ENGL 481
Early Printed Books in the Archives

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෨ Course description

Every book from the handpress period (1475-1800) is a unique physical object, bearing the signs of its making, distribution, ownership, and transmission. When we hold such a book, we touch the past; in turn, we become part of its history. Handpress books are increasingly, and sometimes problematically, digitized via projects like Early English Books Online, the English Short Title Catalogue, Eighteenth-Century Collections Online, and the Internet Archive. This course will take as its focus the making, describing, collecting, digitizing, and remediating of early printed books. You'll have the opportunity to work closely with one or more books of your own choosing.

෨ Assignments

25%. Five in-class quizzes.
15%. Brief description of your book.
15%. Provenance exercise OR printer/publisher exercise OR cataloguing exercise.
45%. Project/Essay. Can be an edition, a remediation, an analysis of one or more digital resources, an extended essay on provenance, an extended essay on printing and publishing, a full bibliographical description of multiple copies or editions of a book, an essay on an aspect of book making (illustrations, printers' ornaments, font developments), an inquiry of your own devising, or an exercise in making (with accompanying reflection).

෨ Resources

Werner, Sarah. *Studying Early Printed Books, 1450-1800: A Practical Guide.* 2019.
Digital Resources: *Early English Books Online*; *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online*; *The Internet Archive*; *English Short Title Catalogue*; auction sites; digitized collections at individual libraries; library catalogues.
Print Resources: Books in the UVic Special Collections and University Archives.
Small digital "coursepack" including short selections from primary sources such as Joseph Moxon's *Mechanick Exercises* (1677-1684), handouts on collation and bibliographical description, and 2-3 scholarly articles on digitization and remediation.