supervisions and essays

- You will be supervised fortnightly, in either Michaelmas or Lent; (if you are doing a Dissertation in Michaelmas, then the supervisions will be in Lent).
- You may select any four of the 14 (non-Introductory) topics on the Reading List. While there is no formal restriction, it is important that you address both print production (e.g. bookselling, authorship, censorship) and impacts of print (e.g. on politics, religion, culture).
- Choose essay titles from the Supervision Essay Questions list or the Sample Exam Paper or the 2016-17 Tripos Exam Papers.
- As with other Tripos papers, essays should be about 2500 words or more.
- You are likely to have the opportunity to be supervised by both the course teachers.

Some points of guidance

- Write up notes from classes and fieldtrips as well as from reading and lectures.
- Browse the open shelves of the UL’s Rare Books Room.
- Another good browsing place: English Faculty, E325: basement, half-way along.
- Although the paper is largely confined to English publishing, be aware of some of the literature on pan-British and European publishing: we will examine interactions with the Scottish, Irish, North American, and Continental presses.
- Our chronological period is c.1500 to c.1750, but the boundaries are loose.
- Literature on women’s involvement in print culture has been integrated throughout

Online resources

- ESTC – English Short Title Catalogue (all books before 1800)
- EEBO – Early English Books Online (texts of most books before 1700)
- ECCO – Eighteenth-Century Collections Online (texts of many books 1700-1800)
- ODNB – Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Also:

- British Book Trade Index
- Broadside Ballads Online (Oxford)
• English Broadside Ballad Archive (Santa Barbara)
• English Emblem Book Project
• The Reading Experience Database
• Cambridge Centre for the Material Text
• Histories of College libraries on Cambridge College websites: Christ’s (‘Treasures of the Old Library’), Corpus (Parker), Emmanuel (‘Highlights from the Collection’), Peterhouse (Perne), St John’s (Old Library), Trinity (Wren), Trinity Hall (Old Library)

Suggested places to visit in addition to our fieldtrips
• **Libraries**
  - Wren Library, Trinity College, Cambridge
  - Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
  - The Plume Library, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4PZ
  - The British Library, King's Cross, London
• **Printing**
  - Printing Section, Cambridge Museum of Technology, CB5 8LD
  - St Bride’s Printing Library, London, EC4Y 8EQ (pre-booked tours)
  - Printing Section, Milton Keynes Museum, MK12 5EL
  - Printing Section, Bradford Industrial Museum, BD2 3HP
  - Robert Smail’s Printing Works, Innerleithen, Scotland, EH44 6HA

Lecture, class, and field trip programme, and supervision topics

**Michaelmas Term**

- **Field trip - University Library Historical Printing Room**
- Introduction: approaches to print (a)
- Introduction: approaches to print (b)
- Analysing output: genres, formats, editions, & print runs
  - **Class - Learning from the English Short Title Catalogue**
- Reading and ways of reading
- Publishing, bookselling, & the marketplace
  - **Field trip - University Library Rare Books Room**
- Pamphlets, pamphleteering, polemic, & public sphere
- Authorship, patronage, anonymity, & intellectual property
  - **Class - A library from the ‘middling sort’: William Clarke**
- The invention of the newspaper

**Lent Term**

- **Field trip – Peterhouse: Perne Library**
- Official printing & government information
- Censorship & regulation of the press
  - **Class – Women authors & women publishers**
- Print & the nation, & print beyond the nation
- Libraries & book collecting
  - **Field trip – Magdalene: Pepys Library**
- Literature of religious identity: popular piety, nonconformity, Catholicism
- Non-textual print: woodcuts & cartoons
  - **Class - Ballads, verse libels, & poems on affairs of state**
- Moral panic & the literature of demonization
- Limits of print?: scribal communities & orality

**Easter Term:** One or two revision classes
Sample Exam Paper

Answer three questions

1. ‘Historians of print culture tend to ignore the economics of the trade.’ Discuss.
2. Explain the recent scholarly shift from authorial intention to reader reception.
3. What are the hazards of offering statistics for the output of the press?
4. What methods can historians use to understand early modern reading practices?
5. What roles did women have in the early modern book trades?
6. ‘In the century after 1650 bookshops mattered more than coffee-houses in the formation of “public opinion”.’ Discuss.
7. Was there a concept of intellectual property in early modern England?
8. In the seventeenth century, what was a newspaper?
9. When and how did governments begin to take an interest in the press?
10. ‘The effectiveness of press censorship has been grossly exaggerated.’ Discuss.
11. Either (a) In what ways does London’s printed output provide only a partial guide to the printed material that was available to the peoples of the British Isles? 
   Or (b) When can we begin to speak of ‘the colonial book’?
12. Besides reading them, what functions did books serve?
13. How were religious minorities able to use print to ‘punch above their weight’?
14. Analyse any two of the woodcuts reproduced overleaf. [+ IMAGES]
15. In what ways did print shape hostility to either Catholicism or Puritanism?
16. Why did manuscript publication survive in the age of print?
17. When and why did the collecting of printed ephemera begin?
18. ‘No two copies of an early modern printed book are the same.’ Is this an exaggeration?

