

21H.418  
Fall 2005

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT # 4**  
**Eisenstein's Printing Revolution Revisited**

*Please submit responses to the following questions to the professor by 5 PM  
on the day of Lec #5.*

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- 1) Which criticisms of her “printing revolution” thesis does Eisenstein address in this debate? How does she respond to her critics?
- 2) In 1998, Adrian Johns published a volume, *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making*, which was just as large as Eisenstein’s earlier thesis, and equally provocative and influential. As you will gather from Eisenstein’s contribution to this debate, Johns confined himself primarily to examples drawn from seventeenth-century English science and bookmaking. What are Johns’ criticisms of Eisenstein? How does he differ from the criticisms made by Grafton and Clanchy two decades earlier?
- 3) Who do you think is right: Eisenstein, or Johns? Why?