

Fall 2009

HMC Art 60: Workshop in Hand-Press Printing

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Educational Objectives

Our objectives for this course are simple. You will learn:

- ∞ some basic history about printing and the printing press;
- ∞ the basic vocabulary and practices of typesetting;
- ∞ to think creatively about typography;
- ∞ how to print well on an iron hand press;
- ∞ what the various parts of the presses are called;
- ∞ how different qualities of paper can be coordinated aesthetically with typographical design.

Required Materials

All of the written materials you need for the course will be distributed to you in a folder on the first day of class. Please either leave your folder on the shelf assigned to you in Honnold H 109 or bring it to class each week. Keep all of your materials on your assigned shelf (but do not put any tools there—they have their proper places!). The supplies you need—equipment, aprons, project paper, and so on—are available in the press room. As for printing papers, inks, and other supplies, we will address special needs once your semester project has been approved.

Workshop Meetings

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. After that, I will be in the press room every week on Tuesdays between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. At the first meeting, I will divide you into shifts (6:00 to 7:30, 7:30 to 9:00) so that we can use the press room and equipment efficiently. Beyond

your shift, you need to spend a minimum of three hours per week working on and cleaning up after your projects. I am available by appointment to work with you outside of the regular class time.

The Checklist (first-time students only)

Stapled to the front of your folder you'll find a checklist that needs to be consulted and completed on a regular basis. I will review your checklist regularly to assess your progress in the course. Note that all of the boxes on the list need to be checked before I will give you a grade at the end of the semester.

Skills Project (first-time students only)

Your first project of the semester will be to learn the basics of typesetting and printing. I will assign you a particular type family, and you will create a specimen sheet for it. Doing so will allow you to learn the layout of the case, how to move type from stick to galley, how to move type from galley to press, how to print on one of our presses, and how to clean up and distribute type when finished printing. This project should be completed no later than September 22.

Semester Project

Your semester project will consist of designing, composing, printing, and perhaps binding an "object" of your choice. This object could be a small pamphlet, a broadside, something practical (such as business cards), or a piece of typographical art. A one-page design proposal and dummy is due in class on September 29 (for repeating students, on September 8). A revised dummy, with type and paper specifications, is due on October 6 (for repeating students, on September 15). The finished project, in a run of 25 copies, is due in our last class meeting, December 8.

First-time students may not develop a project that demands complex binding. Repeating students may only develop a bound project if they make a dummy of the binding they envision at the time their proposal is due.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated using the following categories:

- ❖ Attendance (10 percent)
- ❖ Skills Project (20 percent)
 - Familiarity with press room vocabulary and practices
 - Quality of composition
 - Quality of printing
- ❖ Final Project (70 percent)

- Quality and appropriateness of project concept
- Quality of composition
- Quality of typographical design
- Quality of printing
- Quality of finishing work

Security and Honor Code

There is a great deal of expensive equipment in the press room. Additionally, H 109 is shared between The First-Floor Press and Special Collections. It is extremely important, then, that before you leave you follow standard cleanup procedures and make sure the door is locked as you exit the room. Art 60 students are not to use the double doors on the north side of the room should they be unlocked. Students should not allow anyone who is not enrolled in Art 60 into the press room without my permission. I assume that the HMC Honor Code will be adhered to.