De/Constructing the Book

Section 0103, Wednesdays from 9-12pm (week of January 9, 2017 to week of February 13, 2017)

Instructor: Greta Golick

The familiar codex format of the book has been in use for over two millennia. As digital books gain a critical threshold, the book is being transformed into a new art form. The codex thrived because readers responded to the portability, accessibility, and engagement inherent in this format. This workshop will examine these features and develop the student’s knowledge of fundamental aspects of the physical book including paper and binding techniques, as well as design elements such as typography, illustrative techniques, and their influences in the nascent field of artists’ books.

Workshop Objectives
Students will examine and describe physical books from special collections representing different periods of book production, for example, the medieval manuscript, incunabula, hand-press printed books, machine-press printed books, and artists’ books. Students (in small groups) will interview artisans/practitioners/curators or review websites of rare book collections, rare book schools, professional printers, papermakers, bookbinders, illustrators, and book artists and report their findings in class. During class, students will construct simple book structures (which can be replicated with minimal supplies) that will reinforce terminology and book structures examined in the workshop.