Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Prof. Estill
Course: ENGL 481.903
Title: How to Judge a Book By Its Cover: Paratexts, Book History, and Literary Studies

Description: This course offers a broad overview of the importance of paratexts--from advertisements to indices--from the middle ages to the present.

Students will learn to analyze texts from a book historical and cultural materialist perspective, considering how works are presented affects their reception and meaning. We will consider texts from manuscript to electronic editions and think about the importance of anthologies and scholarly editions. Judging a book by its cover is not simple: it is a learned art.

Proposed Readings:
Genette - Paratexts
Shakespeare - Henry V
Dickinson - selected poems
Additional literary and cultural works in a variety of formats (scholarly editions, anthologies, mass market paperbacks)