PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PUBLISHING (PSPB)

Explanation of Course Numbers

• Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
• Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that also may be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work assigned
• Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
• The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

PSPB 5099. Variable Topics. 1-99 Credits.


PSPB 6201. Book and Journal Publishing. 3 Credits. Fundamental aspects of the publishing industry, including business models, acquisitions, production, marketing, and sales for both books and journals. Challenges to the industry and strategic decisions formed and communicated by publishers.


PSPB 6205. Copyright Law in Print and Cyberspace. 3 Credits. Foundations of copyright law for print and electronic media. History and development of copyright law and key concepts such as exclusive rights, fair use, remedies for infringement, and the overall challenges in application of the law to all media.

PSPB 6207. Marketing Strategies. 2 Credits. Marketing and promotional strategies for print and digital book and journal publishing products. Decisions marketing departments must make to help increase the impact of publishing products.

PSPB 6213. Book Design. 2 Credits. The role of design in the publishing process. How components of book design, such as typography, imagery, page layout, cover design, printing, and production, are affected by and affect content, tone, function, and intended audience.

PSPB 6214. Professional Editor. 3 Credits. The editorial function and importance of editorial judgment as personified in the acquisitions, developmental, substantive, and copy editor roles. Freelance editing, editorial management, challenges facing the professional editor, and potential editorial career trajectories. Prerequisite: PSPB 6201.

PSPB 6215. Editing Special Projects. 1 Credit. Practical experience editing special projects, which may include journals, open educational resources, monographs, and books. Restricted to students in the online MPS in the field of publishing program. Recommended background: prior completion of PSPB 6214.

PSPB 6216. Mastering Book Acquisitions. 2 Credits. How publishers identify, select, and publish books. The role of the acquisitions editor in identifying projects, working with authors, and assessing project viability for trade, professional, and scholarly books.

PSPB 6221. Publishing Management, Organization, and Strategy. 2 Credits. Publishing management, strategic planning, how publishers add value, and organizational change. How ethics, diversity, and social responsibility inform organizations. Issues that drive the strategic planning process, such as staff involvement, team building, and resource allocation.

PSPB 6222. Accounting and Finance for Publishers. 2 Credits. Accounting and financial reporting for a publishing organization’s operating results, with an emphasis on evaluating what these results mean in terms of financial success, new business ventures, and sustainability.


PSPB 6232. Production Management. 3 Credits. Publishing production and product life cycles. Students develop products, plan and specify requirements, select vendors, and learn about integrating digital products into print production processes.

PSPB 6236. Publishing Entrepreneurship. 2 Credits. Using elements of entrepreneurship and business planning to learn strategies for creating a publishing start up, developing a new imprint, or launching a side venture for an existing publishing business. Prerequisites: PSPB 6203.

PSPB 6238. Publishing Special Projects. 1 Credit. Students work on management, strategy, marketing, and operations of the GW Journal of Ethics in Publishing and other publishing projects. In groups and individually, students oversee marketing, strategy, and operations for actual projects. Restricted to MPS in the field of publishing program.
PSPB 6251. Fundamentals of Electronic Publishing. 2 Credits.
Digital technologies and trends that have transformed the publishing industry in recent decades, including standards, business models, and technologies and approaches used in electronic publishing.

PSPB 6256. E-Publishing Technologies And Standards. 2 Credits.
Overview of current and emerging content technologies, software and hardware components of a typical publishing system, enabling standards, and publishing systems architecture. Restricted to students in the MPS in publishing program. Prerequisite: PSPB 6251.

PSPB 6257. Designing for E-Publishing Success. 2 Credits.
Principles of digital design, usability testing, search engine optimization, iterative design, and multiple presentational models. Information architecture, usability, and design. Prerequisites: PSPB 6251.

PSPB 6259. E-Publishing Tools. 2 Credits.
Employs tools to produce both book and magazine page layouts, while delving into style sheets, master pages, importing different file types, and rendering on different platforms. Considers print-ready projects and ways to use multimedia. Prerequisite: PSPB 6251.

PSPB 6261. Editorial Content, Rights, and Permissions. 2 Credits.
Meaning and monetization of rights in the publishing world. What editors need to know to negotiate terms for rights that they wish to acquire. The effects of emerging electronic and digital marketplace on permissions and rights.

PSPB 6272. Book Publicity and Promotion. 2 Credits.
Overview of strategies, objectives, and tactics for promoting and publicizing new books, monographs, and other publishing products, using examples from trade, academic, and electronic publishing.

PSPB 6280. Applied Ethics in Publishing. 1 Credit.
Students work with publishers, advocacy groups, or community groups on a project that applies ethical theories to real-world publishing situations.

PSPB 6281. Ethics in Publishing. 1 Credit.
Ethical issues in publishing, including censorship, intellectual property rights, plagiarism, open access, business practices, and environmentally-responsible publishing. Issues of diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. Restricted to second-year students in the MPS in publishing program.

PSPB 6298. Digital Publishing Special Projects. 2 Credits.
Students address a real-world problem using publishing theory and application and consideration of workflows, product life cycle, schedules, deliverables, and dissemination. Prerequisites: PSPB 6251; and PSPB 6256, or PSPB 6257, or PSPB 6259.