

Information Guide | Newberry

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 Chicago 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 accommodations in Chicago, including University of Chicago dorms, will become available soon. We thank you for your patience as we work to finalize this information.* Upon arrival, you’ll receive a digital 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*.) We eagerly await your arrival, and look forward to another wonderful session!

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RBS in Chicago

CHICAGO, founded in 1837, stands as a vibrant cultural hub and



economic powerhouse in the heart of the Midwest. Renowned for its iconic skyline punctuated by architectural marvels such as the Willis Tower and the John Hancock Center, Chicago boasts a rich history steeped in innovation, commerce, and diversity. Notably, Chicago is home to the esteemed Newberry Library, founded in 1887. The library was designed to complement the Chicago Public Library, which had been established in 1872.

The Newberry’s first librarians grew the library’s collection from the ground up, and today the Newberry collection extends across 27.5 miles of shelving in the library stacks.

This year, Chicago will host the Rare Book School courses: “A History of the Indigenous Book in the Americas” taught by Will Hansen, Julie Baskes Vice President for Collections and Library Services, and Curator of Americana at the Newberry Library, and Robert Warrior, Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Kansas, and “The History of Typography” taught by Jill Gage, Custodian of the John M. Wing Foundation on the History of Printing at the Newberry Library, and Sasha Tochilovsky, director of the Lubalin Center at the Cooper Union in NYC.

We’re excited that you’ve decided to join us in Chicago 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 one-and-a-half hours on Sunday evening, 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, TIME TBA, **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and a meal (location TBA). 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 at the Newberry Library at 8:25 a.m. sharp on Monday morning.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:25 a.m.* **Registration (Monday Only)**

RBS students will convene for registration in the lobby of Newberry Library, where all students will receive a reader's card and name tag.

8:30–10 a.m.* **First Period**

Class will meet in the Newberry Library.

10–10:30 a.m. **Morning Break**

Light refreshments will be provided.

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.* **Second Period**

12–1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants within walking distance of the library.

1:30–3 p.m.* **Third Period**

3–3:30 p.m. **Afternoon Break**

Light refreshments will be provided.

3:30–5 p.m.* **Fourth Period**

Wednesday, 6 p.m. **Lecture** (Details TBA)

A shuttle will leave the [Regenstein Library](#) at 5:15 to transport students to the [Gleacher Center](#). There will be a shuttle back to the campus following a lecture reception.

FRIDAY

8:30–10 a.m.* **First Period**

Class will meet in the Newberry Library.

10–10:30 a.m. **Morning Break**

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.* **Second Period**

12–2 p.m. **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.

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.

Friday, 4:15–6 p.m. **Closing Reception**

RBS will host a closing reception (location TBA). 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. 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 class starts!

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, an RBS staff member on site, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

RBS is currently finalizing a dormitory option for students at the University of Chicago this summer. The final information will be shared with you once it's available. Please reach out to rbsprograms@virginia.edu for more details.

There are several hotel options within one mile of the Newberry Library where class will be held. The Newberry has negotiated discounted rates with several hotels. To receive these special rates, mention the Newberry when booking your stay.

- [Claridge House](#)
- [The Talbott Hotel](#)

The Newberry website also provides a list of hotel suggestions on their FAQ page, [linked here](#). Please note that this list of accommodations is a resource for visitors; it does not constitute an endorsement by the Newberry Library or Rare Book School.

Transportation

Air Travel

The closet airport to the Newberry is Chicago Midway International Airport, located 13 miles away (<https://www.flychicago.com/midway>). Another solid option is Chicago O'Hare International Airport (<https://www.flychicago.com/ohare>) located approximately half an hour from the Newberry.

Driving to the Newberry Library

From the Kennedy Expressway (I-90)

Exit Ohio Street east, and follow Ohio about one mile to Dearborn Street. Turn left on Dearborn and go a half-mile north to Walton Street. The Newberry will be on your left, at the corner of Dearborn and Walton

From Lake Shore Drive (US Highway 41)

Exit Lake Shore Drive onto LaSalle Drive. After a quarter-mile, turn left on Clark Street. Take Clark for about one mile. The Newberry will be on your left,

between Oak and Walton streets. Please note: Walton is one-way westbound, so you cannot take a left onto Walton from Clark.

Taking the Train

- **Amtrak:** Trains arrive at Union Station.
- **Metra:** The Chicago area's commuter rail system operates at four major stations: Ogilvie Transportation Center, Millennium Station, LaSalle Street Station, and Union Station.
- **South Shore Line:** Trains run between South Bend, Indiana, and Chicago (Millennium Station).

From these stations, one can either use public transportation, order an Uber/Lyft, or find another means to travel the remaining distance to your accommodations.

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in Chicago can range from warm to blistering hot, with average temperatures ranging from 70 degrees to 81 degrees Fahrenheit. *With these temperatures and classroom comfort in mind, please pack appropriately.* 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

The nearest pharmacy is a CYS located at 1201 N State St (312-640-2842). For 24-hour service, visit the Walgreens located at 757 N Michigan Ave (312-664-8686). This location is approximately a 12-minute walk from the Newberry Library. The nearest hospital emergency room is the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Emergency Department located at 251 E Huron St (312-926-2000). As always, if you need immediate assistance, dial 911.