

Detailed Course Evaluation

- 1) *How useful were the pre-course readings? Did you do any additional preparations in advance of the course?*
 1. There were none.
 2. N/A.
 3. We did not have any pre-course readings.
 4. No readings—read some of JK’s work.
 5. None were required.
 6. {No response—RBS staff}
 7. N/A.
 8. N/A.
 9. N/A.
 10. N/A.
 11. N/A.
 12. This course did not have any pre-course readings.

- 2) *Were the course workbook and other materials distributed in class appropriate and useful (or will they be so in the future, after you return home)?*
 1. Yes, both booklets and checklists will be useful.
 2. Sources were helpful, and will be kept.
 3. All of the materials were appropriate and helpful. They will definitely be useful in the future, as will the post-class reading list.
 4. Absolutely.
 5. Yes.
 6. Yes.
 7. Yes.
 8. Yes. “Beyond Carter” will become an integral piece in my library. Exit reading list provided.
 9. Yes.
 10. Absolutely useful, and I will definitely use them at home.
 11. Yes, especially “After Carter” and “Types of Copying Machines.”
 12. Yes, very useful, both during the course and in the future.

- 3) *Have you taken one or more RBS courses before? If so, how did this course compare with your previous coursework?*
 1. This is my second course. It was definitely more lively and engaging—I never struggled with drowsiness—but less satisfactory in ways.
 2. Yes—same excellent caliber. Amazing content.
 3. No, this was my first class.
 4. Just as wonderful.
 5. Yes—I’ve had several classes. I’d rank it in the upper half in terms of info taught.

6. Yes, it was detailed just like the first one.
7. Yes. Both were great, the first more hands-on and thus better.
8. N/A.
9. No.
10. Yes. This is my fourth, and each has been great.
11. N/A—first course.
12. I have not taken another RBS course.

4) *What aspects of the course content were of the greatest interest or relevance for your purposes?*

1. Greater understanding of how to work with book dealers and interact with donors.
2. Learning about all interrelated aspects from teachers and students.
3. I really enjoyed the guided class discussion and hearing about issues from multiple perspectives.
4. Developing archives—where to find material.
5. Donor relations; collecting areas.
6. Bookselling.
7. Thursday—speaking with TC and other booksellers, and doing evaluations on Thursday and Friday.
8. The focus on modern materials will be of great use at my library.
9. Experiences of all these faculty and the intersection with peers were outstanding and revelatory.
10. How to find out about collections and deal with booksellers.
11. 1) How to curate a collection. 2) How to locate and contact relevant department heads.
12. The fact that it covered modern materials and gave a fresh perspective on how to distinguish your collection from other collections. Everyone has the same “old books,” so how do you differentiate yourself?

5) *Did the instructors successfully help you to acquire the information, knowledge, and skills that the course was intended to convey? Was the intellectual level of the course appropriate?*

1. Intellectual level was appropriate. I felt much more could have been shared and covered if less time was spent on irrelevancies.
2. JK was a fountain of knowledge—brilliant. KR held it all together with her clear, comprehensive approach. TC added lots of outside interest.
3. Yes, absolutely. Important and helpful information was conveyed to us, and we were always encouraged to ask questions. The examples provided really helped make the issue concrete as well.
4. Yes—explanations, worksheets, &c.
5. Yes, and yes.
6. Yes, they did. I wanted to take this course to help me become even more successful at my occupation.
7. Yes.
8. Yes. The course was intellectually stimulating thanks to knowledgeable faculty and diverse backgrounds of fellow students.
9. Yes, to both.

10. Absolutely! Yes.
11. Yes!
12. Yes.

6) *What did you like best about the course?*

1. When KR or TC presented material systematically. The Naomi Nelson visit was excellent. Cassidy/Blair visit was excellent.
2. The different approaches of the three instructors allowed me to tune into each and break from the intensity of only one teacher.
3. The collegial atmosphere among the students and teachers. Everyone deeply cared about the topics at hand and was interested in investigating them in serious, thoughtful ways.
4. The teachers.
5. Anecdotal accounts—hearing from actual donors and dealers.
6. Roundtable discussions! So many tips and tricks that can be useful for selling books to other dealers, institutions, and private collectors.
7. Speaking with the booksellers.
8. The booksellers roundtable was very enlightening. Great to hear various perspectives from the trade.
9. The depth of insight from all three vantage points, and the relevance to my own interests and pursuits!
10. The interactions among those attending the class and those teaching was remarkable. Having “voices” represented from all the groups in the class (librarians, booksellers, and donors) was very beneficial. Gave perspectives not available in any other way.
11. 1) Showed methods to create a micro-collection; 2) showed methods to put it into context; 3) showed methods for how it could be useful for research.
12. Good mix of instructors. They worked well together/played off one another well.

7) *How could the course have been improved?*

1. {No response—RBS staff}
2. It was excellent, and more than met my expectations.
3. It was great as it was.
4. {No response—RBS staff}
5. {No response—RBS staff}
6. {No response—RBS staff}
7. Less New York focused; even just outside of New York City would be more relevant.
8. Addition of one period dedicated to non-modern materials. Otherwise perfect!
9. {No response—RBS staff}
10. {No response—RBS staff}
11. Include a book or two—both for future reference and for use in the development of a potential collection.
12. In the future, it will probably need to have more of an electronic component. The topic was covered by Naomi Nelson coming in for one period, but I imagine it will become increasingly important every year.

