

SPRING 2017

FRENCH 224A withered w/JSIS 224A and CHID 270A
(Culture and Media Forms. 5 credits; I&S/VLPA)

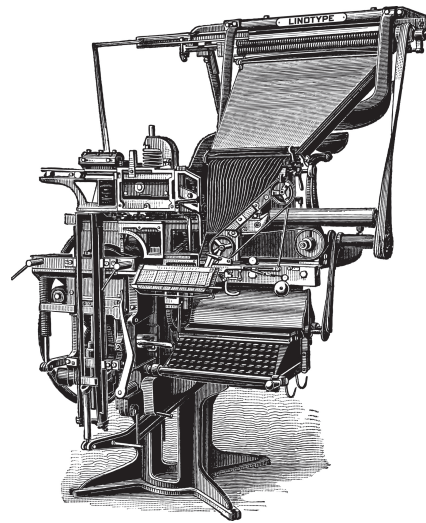
The Age of Print: Lessons from a Modern Communications Revolution

(Course conducted entirely in English)

Prof. Geoffrey Turnovsky (French and Italian Studies; gt2@uw.edu)
MW 1:30-2:50 (with Friday sections); Smith 205



From the Reformation to the fall of monarchies and the rise of modern democracies, the spread of printing technology impacted early modern France, Europe and the world as profoundly as social media and the Internet are impacting life, politics and society today. What lessons can we learn for understanding contemporary transformations in media and communications from this first “revolution in media”?



Before being threatened with extinction by “new media,” printed books were new media. We’ll study the “Printing Revolution” from its 1440s origins to its legacies in our time.

Topics include (among others):

- * The “art of artificial writing”; the workings and evolution of the printing press and typography
- * Effects of change in media technologies; how the new interacts with and surpasses (?) the old. Books and other forms: journals, pamphlets, posters
- * The new politics and economics of information and knowledge in the age of print: censorship, intellectual property, public opinion, freedom of expression; archives and libraries
- * Literacy and its impacts: on religious experience, political engagement, social interaction and conceptions of selfhood and independence