

Information Guide | New Haven

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 New Haven 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 this 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 New Haven



NEW HAVEN was founded in 1638. Known as the Elm City, New Haven has grown in size and culture over the last three centuries, becoming a perfect blend of urban sophistication and traditional New England charm. It is also home to one of the most prestigious universities in the United

States, Yale University. Yale was founded in 1701 and is home to a number of prominent libraries, including Sterling Memorial Library, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and the Lillian Goldman Law Library. Other places to visit in New Haven include the New Haven Museum and the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

This year, New Haven will host four Rare Book School courses: “Law Books: History & Connoisseurship,” taught by Mike Widener, assisted by Ryan Greenwood; “The Book in the Manuscript Era,” taught by Raymond Clemens; “Introduction to Archives for Special Collections Librarians, Booksellers & Collectors,” taught by Lisa Conathan and Bill Landis; and “Advanced Seminar in Medieval Manuscript Studies,” taught by Barbara A. Shailor.

We’re excited that you’ve decided to join us in New Haven this summer, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the courses, 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 4:30–6:30 PM Sunday, 8:30 AM–5 PM Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 AM–4 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 4:30–6:30 pm **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and refreshments at BAR Nightclub (254 Crown Street). Once there, all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge. N.B. RSVP by email no later than 5 June (rbsprograms@virginia.edu).

Late arrival: We strongly suggest attending the Sunday night registration, but if you are unable to make it, please email us.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:15 am* **Final Registration (Monday Only)**

Registration for those not in attendance Sunday evening in the main lobby of the building in which your course will be held. Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register before classes start at 8:30 AM.

8:30–10 am* **First Period**

Students attending H-20 and M-90 will have class in the Beinecke Library. C-85 will have class in the Sterling Law Building, and L-60 in Sterling Memorial Library. You will need to check in with security before being shown to your classroom.

10–10:30 am **Morning Break**

Light refreshments will be served.

10:30 am–12 pm* **Second Period**

12–1:30 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding Beinecke.

1:30–3 pm* **Third Period**

3–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

Light refreshments to be served.

3:30–5 pm* **Fourth Period**

FRIDAY

8:30–10 am* **First Period**

10–10:30 am **Morning Break**

Light refreshments to be served.

10:30–12 pm* **Second Period**

12–2 pm* **Lunch**

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

2–3:30 pm* **Third Period**

3:30–4 pm* **Course Evaluations**

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

4–6 pm **Farewell Reception**

Students gather for hors d'oeuvres at The Mory's Association, located at 306 York Street.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MONDAY, 5:30 pm **Evening Lecture**

Join your fellow students for an evening lecture by Ayesha Ramachandran in the Beinecke. Reception to follow.

Tues & Thu, 12:15–1:15 pm

The Bibliographical Press Printing Demonstration

Visit The Bibliographical Press in Sterling Memorial Library for a printing demonstration and a chance to pull the press yourself to make a keepsake.

Additional details about these and other optional special events forthcoming.

* Required activities are noted by asterisk

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 on a Friday on the East Coast. 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!

Please be aware that the area around the Beinecke Library will be under construction in June, which may impact your mode in ingress to the building. The construction will impact traffic on Wall Street, which will not be open to cars during the course week.

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 a course follower, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

The most economical option for students is to stay with Yale Conference & Events Services in the dorms. RBS has arranged for a number of rooms in one of the newly completed halls. These halls are air-chilled with suites containing multiple bedrooms and a common area furnished with a couch and end table. Bathrooms are shared by floor. Most of the bedrooms contain two twin beds, but you may reserve an entire bedroom to yourself. Each bedroom in the suite costs \$88.25 per night (plus a \$30 one-time registration fee). A pillow and blanket are provided; sheets and bath towels are included in a linen packet that can be purchased through the Yale registration website for \$30. Guests are expected to supply their own soap. Also in the building is a large basement-level common area with couches, TV, pool tables, and laundry facilities. Parking passes can be purchased for \$10/day or \$34/week. A link for purchasing these passes will be made available by Yale Conferences & Events in April. The housing registration link is <https://event.me/Axkz0a>.

If you are looking to stay in a hotel near Yale, RBS suggests choosing The Omni, The Courtyard New Haven by Marriott, or The Study at Yale. The Omni is located at 155 Temple Street (203-772-6664); the Courtyard New Haven at Yale by Marriott, which is also close to the University, is located at 30 Whalley Avenue (203-777-6221); and The Study at Yale is at 1157 Chapel Street (203-503-3900). Please be advised that there may be other events happening the same week, so hotels may fill rather quickly.

Transportation

Air Travel

The closest airport to Yale is Tweed New Haven Regional Airport (HVN; 203-466-8888). The trip from Yale to Tweed Airport takes around ten minutes by car but can also be made using public transportation.

Driving to New Haven

The main north-south route into New Haven 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-80 E and I-95 or I-84 E. No matter what route you take, know that rush-hour traffic can be intense.

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 Haven-Union Station NHV (50 Union Avenue) is the closest station to Yale University. From there you can easily catch the Shore Line East Rail to New Haven-State Street to get closer to the university itself.

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. June in New Haven is typically rather pleasant with highs around 77 degrees and lows around 56 degrees. 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 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 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.) 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

There are three pharmacies near Yale University. The nearest pharmacy to the west of campus is Chapel Street Pharmacy (1245 Chapel Street; 203-777-2227). There is also a nearby Walgreens (88 York Street; 203-752-9893) and a Rite Aid (66 Church Street; 203-777-7248).

The closest hospital to Yale University is Yale-New Haven Hospital (20 York Street; 203-688-4242). As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.