END
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Reading List

- The Reading List follows the schedule of lectures and supervision topics.
- However, many books cover several topics, so you need to read around, and need to make regular use of items in the opening section, ‘Introductions’.
- You should do some reading on every topic, not just those you select for supervision essays.
- At the end, there are additional sections listing reference works and examples of early modern library catalogues.
- It is well worth browsing the open shelves in the UL Rare Books Room: a significant number of items on the Reading Lists are there.
- Another good place to browse: English Faculty Library, classes B20-B40 and E325.
- Another: Seeley Library, class Z.
- And another: the publishing history section in the CUP bookshop: rear left.
- Likewise, browse the best journal in the field, *The Library* (B990): it’s the journal that most often occurs in this Reading List.
- One abbreviation is used here: CHBB: *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain* [plus volume number – vols. 3, 4, and 5].
- No item on this list is prescribed in a formal sense: the aim is to offer a range of relevant reading. Do track down and recommend further works. This list will be updated periodically.
- While the paper concerns the Anglophone world, note that some literature on the Reading List provides a necessary Continental perspective.

Essential online resources:

- ESTC – English Short Title Catalogue (all books before 1800)
- EEBO – Early English Books Online (texts of most books before 1700)
- ECCO – Eighteenth-Century Collections Online (texts of many books 1700-1800)
- ODNB – *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Essential textbooks:

*The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain* [CHBB]


Also very good are:


Essay collection appearing most often in the Reading Lists:


Recommended starter books:

- The following are not textbooks but are recommended as absorbing routes into this paper:

1  & 2. Introductions: approaches to print
Although our paper is about the English-language press, this section includes general material on early modern printing and textuality throughout Europe

Blair, A., *Too Much to Know: Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age* (2010)
Darnton, R., *The Case for Books* (2009), Pt 3, esp. ‘What is the History of Books?’
Gaskell, P., *A New Introduction to Bibliography* (1972)

3. Analysing output: genres, formats, paratext, editions, printruns


Genres:

4. Readers and ways of reading
Baron, S., *The Reader Revealed* (2001)

**Literacy:**

5. Publishing, bookselling, and the marketplace
Bracken, J. K., & J. Silver, eds., *The British Literary Book Trade, 1475-1700* (1996) [UL Reading Room: R718.60: sample the many case studies in this volume]
Steinberg, S. H., *Five Hundred Years of Printing* (1959), pts 1-2

**Primary source:** John Dunton, *The Life and Errors of John Dunton* (1705) – on ECCO

6. Pamphlets, pamphleteering, polemic, and the ‘public sphere’
Calhoun, C., ed., *Habermas and the Public Sphere* (1992), Intro., and Ch. by Zaret
Knights, M., Politics and Opinion in Crisis, 1678-1681 (1994)

Case study: coffee houses:
Cowan, B., ‘What was Masculine about the Public Sphere?: Gender and the Coffee House Milieu in Post-Restoration England’, History Workshop Journal 51 (2001)

7. Authorship, patronage, anonymity, and intellectual property

Ezell, M., Social Authorship and the Advent of Print (1999)
Griffin, R. J., ed., The Faces of Anonymity (2003), Intro. and chs 3, 6
Loewenstein, J., The Author’s Due
Maclean, I., Scholarship, Commerce, Religion: the Learned Book in the Age of Confessions, 1560-1730 (2012)
Maslen, K., ‘Printing for the Author: from the Bowyer Printing Ledgers, 1710-1775’, The Library, 27 (1972)
Rose, M., Authors and Owners: the Invention of Copyright (1993)
Saunders, D., Authorship and Copyright (1992)

Sample some bibliographies of individual authors (all at B151): Francis Bacon, George Berkeley, Robert Boyle, Sir Thomas Browne, Daniel Defoe (both the Moore and the Furbank/Owens bibliographies), John Donne, John Dryden, Eliza Hayward, Thomas Hobbes, Robert Hooke, John Locke (the Christopherson or the Yolton bibliographies), Sir Thomas More, William Penn

Early author-publisher contracts: Milton’s and Locke’s contracts – texts to be supplied.

