

Information Guide | Philadelphia

Welcome to Rare Book School!

FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, the bibliographical community has been supported and nourished by the work of Rare Book School (RBS). From its tentative beginnings at Columbia University, the School has educated two generations of librarians, collectors, academics, conservators, and booksellers, producing a network of loyal alumni, talented faculty, and dedicated friends around the globe. In the process, it has also earned a reputation as the world's premier institution for the study of bibliography and book history. We are delighted that you will soon be a part of that distinguished tradition, and of our School's promising future. We look forward to welcoming you to Philadelphia for your Rare Book School course.

This *Information Guide* should answer most of your questions about transportation, housing, and other practical matters. Upon arrival, you'll also receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* with additional information to ensure that your stay is as productive and enjoyable as possible. (N.B. Please bring the present guide with you when you come to RBS; it contains valuable information not repeated in the *Vade Mecum*.) In the meantime, we eagerly await your arrival, and look forward to another wonderful session!

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RBS in Philadelphia



PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, is a city of more than one and a half million, located at the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers on land originally purchased from the Lenape. A hub for North

American cultural, artistic, and intellectual life for more than three hundred years, the city also boasts a central place in the history of print: Benjamin Franklin—arguably the most influential printer in early America—owned and operated various presses here during the eighteenth century.

This year, Rare Book School is excited to contribute to this storied bibliographical history with three courses taught at the University of Pennsylvania. Penn's Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts will host "The Medieval Manuscript in the Twenty-First Century," taught by Will Noel and Dot Porter; "The Bible and Histories of Reading," taught by Peter Stallybrass; and "Digital Approaches to Bibliography & Book History" taught by Benjamin F. Pauley and Carl G. Stahmer.

We're excited that you've decided to join us in Philadelphia this summer, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the city, or about RBS in general, please email us at rbsprograms.virginia.edu.

The RBS Week

All RBS students are expected to be in attendance and on time for all regularly scheduled classes, labs, and field trips. This is to ensure the quality and community of RBS as a School, and we insist that participants attend all sessions of their courses, unless presented with the most extraordinary of circumstances. Practically speaking, this involves a full-time commitment of 5–6:45 PM Sunday, 9 AM–5:30 PM Monday through Thursday, and 9 AM–4:30 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5–7 pm **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and a meal at a nearby restaurant (Location TBA).

Once there, all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge.

N.B. If you plan to attend this event, RSVP by email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) no later than 30 June.

Late arrival: We strongly suggest attending the Sunday night registration, but if you are unable to make it, please email us (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) and let us know. If you do not attend, you will need to register at your course location at 8:45 AM sharp on Monday morning.

3:30–4 pm **Afternoon Break**

4–5:30 pm* **Fourth Period**

FRIDAY

9–10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30–11 am **Morning Break**

11–12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30–2:30 pm* **Lunch**

Classes break for a long lunch. By tradition, though not compulsion, students take their instructor to a group lunch on Friday. Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

2:30–4 pm* **Third Period**

4 pm* **Course Evaluations**

Students receive course completion certificates and fill out RBS course evaluations.

4:30–6:30 pm **Farewell Reception**

Friday afternoon classes will break by 4:30 PM for a final reception. Location TBA.

Look out for more details about your course via email in mid-June!

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:45 am* **Final Registration (Monday Only)**

Registration for those not in attendance Sunday evening. If necessary, this is also the last good opportunity to obtain wireless connection information from the library staff.

N.B. Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register before classes start at 9 AM.

9–10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30–11 am **Morning Break**

11 am–12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30–2 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding both locations; for ideas to get you started, consult the short list at the end of this guide.

2–3:30 pm* **Third Period**

TUESDAY, 6 pm **Evening Lecture**

Join your fellow students for an evening lecture, given by Laurie Allen, Assistant Director for Digital Scholarship at the Penn Libraries. The event will take place in the Class of 1978 Orrery Pavilion, Kislak Center, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, sixth floor. Reception to follow.

* Required activities are noted by asterisk

Before you arrive

Reading Lists

All RBS courses have advance reading lists or assignments that RBS instructors expect their students to complete before they arrive. These are outlined at www.rarebookschool.org/reading.