8) *Did you learn what the course description/advertisement indicated you would learn?*

1. Yes, but I feel I could have learned more if the third instructor was more focused.
{Respondent listed JK third on instructor line—RBS staff.}
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. Exactly.
5. Yes.
6. Yes. However, the course description was changed to “Developing *Modern Collections*” on the course schedule. It was the first time I had seen it.
7. Yes.
8. {No response—RBS staff}
9. Yes.
10. Yes—and more!
11. Yes. I had assumed the collection to be developed was that of a library or institution, and not just (what I considered to be most important) a collection to add to an existing collection.
12. Yes.

9) *How do you intend to use or apply the knowledge or skills learned in this course?*

1. Would like to assume collection development responsibilities in special collections library. Currently have only cataloging experience.
2. Just to become more aware.
3. I will look at collections of modern material in a whole new way. Honestly, I will think of them as an exciting opportunity rather than something to avoid!
4. In my work—with archives.
5. Definitely!
6. Professionally and right away!
7. Refocus development.
8. Expertise gained in modern materials.
9. 1) To help my publisher consider ephemera retention and inclusion in special editions of his books. 2) To encourage teen writers to value the process and understand the importance of do-it-yourself attitudes!
10. Looking at developing a collection development policy, and what I’ve learned will be invaluable in doing that.
11. By developing small archives to sell.
12. I am going to go back to my institution and discussing future collecting priorities with administration.

10) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, was the time devoted to this purpose well spent?*

1. N/A.
2. {No response—RBS staff}
3. N/A.
4. {No response—RBS staff}
5. N/A.
6. {No response—RBS staff}

7. N/A.
8. N/A.
9. Yes.
10. N/A—but we did have guest lecturers who were good.
11. N/A.
12. We did not make any trips outside the classroom.

11) *If you attended the evening events (e.g., RBS Lecture, Video Night, RBS Forum, Booksellers' Night), were they worth attending?*

1. Radway lecture: excellent. Kirschenbaum lecture: very good. Somewhat duplicated the Radway visit we had just had.
2. Some.
3. Yes. The video was as interesting as I'd hoped.
4. Lectures were interesting.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. Yes. Riot Girrls—a little too fast.
8. N/A.
9. Yes. {scratched out Video Night—RBS staff.}
10. Yes. Went to both lectures—excellent.
11. Lectures were interesting and worthwhile.
12. Yes.

12) *We are always concerned about the physical well-being both of the RBS teaching collections and of materials owned by UVA's Special Collections. If relevant, what suggestions do you have for the improved classroom handling of such materials used in your course this week?*

1. No, it seemed to me all collections were handled very carefully.
2. {No response—RBS staff}
3. It was done carefully and with respect.
4. {No response—RBS staff}
5. None, really.
6. I think water in the classroom is OK. Just be smart about it.
7. Maybe a little training at the beginning of class.
8. Discuss material handling procedures during first period of first day.
9. {No response—RBS staff}
10. Extreme care was taken with the materials.
11. N/A.
12. We probably should have received handling tips on the first day. It might have been assumed that we didn't need them, but never assume.... Some of us are rookies!

13) *Did you (or your institution) get your money's worth? Would you recommend this course to others?*

1. Not sure I would recommend this particular course, but I do plan to attend RBS again.
2. Yes.
3. Yes, and yes.
4. Definitely—everything was of great significance.
5. Yes, and yes.
6. Yes.
7. Yes.
8. Yes, and yes!
9. Yes, and more.
10. Yes, and yes!
11. Yes, as a bookseller, it opened up whole new areas for growth and exploration.
12. Absolutely.

14) *Any final or summary thoughts, or advice for other persons considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {No response—RBS staff}
2. {No response—RBS staff}
3. It would be nice if there could be some time devoted to hearing more about what other classes were doing. We are all interested in each other's work, and that would have been fun and helpful. Also, great marketing for future RBS enrollment! Thanks for everything; it was wonderful!
4. Great course for special collections archivists and library dealers and directors!
5. {No response—RBS staff}
6. Much better this time, but only because I am more experienced.
7. Breakfast is needed as so few shops open in area. However, maybe change it up a bit.
8. {No response—RBS staff}
9. I am saving my money for the next time.
10. This is my fourth class at RBS, and they've all been wonderful. I've been a librarian since 1977 in various areas—cataloging, reference, and instruction, systems, administration, and now special collections. RBS is absolutely the *best* professional experience of my career, as well as the most fun. Kudos!
11. Come early—leave late!
12. Definitely worth the money. If you are staying in the dorms, make sure to bring tissues, flip-flops, and hand soap!

Aggregate Statistics

Number of respondents: 12

Leave

Institution gave me leave: 8 (66.67%)

I took vacation time or unpaid leave: 1 (8.33%)

N/A: student, retired, or had summers off: 2 (16.67%)

N/A: self-employed or work has nothing to do with course subject: 1 (8.33%)

Tuition

Institution paid tuition: 8 (66.67%)

I paid tuition myself: 2 (16.67%)

Scholarship from RBS: 1 (8.33%)

Other: RBA scholarship: 1 (8.33%)

Housing

Institution paid housing: 6 (50%)

I paid for my own housing: 4 (33.33%)

N/A: stayed with friends or lived at home: 2 (16.67%)

Travel

Institution paid travel: 3 (25%)

Student paid travel: 6 (50%)

Institution and student shared cost: 1 (8.33%)

N/A: lived nearby: 2 (16.67%)

Which one category most closely defines what you do for a living, or why you are at RBS?

Antiquarian bookseller: 3 (25%)

Archivist: 2 (16.67%)

Book collector: 2 (16.67%)

Librarian with some rare book duties: 3 (25%)

Rare book librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Work in a museum or cultural institution: 1 (8.33%)