DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

ARTH 490/ 3.0
Studies in Word and Image: The Illustrated Book in Early Modern Europe

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
The study of how words and images interact in visual and material culture. Topics may vary to address a selected theme, historical period, artist, movement, or art form, such as: illustrated books or manuscripts; art as inspiration for literary works or vice versa; scientific and technical illustration; words as images; film and digital media.

Prerequisites: Level 4 and registration in an ARTH Major or Medial Plan and a GPA of 1.9 and 24.0 units in ARTH.

For the topic this term, students who have taken ARTH 352 Printmaking in Early Modern Europe or another course on Renaissance or Baroque Art are especially well-prepared for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is a variable topic course. This term we will explore the invention and development of the illustrated book in early modern Europe (c. 1400-1800) as both a multimedia art form and a powerful tool for intellectual, religious, and political communication. Class meetings will include first-hand engagement with materials held in Special Collections at Jordan Library and at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, including early illustrated books such as the Nuremberg Chronicle and Vesalius’ De fabrica corporis humana.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available at the first class. The course will include some lectures and but will largely consist of discussion, research, and writing conducted individually and in teams. Each student will develop a research project presented as an oral report and a term paper. Attendance and active participation at all class meetings is expected and will count toward the final grade.