

Information Guide | New York

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!

Contents

WELCOME	1
RBS IN NEW YORK	1
THE RBS WEEK	2
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE	3
ACCOMMODATIONS	3
TRANSPORTATION.....	4
ADVANCE ADVICE	4

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RBS in New York

HOME TO MORE THAN 8 MILLION PEOPLE, New York City is America's largest metropolis, the base of many of its financial and cultural institutions, and the original home of Rare Book School. The city was originally founded as a Dutch trading post in 1624 and has since become a major site of immigration into North America and a worldwide recognized symbol of America.

This summer, RBS is offering three courses in New York City. The Thomas J. Watson Library at The Metropolitan Museum of Art will host "The History of Artists' Books since 1950," taught by Tony White, Florence and Herbert Irving Associate Chief Librarian, Thomas J. Watson Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Meanwhile, the New York Public Library's Schwarzman Building will host "Special Collections Librarianship," taught by Michael Inman, Curator of Rare Books. The Schomburg Institute for Research in Black Culture will hold "Developing and Interpreting African American Special Collections," taught by Cheryl Beredo, Curator of the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, and Kevin Young, Director of the Schomburg Center. This Information Guide provides schedule information for the course at Schomburg Institute for Research in Black Culture.

Of course New York isn't only known for its RBS events. Within an easy commute students can find the famous Museum of Modern Art (11 West 53rd Street), American Museum of Natural History (Central Park West & 79th Street), and of course the ever beautiful Central Park.

We're excited that you've decided to join us in New York this summer, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the course, or about RBS generally, 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, 10 AM–6 PM Monday through Thursday, and 10 AM–4:30 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5 pm **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and hors d'oeuvres at Printed Matter (231 11th Avenue). 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 12 July.

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 outside the building at 9:45 AM sharp on Monday morning.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

9:45 am* **Final Registration (Monday Only)**

N.B. Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register before classes start at 10 AM.

10 am–12 pm* **First Period**

12–1 pm **Lunch**

1–3 pm* **Second Period**

3–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

4:30–6 pm* **Third Period**

*Required activities are noted by asterisk.

FRIDAY

10–12 am* **First Period**

12–2 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.

2–4:30 pm* **Second Period**

4:30 pm* **Course Evaluations**

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

*Look out for more details about your course
via email in early May!*

Wednesday, 6 pm **Evening Lecture**

Join your fellow students for an evening lecture by Mary Yearwood, Director of Collections and Information Services, at the Schomburg Institute for Research in Black Culture.

Thursday, 5:30–6:45 pm **Reception**

RBS will host an early closing reception (**location TBD**) to allow for easier travel on Friday evening. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Before you arrive

Reading Lists

Most 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 New York. Arriving a day early may also be a good idea, as it can provide an opportunity to settle in, overcome jet lag, &c. First-time RBS participants 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 or course follower, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

Of the many hotels in NYC, Pod51 (230 East 51st Street; 844-POD-ROOM; <http://www.thepodhotel.com/>) offers some of the lowest rates. Be warned that it is not close to the Schomburg Center, so you will need to commute from the Pod Hotel. Courtyard by Marriott New York Manhattan/Upper East Side and the Franklin Hotel may also be good options, but rates can differ drastically depending on the time of the year. For links to these hotels and some information on New York hostels, visit the Program Costs section of our website at <http://rarebookschool.org/admissions-awards/program-costs/>.

Transportation

Air Travel

Three major airports service the New York City area: Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR; <http://www.panynj.gov/airports/newark-liberty.html>), located about seventeen miles southwest of Manhattan; La Guardia Airport (LGA; <http://laguardiaairport.com/>), about seven miles east of the island; and JFK International (JFK; <http://www.panynj.gov/airports/jfk.html>), about eighteen miles southeast of Manhattan.

Driving to New York City

The main north-south route into New York City 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-78 E or I-80 E. No matter what route you take, know that rush-hour traffic can be intense, and parking spaces in New York City 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. New York Penn Station (8th Avenue & West 31st Street) is the city's hub for Amtrak travel and is only a scenic walk away from Grand Central Terminal (89 East 42nd Street).

Advance Advice

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in New York City can range from mild to warm, with average temperatures ranging from 85 degrees in the daytime to 64 degrees at night. The classroom itself will be well air conditioned. *With these temperatures and classroom comfort in mind, sweaters are recommended.* In general, bringing comfortable shoes and an umbrella is also a good idea.

RBS participants are expected 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 and the reading list on the RBS website for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.)

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

There is a Duane Reade in close proximity to the center, at 300 W 135th St (212-491-6015). There is a very convenient emergency room in the area: NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem 506 Lenox Ave; (212-939-1000). As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.