

## **HIST\*3480 - WORKPLACE LEARNING: Scottish Chapbook Project Proposal**

Department of History, W2018

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Course Format: Independent work with scheduled meetings.

### **Course Synopsis:**

This independent study course will focus on conducting research on selected chapbooks in [The Scottish Chapbook Project](#) site repository and creating an online exhibit based on this research. The Scottish Chapbook site was launched in March 2015 and is a collaborative project between the Library's [Archival & Special Collections](#) and the History Department. Chapbooks were pamphlets of eight to twenty-four pages that were created and sold in the 18th and 19th centuries. They featured popular stories of romance, travel, comedy, politics, fairy tales, religion, social customs, and history. Chapbooks were cheap (hence the name ch(e)apbook) and served a market for reading material. They were particularly popular in Scotland, where the songs, ballads, poems, and short stories appealed to a population that was highly literate by European standards.

The student will select seven chapbooks that do not have abstracts on the site to research and create an abstract for the chapbook to contribute to the site. Based on this research, the student will develop and curate an online exhibit for the site on the Library's Omeka platform.

### **During the course of the project, the student will:**

- Write six bi-weekly critical reflections about what they have learned during the course of the project (200-300 words each)
- Select seven chapbooks to research. Select one chapbook to be the basis of a primary source analysis on the value of chapbooks as a primary source based on your research, review of the Scottish Chapbook site and review of secondary sources. (1500-2000 words)
- Write seven abstracts of chapbooks based on your research to contribute to the Scottish Chapbook Project (200 words maximum)
- Curate an online exhibit based on some or all of the chapbooks researched for the site.

### **Methods of Evaluation and Weights:**

25% Primary source analysis of 1 chapbook

35% Abstracts of 7 chapbooks

25% Online Exhibit

15% Written critical reflections

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Skills in research practices
- Skills in interpretation and contextualization of primary sources
- Knowledge of Scottish history and the history of the book
- Ability to use [Omeka](#) online platform
- Ability to create online exhibits based on library & archival standards and "best practices"
- Experience of project management

- Knowledge of rare book collections in an academic research library environment
- Ability to communicate knowledge effectively on a website
- Ability to critically reflect upon your work

No Textbook Required

### **Project Timeline\***

- Week 1: Meeting with instructors: Guidelines will be established for selecting chapbooks, researching them in reference sources, writing abstracts, and curating an online exhibit; List of secondary and reference sources will be provided for use in researching the chapbooks. Bi-weekly meetings will be scheduled to discuss the project
- Weeks 1-3: Familiarization of the Scottish Chapbook Project site and secondary and reference sources to use in researching chapbooks. Selection of seven chapbooks to research for the project; Written critical reflections due on week 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12
- Week 2: Meet with instructor; training on Omeka platform
- Week 3: Choice of chapbooks finalized
- Week 4: Meet with instructors (Ewan)
- Weeks 4-10: Research chapbooks; write primary source analysis and abstracts
- Week 6: Meet with instructor
- Week 7: Abstracts due
- Week 8: Meet with instructors (Ewan)
- Week 10: Meet with instructors; Primary source analysis due (Ewan)
- Week 10: Upload abstracts for chapbooks to site repository
- Week 10-12 Develop and curate online exhibit
- Week 12: Meet with instructor; Online exhibit completed and launched on Scottish Chapbook site

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.