

## Maps and Manuscripts, Comics and Cartoons: A Graduate Student Instructor's Incorporation of Special Collections in Courses

When studying the cultural creations of millennia-old civilizations, students may face issues in mentally connecting material with the real and lived experiences that engendered such creations. One way to address this issue is the integration of material culture through our university library's special collections. As a graduate student and instructor, I have included frequent visits to our university libraries' special collections. Such courses have ranged from ancient culture to beginning language to contemporary fantasy.

In this paper I will explore the uses I have made of special collections in several courses, discuss the reactions of students and the pedagogical purposes of said collaborations, and consider new ways to continue making productive use of special collections. Latin courses can demonstrate the language's usefulness by investigating early modern maps or medieval illuminated manuscripts. Civilization courses can incorporate 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century magazines or comics and children's illustrated books that predate modern film and television as other contemporary examples of classical reception. Such interaction opens avenues for students to explore research methods and connects various elements of the classical world to enliven its study.