

Information Guide | New Haven

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 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 Haven for your Rare Book School course.

This *Information Guide* should answer most of your questions about transportation, housing, and other practical matters. *More detailed information about course schedules, events, and accommodations in Princeton will be sent to you soon. We thank you for your patience as we work to finalize this information.* 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;

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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 three Rare Book School Courses, “Law Books: History & Connoisseurship,” taught by Kathryn James, Rare Book Librarian at the Yale Law Library, and Mike Widener, retired Rare Book Librarian from the Lillian Goldman Law Library; “Introduction to Archives for Special Collections Librarians, Booksellers & Collectors,” taught by Alison Clemens, the Access Strategist at Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library and Lisa Conathan, Head of Special Collections at Williams College; and “Scientific Analysis of the Book,” taught by Richard Hark, conservation scientist at Yale’s Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage.

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 p.m. Sunday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 4:30–6:30 p.m. Opening Reception
RBS students will convene for registration and refreshments; location TBA. Once at the venue, all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge.

N.B. RSVP by email no later than 14 May (rbsprograms@virginia.edu).

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

3–3:30 p.m. **Afternoon Break**
Light refreshments to be served.

3:30–5 p.m.* **Fourth Period**

FRIDAY

8:30–10 a.m.* **First Period**

10–10:30 a.m. **Morning Break**
Light refreshments to be served.

10:30–12 p.m.* **Second Period**

12–2 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**

3:40–4 p.m.* **Course Evaluations**

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

4–6 p.m. **Farewell Reception**

Students gather for hors d'oeuvres (location TBA)

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:15 a.m.* **Final Registration (Monday Only)**

Late registration locations for those not in attendance Sunday evening depend on your course.

C-85: Paskus-Danziger Rare Book Room (Law Library, Level 2)

L-60: International Room (Sterling Memorial Library 177)

L-125: Classroom at Yale West Campus

N.B.—Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register before classes start at 8:30 a.m.

8:30–10 a.m.* **First Period**

Students in L-125 will attend class at Yale's remote West Campus. A shuttle will be provided to/from the Yale dormitories to West Campus (information TBA).

Students in C-85 and L-60 should follow instructions about how to locate and access their classrooms.

10–10:30 a.m. **Morning Break**

Light refreshments will be served.

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.* **Second Period**

12–1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding Yale. L-125 students will eat at the West Campus Café.

1:30–3 p.m.* **Third Period**

EVENING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY (TBA)

David M. Lesser Fine Antiquarian Books

Required L-60 visit with bookdealer David M. Lesser.

OPTIONAL EVENTS

Additional optional events will be added in the coming weeks.

* 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!

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 or a session assistant, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

Yale Conferences & Events Services

The most economical option for students is to stay with Yale Conference & Events Services in the dorms. RBS has arranged for a number of private rooms in gender-separated suites, which include a common area furnished with a couch and end table. Bathrooms are shared by floor. The building is air cooled. Each bedroom in the suite costs \$94.98 per night (plus a \$35 one-time registration fee). A pillow and blanket are provided; sheets, pillowcase, and bath towels are included in a linen packet which can be purchased through the Yale registration website for \$35. Also in the building is a large basement-level common area with couches, TV, pool tables, and laundry facilities. Parking passes will soon be made available by Yale to purchase through the housing registration website.

The Yale housing registration link is <https://event.me/KX3ZB5>

Hotels

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; 203-466-8833). The trip from Yale to Tweed Airport takes around ten minutes by car but can also be made using public transportation. New Haven is also accessible by larger airports in the New York City area such as LaGuardia, JFK, and Newark. The Go Airport Shuttle (<https://www.2theairport.com/>) offers door-to-door shared ride service between these airports and your destination in New Haven for less than \$100.

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 four 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), a CVS (123 Church Street; 203-498-9442) 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.