

Information Guide | New York City

Welcome to Rare Book School!

FOR OVER FORTY 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 several 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 York for your Rare Book School course.

This *Information Guide* will provide general information about what to expect during your course week. *More detailed information about course schedules and events and accommodations in New York will be sent to you soon. We thank you for your patience as we work to finalize this information.* Upon arrival to your course, 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 take your RBS course; 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 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. Situated on one of the world’s largest natural harbors and extending into the Atlantic Ocean, New York City comprises five boroughs. 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 Grolier Club will host “The Printed Book in the West since 1800,” taught by Eric Holzenberg, and “The History of Artists’ Books since 1950,” taught by Tony White. The New York Public Library will host “Histories of the Book, 200 – 2000” taught by Michael Inman and Charlotte Priddle. The schedule of each course is still being finalized and will be shared with you shortly. Please be aware that some days will start earlier than others.

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 from the required start time to the end time of each day. We will share the specifics with you as soon as possible. Please make your travel plans accordingly. Please note that this is merely a sample schedule. *More detailed information about course schedules will be provided soon.*

SUNDAY, 5:30 p.m. **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and hors d'oeuvres (location TBA). Once there, all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge. Additional details will be provided soon.

N.B. If you plan to attend this event, RSVP by email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) no later than 23 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 15 minutes before the start of class on Monday morning

MONDAY through THURSDAY

Arrival and Final Registration

N.B. Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register before classes start at 8:45 A.M.

First Period*

Morning Break

Approximately a 30 minute break. Light refreshments will be provided.

Second Period*

Lunch

Class breaks for lunch. Approximately a 90 minute break.

Third Period*

Afternoon Break

Approximately a 30 minute break. Light refreshments will be provided.

Fourth Period*

FRIDAY

First Period*

Morning Break

Approximately a 30 minute break. Light refreshments will be provided.

Second Period*

Lunch

Class breaks for a long lunch. By tradition, students take their instructor to a group lunch on Friday (you are not obligated to attend). Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

Third Period*

Course Evaluations*

Friday, 4:30 p.m. **Closing Reception**

RBS will host a closing reception; details are forthcoming. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

** 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 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. 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 a.m.– 5 p.m.; 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, RBS staff member on site, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

Of the many hotels in NYC, Pod 51 (230 East 51st Street; 844-POD-ROOM; <http://www.thepodhotel.com/>) offers some of the lowest rates. The Park Lane Hotel, the Hotel 57, and the Lexington 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/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.

Transportation

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's Moynihan Train Hall (421 8th Avenue) is the city's hub for Amtrak travel and is only a scenic walk away from Grand Central Terminal (89 East 42nd Street).

Advance Advices

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 Fahrenheit in the daytime to 64 degrees at night. *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 are two Duane Reades in close proximity to the Grolier Club, at 1235 Lexington Avenue (212-570-2710) and 1231 Madison Avenue (212-360-6586). The nearest pharmacy to the NYPL is also a Duane Reade at 530 5th Avenue (212-687-8641). There are two convenient emergency rooms in the Grolier Club area: Mount Sinai Hospital (East 101st Street; 212-241-6500) and Lenox Hill Hospital (100 East 77th Street; 212-434-2000). The nearest emergency room to the NYPL is NYU Langone Health, located at 570 1st Avenue (212-263-5550). As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.