Center for the Book

**Director**
- Matthew P. Brown (English)

**Director, Graduate Studies**
- Julia A. Leonard (Interdisciplinary Programs)

**Graduate degree:** M.F.A. in book arts  
**Graduate certificate:** book studies/book arts and technologies  
**Faculty:** https://book.grad.uiowa.edu/faculty-and-staff/  
**Website:** https://book.grad.uiowa.edu

### Courses

#### Center for the Book Courses

**UICB:2100 Creative Writing for Book Arts**  
Creative writing in context of book arts; text and image, typography, visual sequence, graphic narrative; zines, chapbooks, broadsides, and artist's books.

**UICB:2110 Introduction to Book Arts**  
Topics related to artist books, hand bookbinding, letterpress printing, papermaking, and lettering arts. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as BKAT:2110.

**UICB:2600 Graphic Design II**  
Fundamentals of typography as a core element in visual communication; introduction to historical typographic practices as well as modern modes of designing with type. Prerequisites: ARTS:1510 and ARTS:1520. Corequisites: DSGN:2500. Same as DSGN:2600.

**UICB:2900 Book Design for Publishing**  
Introduction to the major aspects of book design, including typography, layout, standard industry software, discussion of trends in the field. Same as ARTS:2900, ENGL:2900, WRIT:2900.

**UICB:3140 Literature and the Book**  
English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: Varies by semester. Same as ENGL:3140.

**UICB:3142 Topics in Book History**  
Authorship, publishing, and so forth within specific historical and cultural contexts. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: Varies by semester. Same as ENGL:3142.

**UICB:3280 Elements of Book Art**  
Overview of book art process and techniques for nonmajors; introduction to traditional bookbinding skills, nontraditional book structures, and content development for artist books. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as BKAT:3280.

**UICB:3380 Elements of Letterpress**  
Introduction to letterpress printing; metal type, relief printing, page layout, and basic typography; basic use of Vandercook Proof Press; experimentation with diverse letterpress techniques; for non-book art majors. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as BKAT:3380.

**UICB:3900 Special Project for Undergraduates**  
3 s.h.  
Independent study.

**UICB:3980 American Print Culture**  
3 s.h.  
Exploration of a wide range of imagery printed and published in the United States during 19th century (1776-1900); fine art original prints, popular imagery in periodicals and illustrated books, scholarly literature, history of evolving technologies, variety of printed work; shifting reputation of printed art and its makers. Same as ARTH:3980.

**UICB:4100 Paperworks**  
3 s.h.  
Conceptual and methodological approaches to 2D and 3D paper works; creation of works that couple unique properties of paper-pulp medium with personal visual ideas and clarity of intent; contemporary issues in paper pulp, medium's relationship to larger art and craft contexts. GE: Engineering Be Creative. Same as BKAT:4100.

**UICB:4150 Introduction to Book Studies**  
3 s.h.  
Theory and practice of book studies; meanings of word and image in the book format; comparative study of other media, applied study of the codex as physical artifact. English majors and English and Creative Writing majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: Varies by semester. Same as ENGL:4150, SLIS:4150.

**UICB:4205 Bookbinding I: Materials and Techniques**  
3 s.h.  
Hands-on introduction to materials and techniques commonly used in bookbinding. Same as BKAT:4205.

**UICB:4210 Boxes and Enclosures**  
3 s.h.  
Hands-on techniques for a variety of book enclosures; appropriateness, aesthetic issues concerning box design; Japanese wraparound case, drop-spine box, hinged and lidded boxes, slipcase; technical skill development. Prerequisites: UICB:4205. Same as BKAT:4210.

**UICB:4270 Bookbinding II**  
3 s.h.  
Builds on skills acquired in UICB:4205; projects to complete six bindings based on historical and contemporary models; sewing styles, board attachments, endband types; nonadhesive and case-bound structures, varied materials and binding styles, their effects on structure, aesthetic considerations, further development of solid binding skills; historical development of particular binding practices. Prerequisites: UICB:4205. Same as BKAT:4270.

**UICB:4280 Artists’ Books**  
3 s.h.  
Exploration of the book as a form for artistic expression; emphasis on conceptual development; relationship between content, form, and structure; how a book's structure and design can enhance and integrate part of the work's meaning. Prerequisites: UICB:4205 or BKAT:4205. Same as BKAT:4280.

**UICB:4290 Historical Book Structures**  
3 s.h.  
Historical development of book structures examined through surviving examples, construction of historical models. Prerequisites: UICB:4205.

