

## **WRIT 4720 6.0 Print Culture and the History of the Book**

Print Culture and the History of the Book is a vast and continuously developing multidisciplinary field that explores the contribution of writing to the evolution of critical thinking, communication, and social development, from cuneiform-inscribed clay tablets to the latest electronic reading devices, from moveable type to ebooks, this course considers the book as the dynamic convergence of engaged and visionary individuals and communities with a specific set of cultural, religious, political, and economic circumstances.

Through a variety of theoretical models borrowed from history, sociology, and literary criticism, we view the book as a material object and commodity, as a time-traveling messenger, as a meeting place between reader and writer, as the inspiration and propagator of major intellectual movements, and as a receptacle of our histories through which the past may be recalled, and the present and future pondered.