

Information Guide | University of Chicago

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 University of Chicago, a private research university established in 1890. The main campus of the University of Chicago consists of 217 acres in the Chicago neighborhoods of Hyde Park and Woodlawn, approximately eight miles south of downtown Chicago. The Joseph Regenstein Library, where this course will be held, is home to over 4.5 million print volumes focusing on subjects in the humanities and social sciences, as well as business, divinity, and area studies.



This year, the University of Chicago will host the Rare Book School course: “An Environmental History of the Book” taught by Eric Slauter, Deputy Dean of the Humanities, Associate Professor of English, and Director of the Karla Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture at the University of Chicago.

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 digital 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 Joseph Regenstein 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 the Joseph Regenstein Library.

8:30–10 a.m.* **First Period**

Class will meet in the Regenstein 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 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 Regenstein 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. Final details about the dorms will be shared with you as they are available. Please reach out to rbsprograms@virginia.edu for more details.

There are several hotel options nearby the University of Chicago campus. [The Study at University of Chicago](#) is one such example, located at the corner of Woodlawn and E 60th Street. Located adjacent to the David Rubenstein Forum and Keller Center, this hotel is a sixteen-minute walk to the Regenstein Library.

If you're staying in Hyde Park, the [Hyatt Place Chicago South](#) and [Sophy Hyde Park](#) offer comfortable stays close to campus. Located just one block apart, Hyatt Place is off 53rd Street on S. Harper Avenue and Sophy Hyde Park is on 53rd Street—a major neighborhood destination with many shopping, dining, and entertainment options. Both hotels have easy access to public transportation routes into downtown Chicago. The hotels are approximately a 20-minute walk from the Regenstein Library.

The University of Chicago also maintains a Preferred Hotel Program for hotels in the Chicago area: <https://visit.uchicago.edu/accommodations>. If calling the hotel directly to book your reservations, please request “The University of Chicago rate” to receive the discounted rate and access to special amenities where offered.

Transportation

Air Travel

If you choose to fly to Chicago, there are two major commercial airports in the Chicago area: Midway International Airport (MDW) and Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD).

From Midway Airport, visitors can take a direct 55 bus to our campus in Hyde Park, which takes about 50 minutes. Ride shares from Midway only take about 20-25 minutes to get directly to campus.

From O'Hare, visitors can take the Blue Line to the Loop and transfer at the Jackson Blue Line stop to the 6 or 2 bus to Hyde Park (both run express, but the 2 bus is only active during a.m. and p.m. rush hour times). Ride shares from O'Hare to Hyde Park take about 45-50 minutes.

Driving to the Newberry Library

From Lake Shore Drive:

Exit at 57th Drive (the Museum of Science and Indus-

try). Go west and curve around the museum. Take the fourth right onto the Midway Plaisance and go west to the campus.

From the Dan Ryan Expressway (I-90/94:)

Exit at Garfield Boulevard (55th Street) and drive east, following the signs for 55th Street. Once you cross over Cottage Grove Avenue, the campus is on your right.

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).

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 CVS located at 1228 E 53rd St (773-752-1425). For 24-hour service, visit the Walgreens located at 1554 E 55th St (773-667-1177). This location is approximately a 5-minute drive from the Regenstein Library. The nearest hospital emergency room is the University of Chicago Emergency Department and Trauma Center located at 5656 S Maryland Ave (773-702-6250). As always, if you need immediate assistance, dial 911.