Students should come to class prepared. Those who have trouble locating required readings might try obtaining them through interlibrary loan (ILL), from used or antiquarian booksellers through the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA), or online via sites such as www.bookfinder.com or www.vialibri.net.

Arrival & Departure Logistics

When thinking about your transportation arrangements, please remember that staying over Friday night after the last day of class can be an excellent idea, if you can swing it. Early-evening ground and air travel is seldom much fun anywhere, but it can be especially difficult in a major city like Philadelphia. Arriving a day early may also be a good idea, as it can provide an opportunity to settle in, overcome jet lag, &c. RBS first-timers are often surprised by the intensity of the experience, so be sure to get some sleep before classes start!

Problems

Please let us know if you encounter problems on any front. If such problems occur before you arrive, email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) or telephone us (434-924-8851, 8:30 AM–5 PM; voicemail after hours). If you encounter issues with tuition payments, contact RBS Accounting Specialist Michael Taylor at 434-243-2920, or by email (michael.taylor@virginia.edu).

Should any difficulties arise during the course, please bring your concerns to a faculty member, a course follower, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

The most inexpensive and convenient lodgings are available through Penn Hospitality Services (215-898-9319; Mon–Fri, 9 AM–5 PM), which offers short-term summer housing in the Penn dormitories. This year, RBS students will be able to stay in multi-occupancy suites (3–4 rooms) with private bedrooms and shared living spaces at \$57.75 per person per night plus a one-time \$10 registration fee.

To request housing, visit the Program Costs page on the RBS website, and click on the link to “Penn Hospitality Services,” or visit www.rarebookschool.org/pennhousing. Students will also be able to purchase linen packets (\$55) and parking passes (\$36 per day) through this link. Check-in time will be 2 PM Sunday 23 July unless prior arrangements are made. Upon check-in you will receive your key, a temporary ID card for building access (\$27), and your parking pass if you purchased one through Penn Hospitality Services. N.B. RBS is not responsible for charges associated with lost keys or ID cards.

Students taking a class at Penn also have the option of staying in a nearby hotel: these include Homewood Suites by Hilton and The Inn at Penn.

Transportation

Air Travel

The major airport servicing Philadelphia is Philadelphia International Airport (PHL; 215-937-6937). It is located almost seven miles from Penn. It is accessible either by car or the airport line on the subway.

Driving to Philadelphia

The main north-south route into Philadelphia is Interstate 95, one of the nation's busiest, and potentially most frustrating highways. Coming from points to the west of the city will usually involve a combination of either I-76 E and I-70 or I-71. No matter what route you take, know that rush-hour traffic can be intense, and parking spaces in Philadelphia are rather pricey.

Taking the Train

If your place of embarkation is on the Northeast corridor, it may be more convenient and affordable to use Amtrak (www.amtrak.com; 1-800-872-7245) as your means of travel. Philadelphia's 30th Street Station (PHL) (2955 Market Street) is the city's hub for Amtrak travel and is only a ten-minute walk from Penn.

Getting to Your Course

The Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts is located on the sixth floor of the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, in the heart of the Penn campus. Its main entrance is located on Locust Walk between 34th and 36th Streets.

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summers in Philadelphia are generally hot and humid, but the weather can fluctuate wildly: it can be 75 degrees one day, and 100 degrees the next. The rooms we use tend to be cool, so if you chill easily under air-conditioning, you should certainly bring a sweater. In general, a light rain jacket or umbrella is also a good idea.

RBS participants are encouraged to come to class prepared, and are required to be on time. Bring a watch. If you wish to take notes, plan accordingly. Pencils, paper, and other supplies are available at nearby convenience stores. Before leaving home, check the course description on the RBS website and the reading list for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.) Other inside tips on what to bring can be found in the previous year's course evaluations, also available on the course webpage.

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

The nearest pharmacy to the Penn Libraries is a CVS (215-662-1333) located at 3401 Walnut Street, a one-minute walk west from the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center.

The closest emergency room is at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, located at 3400 Spruce Street, less than a half mile from the Penn Libraries (non-emergency phone: 212-662-4000). As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.