8. The invention of the newspaper
This topic includes all periodical literature, such as literary journals, and part-works. It also includes a couple of items on the communication of news and gossip more generally.

Berry, H., Gender, Society, and Print Culture in Late-Stuart England: the Cultural World of the Athenian Mercury (2003)
Fox, A., Oral and Literate Culture (2000), Ch. 7
Harris, M., London Newspapers in the Age of Walpole (1987)
Harris, R., Politics and the Rise of the Press: Britain and France, 1620-1800
Pettegree, A., The Invention of News (2014)
Raymond, J., The Invention of the Newspaper: English Newsbooks, 1641-1649 (1993)
Sutherland, J., The Restoration Newspaper and its Development (1986)
Wiles, R. M., Serial Publication in England before 1750 (1957)

9. Official printing and government information

Downie, J. A., Robert Harley and the Press (1979)
Goldgar, B. A., Walpole and the Wits (1977)
Hanson, L., Government and the Press, 1695-1763 (1936)
Rees, G., & Wakely, M., Publishing, Politics, and Culture: the King’s Printers in the Age of James VI and I (2010)

Case study: Foxe’s Book of Martyrs:

10. Censorship and the regulation of the press
Hadfield, A., ed., *Literature and Censorship in Renaissance England* (2001), chs. 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11

Primary sources:
Milton, John, *Areopagitica* (1644) – many modern editions, including in vol. 2 of next item

Case study: Sir Roger L’Estrange:

11. Print and the nation, and print beyond the nation


Early Modern America:
12. Libraries and book collecting

Use also the section on ‘Catalogues of Early Modern Libraries’ at the end: sample these, for case studies.

13. The literature of religious identity: popular piety, nonconformity, and Catholicism


Case study: Catholic printing:

14. Non-textual print: woodcuts and cartoons

Kunzle, D., *The Early Comic Strip* (1973)

15. Moral panic and the literature of demonization


Case study: the Marprelate tracts:

Case study: the sects and the Ranters:

**Case study: anti-popery:**
Schwoerer, L., *The Ingenious Mr Henry Care, Restoration Publicist* (2001), Ch. 3

16. The limits of print?: scribal communities; orality and the aural

**Scribal publication:**

**Orality:**

**Sermon culture:**

*Primary source online:* English Broadside Ballad Archive: ebba.english.ucsb.edu
*Primary source in print:* Lord, G. de F. et al., eds., *Poems on Affairs of State*, 6 vols. (1963-70) – Augustan political satire, often libellous, mostly originally circulated in manuscript

**Reference Works and Further Primary Sources**
These cover the whole paper

Bosanquet, E. F., English Printed Almanacks and Prognostications (1917). B160.1
Madan, F. F., A New Bibliography of the Eikon Basilike of King Charles I (1950). B151.CHA.1
Steele, R., Bibliography of Royal Proclamations of the Tudor and Stuart Sovereigns, 2 vols. (1910). B195a.10-11

PTO
Catalogues of Early Modern Libraries

Institutional libraries:
- Ipswich Library: B196.17
- Petyt Library, Skipton, Yorkshire
- Plume Library, Maldon, Essex

Personal libraries (unless otherwise stated, all at B884):
- Robert Burton (B990.7.26) William Congreve John Dee
- Robert Hooke William King Samuel Jeake
- William King Sir Thomas Knyvett John, Lord Lumley
- John Locke (B990.7.17) James Logan (B890.9.3) Isaac Newton
- Samuel Pepys Adam Smith Jonathan Swift
- Anthony Wood (B990.7.32)


Also: go online to EEBO or ECCO and look up examples by searching on ‘Catalogue’.
And the Virtual Library System for the Dissenting Academy Libraries: vls.english.qmul.ac.uk

Cambridge PhD theses – can be read in the Manuscripts Room

Additional online resources
- British Book Trade Index
- Broadside Ballads Online (Oxford)
- English Broadside Ballad Archive (Santa Barbara)
- English Emblem Book Project
- The Reading Experience Database
- Cambridge Centre for the Material Text
- Histories of College libraries on Cambridge College websites: Christ’s (‘Treasures of the Old Library’), Corpus (Parker), Emmanuel (‘Highlights from the Collection’), Peterhouse (Perne), St John’s (Old Library), Trinity (Wren), Trinity Hall (Old Library)