Context Matters!
Why it’s Important to Evaluate your Sources

- Becoming familiar with contextual information about a source can clarify the kind of evidence and arguments that source deploys.
- Contextual information is especially useful when working with scholarship from different disciplines.
  - e.g. If you’re researching a film version of Hamlet, a film scholar will analyze the film in a way that’s different from a literary scholar or a sociologist.
Questions to Keep in Mind

- Who wrote this (book, article)?
  - What discipline(s) are they affiliated with?
  - What kind of other work have they written/what is their scholarly focus?
- What year was the work published?
  - What journal/book series/publisher published this work?
  - What else have they published?
- Who is the audience for this work?
Where to find contextual information

- Catalog record for the source(s) you are working with
- University page/website of scholar who wrote the book or article
- About page of publisher or journal that published the source