

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

GRDS 2403 Introduction to Book Arts

Credit Hours: 3 **Lecture Hours:** 2 **Studio Hours:** 4

Prerequisite: None

Effective Semester: Summer I 2013

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces students to the traditions and methods of the handmade book, as well as the expressive possibilities available with books as an art form.

B. Additional Information - none

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply basic skills and techniques of bookbinding to create several different book structures, as well as, various types of enclosures.
2. Demonstrate the use of innovative image and text-making techniques, including letterpress, Xerox transfers, paste papers, and others.
3. Identify historic trends in bookbinding and how they affect contemporary structures
4. Demonstrate competence in the relationship of textual, visual and structural contents in books and how they can enhance content.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Students in this course learn to analyze book structures to discover how they work. They also analyze and develop a sharp eye for fine typography and craftsmanship.

Communication Skills

This course introduces students to the idea of combining visual and tactile communication and how the vocabulary of materials can enhance content.

Technological Skills

Students in this course will use hand skills that have been practiced for hundreds of years. Such skills encourage careful and thoughtful use of techniques that develop a devotion to craftsmanship and discipline that can be transferred to other learning environments.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Terminology of bookbinding and book making
- B. The structures of traditional and contemporary books
- C. How books can become a unique art form
- D. Exploring a variety of book formats and binding methods
- E. Choosing and working with fine printing papers and other bookbinding materials
- F. Safe and skilled operation of hand-operated printing presses and other equipment
- G. Planning and producing simple limited edition printed books