

Information Guide | Worcester

Welcome to Rare Book School!

FOR 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 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. On behalf of all of us here at RBS, welcome to Worcester!

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 WORCESTER	1
THE RBS WEEK	2
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE	3
ACCOMMODATIONS	3
TRANSPORTATION	4
ADVANCE ADVICES	4

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RBS in Worcester



The city of Worcester, Massachusetts was incorporated as a town in the year 1722. Worcester is also home to the American Antiquarian Society (AAS), founded in 1812 by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas, which serves as

both a learned society and a major independent research library. Today the institution houses the largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, children's literature, music, and graphic arts material printed through 1876 in what is now the United States, as well as manuscripts and a substantial collection of secondary texts, bibliographies, and digital resources and reference works related to all aspects of American history and culture before the twentieth century.

This summer, Rare Book School is excited to partner with the American Antiquarian Society to host the course "African American Print Cultures in the Nineteenth Century," taught by Derrick Spires of Cornell University and Benjamin Fagan of Auburn University. We're excited that you've decided to join us at the American Antiquarian Society this summer, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional education experience. If you have any questions about the city or 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 5–7 p.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5–7 p.m. **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and dinner at the Goddard-Daniels House (190 Salisbury Street). 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 14 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.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

9:00 a.m.* **Arrival at American Antiquarian Society Library**

Students meet at 9 a.m. sharp at the American Antiquarian Society Library entrance (185 Salisbury St.). Students wash hands and check their bags in the lockers (keys are provided). Class will start shortly after 9 a.m.

N.B.—Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register at the Goddard-Daniels House before class starts (GDH opens at 8:30 a.m.).

9:10–10:30 a.m.* **First Period**

10:30–11 a.m. **Morning Break**

Light refreshments will be served at Goddard-Daniels.

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.* **Second Period**

12:30–1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. Lunch will be catered in for students.

1:30–3 p.m.* **Third Period**

3–3:30 p.m. **Afternoon Break**

Light refreshments will be served at Goddard-Daniels.

3:30–4:45 p.m.* **Fourth Period**

Students must gather their belongings and leave American Antiquarian Society Library by 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

9:10–10:30 a.m.* **First Period**

10:30–11 a.m. **Morning Break**

Light refreshments will be served at Goddard-Daniels.

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.* **Second Period**

12:30–2 p.m. **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.

2–3:40 p.m.* **Third Period**

At the end of the third period, students will receive course completion certificates, and will be asked to fill out anonymous RBS course evaluations.

4–6 p.m. **Farewell Reception**

Students and faculty are invited to gather at Goddard-Daniels House for drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Evening Events

Details TBA.

* 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.

If students want to use the AAS collections and conduct research of their own, they will need bring two forms of ID and register in the AAS online request system: <https://www.americanantiquarian.org/planning-your-visit>.

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. 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 or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, across the road from AAS, will provide air-conditioned suite-style housing at Faraday Hall (10 Faraday St.). Students will stay in private single rooms within three-bedroom suites and will be separated by gender. Suites do not have a kitchen. Bedding packets (including a fitted sheet, flat sheet, pillow with case, blanket, towel, and wash cloth) are available for a small fee. The distance between WPI and AAS is approximately half a mile, or a twelve minute walk. Further details on registration and payment will be provided as soon as possible.

RATES: payment Faraday Hall rooms are \$65 per night (plus a \$15.50 fee for basic bedding).

Hotels

There are several options for hotel accommodations located near AAS. These include the Fairfield Inn & Suites Marriott (508-832-9500), a 15 minute drive from AAS, the Hilton Garden Inn (508-753-5700), located a six minute drive from AAS, and the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Auburn (508-832-2500), a 15 minute drive away.

Transportation

Taking the Train

If your place of embarkation is on the Northeast corridor it may be most convenient and affordable to use Amtrak (www.amtrak.com; 1-800-872-7245) as your means of travel. The most convenient Amtrak station in Worcester is Union Station, which lies on the Providence & Worcester Railroad. For more information, visit <https://www.amtrak.com/stations/wor>.

Worcester is also accessible by commuter rail line from Boston (<https://www.mbta.com/fares/commuter-rail-fares>). From Back Bay Station, take the purple Framingham/Worcester line west to Worcester Union Station. Zone 8 tickets are \$12.25/person.

Driving to Worcester

If driving to Worcester is more convenient for you, the area around Boston is easily accessible via three major highways. Travelling North–South, possibly the fastest route would follow I-95 and I-90 while east–west travel would mainly follow I-90.

Air Travel

The Worcester Regional Airport (ORH) services Worcester County and offers flights by JetBlue, American Airlines, and Delta Airlines. The Worcester Regional Transit Authority provides an intracity bus service to central Worcester. The bus service transports passengers from the airport to Union Station. There are also several taxi cab companies who provide services out of the airport, including Red Cab (508-792-9999), Yellow Cab (508-754-3211), and Green Cab (508-459-1611). From Logan International Airport in Boston, it is possible to take public transportation (including the commuter rail line) to Worcester: <https://www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan/transportation-options/taking-the-t/>

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in Worcester can be warm, with average highs in the mid-80s, and average lows in the 60s. RBS advises bringing a sweater as well as a rain coat and umbrella. In general, wearing layers is also a good idea to accommodate various temperatures in and out of the classroom.

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 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.)

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

In the event an RBS student falls ill, the closest pharmacy to AAS is a Walgreens Pharmacy (320 Park Avenue, 508-767-1732). There is also a CVS Pharmacy nearby (400 Park Avenue, 508-792-3866).

The emergency room closest to AAS is UMass Memorial Medical Center, located at 119 Belmont Street (508-334-6481). An alternative option is Saint Vincent Hospital Emergency located at 123 Summer Street (508-363-5000).

As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.