**UICB:4300 Letterpress I**  
3 s.h.  
Mechanics of letterpress printing, typography, and design as applied to hand set metal type and edition printing; printing on a Vandercook proof press; introduction to photopolymer plates and methods of illustration related to edition printing, historical aspects of printing technology, typecasting, type classification; role of letterpress in modern private press and contemporary artist books. Same as ARTS:4300.
UICB:4340 Digital Design for Artists’ Books 3 s.h.
Introduction to concepts, techniques, and technologies used
to design and produce artists’ books with personal computers
and graphic design software. GE: Engineering Be Creative.
Same as ARTS:4340.

UICB:4380 Letterpress II 3 s.h.
Builds on skills acquired in UICB:4380; students produce
an editioned letterpress printed chapbook or artist book,
a poster for a public event, and an image built from metal
type; exploration of hand-set metal, digital typesetting,
printing from photopolymer plates, and pressure printing;
press mechanics and operation; publication philosophies,
manuscript acquisition, and topics specific to literary fine
press and artist books; historical and contemporary context
for literary fine press publications and artist book work.
Prerequisites: UICB:4300. Same as ARTS:4380.

UICB:4390 Book and Publication Design 3 s.h.
Students plan, design, and produce a book using Adobe
Creative Suite; page layout software, typography, page
layout and design, book formatting, handling of image files,
preparation of materials for print and other contemporary
book media; history of book design, book design in
contemporary publishing; visit to University of Iowa Libraries
Special Collections. Prerequisites: DSGN:2600 or UICB:4300.
Same as ARTS:4390.

UICB:4400 History of Western Letterforms 3 s.h.
History of Western letterforms, with focus on tools, materials,
techniques; the major hands, their place in history, their
influence on modern times; creation of letterforms using
appropriate tools; hands-on approach with emphasis on
understanding rather than mastery. Same as ARTS:4400.

UICB:4415 Calligraphy I: Foundational Hands 3 s.h.
Hands-on instruction in italic and pressure pen scripts;
historical relationships, effects on modern letterforms. GE:
Engineering Be Creative. Same as ARTS:4415.

UICB:4420 Calligraphy I: Blackletter Hands 3 s.h.
Explores some of the many calligraphic forms known
collectively as blackletter hands (medieval introduction
to calligraphy); study of various hands from the heavily
vertical Textura to the floridly expressive Gothic Cursive, and
the distinctive connotations these unique letterform carry;
emphasis on exploring the creative process while refining
calligraphic skills and understanding the historical and social
connections this hand has with other disciplines.

UICB:4490 Advanced Studies in Letter Arts 3 s.h.
Special topics and advanced projects in calligraphy and letter
arts. Prerequisites: UICB:4400 or UICB:4415 or UICB:4420.
Same as ARTS:4490.

UICB:4910 The Book in the Middle Ages 3 s.h.
Relation of text, decoration, function, creators, and audience
in different genres of medieval manuscript books 400-1500
A.D. Same as HIST:4910, SLIS:4910.

UICB:4920 The Transition from Manuscript to Print 3 s.h.
History of the book and communication in Europe 1400-1800;
production, distribution, and use of texts in cultural context.
Same as HIST:4920, SLIS:4920.

UICB:4930 Topics in Material Analysis 3 s.h.
Analysis and description of physical book artifacts and their
component parts (parchment, paper, bookbinding) and
allied specialties (the lettering arts, printing and illustration
techniques); reading, writing, presentations. Same as
HIST:4430.

UICB:5110 Islamic and Asian Papermaking 3 s.h.
History, technique, and aesthetics of traditional Islamic and
Asian hand papermaking. Same as BKAT:5110.

UICB:5130 European Papermaking History and
Technique 3 s.h.
History and technique of traditional European hand
papermaking and related aesthetics; students gain confidence
in pursuing independent production of handmade papers or
undertaking related research in their own particular areas of
interest; fiber preparation, sheet forming, and drying/finishing
methods; concurrent readings and discussions of related
history and aesthetics; special projects selected by student
with instructor approval. Same as BKAT:5120.

UICB:5160 Studies in Papermaking arr.
Topics in the history and technique of papermaking.
Prerequisites: UICB:4100 or UICB:5110 or UICB:5130.

UICB:5170 Advanced Papermaking Production 3 s.h.
Independent Western- or Japanese-style projects undertaken
at UICB Research and Production Paper Facility at Oakdale
Campus under faculty guidance; plan, implement, and
evaluate professional scale production runs using full-
scale equipment. Prerequisites: UICB:5110 or UICB:5130 or
BKAT:5110 or BKAT:5120. Same as BKAT:5170.

UICB:5180 Advanced Projects in Paper 1-3 s.h.
Advanced independent projects undertaken in a classroom
setting; collaborative group discussions to plan, implement,
troubleshoot; and evaluate student projects. Prerequisites:
UICB:5110 or UICB:5130 or BKAT:5110 or BKAT:5120. Same as
BKAT:5180.

