

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

5D6801 BOOKBINDING FOR ALL

Tutor: JOHN ROBINSON

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 12 MARCH – FRIDAY 17 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course aims to teach the basic principles of bookbinding. You will initially make a simple hand-bound book from scratch to gain an understanding of essential techniques. You can then move on to either rebinding and/or repair books brought to the course.

If you are a beginner, your first project is to make a book, starting with the folding of white paper into sections, sewing, end papering, gluing-up, rounding and backing, and case-making. Once made, this book can be used to take course notes, if you wish. Equipped with working knowledge of the basics of bookbinding, you can then start work on your own books, which may include making new books or repair of pages, boards, etc.

Those with some experience may like to undertake the repair and renovation of their cloth/leather bound books, although it is advisable not to start on valuable or heavily tooled books.

The following skills may be covered during the course, as applicable to individual books brought:

- folding of paper into sections;
- sewing on tapes;
- end-papering;
- gluing-up;
- trimming;
- rounding and backing;
- headbands;
- case making;
- repair of pages/boards;
- repair or renovation of cloth/leather bindings;
- gold foil lettering technique.

All techniques required will be demonstrated and talked through stage by stage. Much of the tuition will be on a one to one basis, as applicable to individual projects.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

John Robinson is a self-employed bookbinder and a winner of the Society of Bookbinders' competition for a restored or conserved binding.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 12 March

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. On the first evening there will be an introduction to the workshop and equipment, and a general talk on binding styles and the aim of the course. This will be followed by a look at various books on bookbinding, most of which will be available from the College Library.

Other days: Monday 13 March – Thursday 16 March

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working – the workshop is available until 10pm for those wishing to work on with their bindings in the evenings. Work should be discussed and agreed with the tutor.

Departure day: Friday 17 March

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am.)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Please bring a selection of six to eight of your own books requiring work; this will enable the tutor to pick out the book(s) most suitable to work on during the course. Suitable projects can include breaking down of a loose book block and resewing; reattaching loose plates; and mending broken spines.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.
For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

Some materials, including boards, glues and cords supplied for use during the course.

Available from the Shop:

Bone folders	12" rule
A selection of bookbinding materials including end papers, book cloth, buckram, headbands and calf and goat skins (a quarter skin costs between £25 and £30 depending on leather)	Sharp craft knife
	Scissors
	Pencil
	Rubber

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

A good selection of books for repairing or rebinding (see suggestions under preparation above)

Covered shoes

Apron/overall

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.