Philadelphia Restaurant Guide

Philadelphia has one of the most varied restaurant cultures in the country. There is also a wide variety of food truck options, some of which may be found at <http://roaminghunger.com/phl/>. Some highly recommended trucks also come to Drexel University as well as Penn. The entries below should give you a good start.

Baby Blues BBQ. 3402 Sansom Street (215-222-4444). Delicious barbeque. Open Mon–Wed, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Thu–Sat, 11:30 AM–11 PM; Sun, 12:30 PM–10 PM. \$\$.

Barbuzzo. 110 South 13th Street (215-546-9300). Mediterranean fare. Open Mon–Sat, 12 PM–3 PM; daily, 5 PM–12 AM. \$\$.

Bobby's Burger Palace. 3925 Walnut Street (215-387-0378). Burgers and shakes. Open daily, 11 AM–10 PM. \$.

Bud & Marilyn's. 1234 Locust Street (215-546-2220). American classics. Open Mon–Fri, 12 PM–3 PM; Sat–Sun, 11 AM–3 PM; Sun–Thu, 5 PM–11 PM; Fri–Sat, 5 PM–12 AM. \$\$.

Dim Sum House by Jane G's. 3939 Chestnut Street (215-921-5377). Dim sum. Open Mon–Fri, 11:30 AM–2 AM; Sat–Sun, 11 AM–2 AM. \$.

Distrito. 3945 Chestnut Street (215-222-1657). Mexican fare. Open daily, 11:30 AM–10 PM. \$.

Good Dog Bar. 224 South 15th Street (215-985-9600). Dog themed dive bar. Open daily, 11:30 AM–2 AM. \$\$.

Han Dynasty. 123 Chestnut Street (215-922-1888). Sichuan fare. Open Sun–Thu, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–10:30 PM. Entrees \$\$.

La Dominique. 3300 Market Street. Food cart with hands down the best crepes in town. Open Mon–Fri, 12 PM–5 PM. \$.

Mad Mex. 3401 Walnut Street (215-382-2221). Mexican chain. Open daily 11:30 AM–2 AM. \$\$.

New Deck Tavern. 3408 Sansom Street (215-386-4600). Pub fare. Open daily, 11 AM–1 AM. \$.

Ochatto. 3608 Chestnut Street (215-382-5555). Modern Asian fare. Open Mon–Thu, 11:15 AM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:15 AM–11 PM; Sun, 12 PM–10 PM. \$\$.

Pattaya Thai Cuisine. 4006 Chestnut Street (215-387-8533). Modern Thai fare. Open for lunch Mon–Fri, 11 AM–3 PM; Dinner Mon–Thu, 5 PM–9:30 PM; Fri–Sat, 5 PM–10:30 PM; Sun, 5 PM–9:30 PM. \$.

Reading Terminal Market. 51 North 12 Street (215-922-2317). Indoor farmer's market with delicious food and desserts. Open Mon–Sat, 8 AM–6 PM; Sun, 9 AM–5 PM. \$.

Sabrina's Cafe. 227 North 34th Street (215-222-1022). New American cafe. Open Sun–Mon, 8 AM–4 PM; Tue–Thu, 8 AM–9 PM; Fri–Sat, 8 AM–10 PM. \$.

Sang Kee Noodle House. 3549 Chestnut Street (215-387-8808). Chinese fare. Open Sun–Thu, 11:30 AM–10:30 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–11:30 PM. \$.

Shanghai Station. 4002 Spruce Street (215-921-2112). Chinese fare. Open Mon–Thu, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–11 PM; Sun, 12 PM–10 PM. \$\$.

Veda. 1920 Chestnut Street (267-519-2001). Modern Indian fare. Open daily, 11:30 AM–3 PM; Sun–Thu, 5 PM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 5 PM–10:30 PM. \$\$.

White Dog Cafe. 3420 Sansom Street (215-386-9224). Eclectic fare. Open Mon–Thu, 11:30 AM–9:30 PM; Fri, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Sat, 10 AM–10 PM; Sun, 10 AM–9 PM. \$\$.

Zavino. 3200 Chestnut Street (215-823-6897). Italian fare. Open Mon–Fri, 11:30 AM–9 PM; Sat–Sun, 11 AM–9 PM. \$\$.