

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS INSTRUCTION



The Linda Lear Center offers instructional sessions to any class at the professor's request. We will also survey the course catalog and contact faculty when a course may be enhanced by incorporating Lear Center materials into the curriculum. In the 2012-13 academic year, there were 22 class sessions held in the Lear Center that involved 322 students. It is our goal to increase the number of sessions to 30 per year, while also increasing the students' depth of engagement with the primary sources available in the Lear Center.

Instructional sessions have been held for a wide variety of departments, including art history, studio art, English, history, education, government, East Asian languages and cultures, mathematics, anthropology, music, dance, theater and religious studies. Most of these sessions serve to introduce students to the available primary source materials relevant to their course.

Increasingly, we are working with faculty to create course projects involving rare materials that teach students to conduct more advanced bibliographic or archival research. We have had particular success in this regard in courses on Connecticut College and New London architecture, the plays of Eugene O'Neill and archival theory.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN INSTRUCTION:

- Increasing the amount and depth of instruction has been among the primary goals of the Lear Center. Over the past four years, the number of class sessions taught in the department has increased from 16 to 22 (38 percent).
- Instruction priorities now largely drive acquisitions decisions. For the past several years, most purchases have been for the Artists' Books Collection, the most heavily used book collection by classes. The anticipated donation of a collection of a Connecticut infantry company materials dating from the Civil War will allow us to expand our offerings in American history.
- Instructional sessions are also offered to non-Connecticut College affiliates as time permits. In the past four years, the Lear Center has offered class sessions to students from Boy Scout troops, home school and middle school groups, the Williams College at Mystic program, and Mitchell College.

*For more information, contact Benjamin Panciera, Director of Special Collections and Archives,
at x2654 or bpancier@conncoll.edu.*