UICB:5210 Bookbinding III 3 s.h.
Bookbinding structures based on historical and contemporary
models; differences in various binding practices, how these
differences affect function, why the styles developed;
experience choosing appropriate structures for particular
uses; emphasis on fine tuning skills and techniques required
for advanced binding practices; sewn endbands, rounding and
backing, sewing on varied supports, board attachments, and
covering methods. Prerequisites: (UICB:4205 or BKAT:4205)
and (UICB:4270 or BKAT:4270). Requirements: for UICB:5210
—UICB:4205 and UICB:4270; for BKAT:5210—BKAT:4205 or
BKAT:4270 or UICB:4205 or UICB:4270. Same as BKAT:5210.

UICB:5220 Book Conservation 3 s.h.
Practical methods, materials assessment, conservation history
and evolution. Prerequisites: UICB:4270. Same as SLIS:5535.

UICB:5260 Studies in Bookbinding 3 s.h.
Topics related to hand bookbinding. Same as BKAT:5260.

UICB:5280 Bookbinding IV 3 s.h.
Advanced studies in bookbinding; fine binding styles, leather
paring and tooling, advanced finishing techniques, refining
skills; continued look at differences in regional binding
practices, how these differences affect function, and why
particular styles developed. Prerequisites: UICB:5210.

UICB:5330 Letterpress III: Imagemaking arr.
Advanced work in alternative and innovative letterpress
technologies as they apply to imagemaking processes for fine
press printing; topics include pressure printing, photopolymer
from nondigital negatives, explorations of type-high surfaces,
monoprints on the Vandercook, and applying hand work to
ditioned prints; students complete a series of print exercises
for each process, a small printed book sketch, and a longer
format editioned artist book. Prerequisites: UICB:4380. Same as ARTS:5330.
UICB:5340 Letterpress III: The Handprinted Book  3 s.h.
Advanced work in fine press book design; exploration of problems in hand-printing books, choice of manuscript, editing, design, typesetting, proofreading, printing and binding; histories of printing and of the book, emphasis on 20th- and 21st-century book design and literature; issues of book design and production related to letterpress printing.
Prerequisites: UICB:4380. Same as ARTS:5340.

UICB:5370 Studies in Printing  1-3 s.h.
Development of individual book projects and production of one substantial project or several smaller ones; focus on acquiring or creating a text and/or other content; project development; range of print techniques available in letterpress printing; issues involved in producing editioned artist books or fine press work; opportunity to expand on existing printing; classroom setting used to augment work sessions with in-progress critiques, readings, and visits to special collections.

UICB:5380 Letterpress IV: Advanced Projects  3 s.h.
Development and/or production of one substantial project; focus on acquiring or creating a text and/or other content; project development; range of print techniques available in letterpress printing; issues involved in producing editioned artist books or fine press work; opportunity to expand existing printing; classroom setting augments work sessions with in-progress critiques, readings, and visits to special collections.
Prerequisites: UICB:5330 or UICB:5340.

UICB:5520 Studies in Book History and Technologies  0-3 s.h.
Topics related to production, distribution, and consumption of books through history and into the future. Same as SLIS:5520.

UICB:5530 Topics in Preservation  3 s.h.
Care, conservation, and preservation of cultural heritage artifacts; readings, discussion, hands-on sessions. Same as SLIS:5530.

UICB:5540 Topics in Book Arts  1-3 s.h.
Focus on particular techniques and concepts in the book arts and related fields.

UICB:5550 Special Project for Graduate Students  arr.
Independent study.

UICB:5600 History of Readers and Reading  3 s.h.
Cultural nature of reading practices in historic and contemporary contexts; print and digital culture; reading communities; examples of recent scholarship; use of primary resources; seminar. Same as SLIS:5600.

UICB:6100 Book Studies Proseminar  1-3 s.h.

UICB:6370 Topics in Book Studies  3 s.h.
Topics relevant to book studies and special collections. Same as SLIS:6370.

UICB:6510 Book Art Seminar: History, Practice, and Critique  3 s.h.
Art-historical introduction to book arts (printing, bookbinding, papermaking and paperworks, artist bookwork, lettering arts, literary fine press and fine press artist books); influences and origins, contemporary practice, critical considerations; locating field through lenses of fine art, craft, and book history; weekly readings, observational analyses, hands-on exercises; archival research in the University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections; final research, analytical, and/or critical project.

UICB:6520 Graduate Book Arts Workshop  3 s.h.
Development of artwork and studio practice; readings and research in contemporary theory and practice; analysis of visual language; integration of creative activities and critical thinking in student’s own art practice and analysis of contemporary work in book arts; group and individual critiques, studio assignments, presentations, discussions.

UICB:6540 M.F.A. Thesis Hours  arr.