ENGLISH 527 / HISTORY 385
HISTORY OF THE BOOK
Prof. Garth Bond

Assignment 2: Final Project Presentation

The final project for the course will be a collaborative effort to design an exhibition using books from the Milwaukee-Downer collection in the Mudd Library to communicate the ideas of this class to a more general audience. This exhibition will be a public record of your work in this class and a spotlight on the resources available in our Special Collections.

The bulk of your grade for this final project, however, will come not from your actual contribution to the final project, but rather on a formal presentation in which you will submit a proposal for your contribution to a panel of outside judges. While I will be grading your presentation, you should think of this panel as your main audience. Your presentation should explain to this panel the idea or aspect of book history you would like to present in the final project and then show how you will use the Milwaukee-Downer collection to demonstrate that idea in the exhibit. Your exhibit will involve a combination of a book display and an accompanying poster with text and images explaining how this book illustrates some idea or issue in the history of the book; you should include both images of the books you will use and at least some of the text from the accompanying poster in a PowerPoint slide show designed to complement your talk.

Final project presentations will take place the final week of class. The presentation should be 10-15 minutes, and you should expect to entertain questions from the panel for about 5 minutes. We will talk more about your presentation and how to use PowerPoint effectively later in the course.

Online Special Collections Project

As a part of your final project in the course, you will also be adding your book to the University's online resource, "Selections from the Special Collections." This online collection was created along with this course, and in contributing to it you will be helping to create a permanent database, accessible from anywhere online, of our special collections holdings here at Lawrence. More pertinently for this course, however, you will be requesting digital images of the book or books you are planning to use in our final project, images you will need when making your final project presentations and exhibition posters at the end of the course.

Because you will need to use images of books from the Milwaukee-Downer collection as a part of this final presentation, photographs of the books will be taken in advance by the Mudd Library's Visual Resource Librarian. In order to limit the amount of work that she will have to do for our class and to make sure it can be accomplished in a timely manner, you will be limited to 10 image requests due NO LATER than Monday, October 27th. This means that you will have

to do some significant advance planning in order to have your requests submitted in a timely fashion. I should also say that I do not expect you to use 10 images as a part of your final project; in fact, my guess is that most of you will use no more than 1-2 images. The limit is designed to allow you some flexibility should you be unsure about what direction you wish to go in the final project, and also to allow for ideas that do require more images than usual. There is no need, however, for you to try to fill your "quota;" and, in fact, the fewer images you request, the more likely you are to have a prompt turn-around, giving you more time to manipulate those images in the process of working them into your final presentation.

In addition to being prepared for your final presentation, the images of the books you request will be added to the "Selections from the Special Collections" database. To make this database useful for future users, you will also need to submit a brief abstract describing the book you have added to the online collection. While you may want to discuss the elements of the book that led you to include it in the final project or to highlight certain aspects of the particular images you have requested, you will also need to offer some basic introductory information about the book that you think would be useful to a potential user of the Special Collections here at Lawrence. Your abstract must be submitted at the same time as your image requests.

Exhibition Posters

Your final assignment for the class will be to submit a final version of the poster you wish to accompany your book in our exhibition for review by myself and the Library staff. Pending our approval, this poster will be printed and used in the Library's exhibition in the Winter term. All of which is to say that your poster will be on public display and should therefore reflect your best work possible. The point of the poster is to actually do the work you have laid out for your exhibit in your final project presentation. Using images of your book or books and the text expanded from your final presentation, you should view the poster as the culmination of the project you have proposed.

Once your poster has been approved, it will be printed, used in our Winter exhibition, and saved as a part of the Library's informal record of Special Collections. I will keep you posted about the exhibition, especially its official opening, to which you will all be invited.