

## Graduate Course Description Summer 2022

### ENG 503: Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures

**May 31st through July 18th<sup>th</sup>**

**Remote asynchronous EXCEPT FOR the following three synchronous IN PERSON meetings:**

**06/06/2022 - 06/10/2022**

**Tu 5:30PM - 8:15PM**

**06/27/2022 - 07/01/2022**

**Tu 5:30PM - 8:15PM**

**07/11/2022 - 07/15/2022**

**Tu 5:30PM - 8:15PM**

This course studies the history of the creation, production, distribution, circulation, and reception of the written word. As it traces how authorship, reading, publishing, and the physical properties of texts have altered over time, the course examines, both historically and analytically, the intellectual, social, and cultural impact of changing communications technologies against the backdrop of our current digital age.

Tracing the book's evolution from manuscript to its present electronic transformations, we will consider a variety of questions: How and why did the book and other material forms of the written word change physically over time? How were early texts marketed and distributed? How have conceptions of authorship altered from era to era and what caused these alterations? Who were the past patrons and publishers of texts? What is the relationship between oral and print cultures? between oral and digital cultures? What judgments can we make about a physical book from its cover, size, type, or paper? How have e-books sought to replicate these features? How have technological and sociohistorical developments intersected with the history of reading? with the history of authorship and that of publishing? How is electronic publishing modifying authorship, reading, and publishing and how might it transform these areas in the decades ahead? What similarities can we discover among earlier periods of manuscript and print cultures and our own times?

Track	What ENG 503 fulfills
Publishing Certificate	Required!
LIT, thesis and non-thesis	This course fulfills a regular elective
WTC, thesis and non-thesis	This course fulfills a regular elective

CRW	This course fulfills a regular elective.
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About the instructor: **Dr. Kristin Kondrlik** is an Assistant Professor of English at WCU and also serves as a co-director of WCU's Business and Technical Writing minor. Her research focuses on the intersections of medical rhetoric, print culture and periodicals, and nineteenth century medicine and wellness movements. Her scholarship has appeared in *Victorian Periodicals Review*, *English Literature in Transition*, *Composition Studies*, and *Poroi: Project on Rhetoric of Inquiry*. She also co-edited *Veg(etari)an Arguments in Culture, History, and Practice*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in December 2020.