

Peter Stallybrass, assisted by Lynne Farrington  
H-105: The Bible and Histories of Reading  
12-17 June 2022

### **Narrative Course Evaluations**

1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Are there any readings that you would like to see added or removed in future years?*

1. They were useful!
2. Yes. The readings provided both practical knowledge about early books and helpful context for the thematic approach the course took to the subject.
3. Pre-course assignments were somewhat useful. I think they would have been even more useful if we had incorporated them in our discussion more, and if we had been given a stronger rationale as to why they were important.
4. {no response}
5. Loved the readings, I worried I lacked knowledge in areas but it wasn't detrimental to understanding and enjoying the course!

2) *What are your thoughts on the course workbook and/or other teaching materials distributed during class? Was the content appropriate and useful? Will it continue to be useful for you after the course?*

1. It was great! I am not sure if it will be useful to me after the course, but it was certainly very helpful during the course.
2. The materials were incredibly useful and have provided me with a number of resources for my courses in the future.
3. It was a useful tool for study.
4. {no response}
5. Yes, of course, I will need to digest the material overtime and will want to revisit websites.

3) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your RBS course? Did you walk away with any "aha!" moments, new ideas, or project plans?*

1. I do have some new ideas for research topics, and also a better idea of the type of library I may want to work at once I graduate with my M.L.I.S.
2. PS and LF are expert teachers and provided a master class not only about [The Bible and Histories of Reading](#), but also in how to effectively teach a course using rare books. The course provided me not only with new information about early Bibles and

- their uses that I can share with my students, but also provided me with new pedagogical approaches to teaching these materials. Every page of my notes from the course includes notes in the margins about how I might build such material into my courses or what types of things I might look for in my own institution's special collections. I came out of the course with my mind swimming with new ideas and possible directions to take my teaching and scholarship.
3. The wealth of knowledge I have been exposed to, and the many new ideas I have been invited to think about, will definitely help me go back to my research with fresh eyes.
  4. {no response}
  5. This gave me a great overview in how to look at our collections array of Bibles.
- 4) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*
1. Yes, I did!
  2. Yes. This was one of the most intense and satisfying intellectual experiences I have had since I finished graduate school. The instructors were fantastic.
  3. Definitely! LF and PS are so incredibly knowledgeable and eager to share their knowledge and their passion for rare books. I think it would have helped even more to have discussed the course rationale a little more at the beginning and throughout the class, so as to make greater sense of all of the things we were exposed to from session to session.
  4. {no response}
  5. Yes, they were both wonderful, would love to take a full semester with them if I could!
- 5) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*
1. Can't think of any.
  2. None that I can think of.
  3. More explicit signposting at the beginning and throughout the course would have helped to follow the course with greater clarity. It would also have been nice to hear more from Lynne!
  4. {no response}
  5. More time at the {illegible}, but otherwise it was perfect.
- 6) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*
1. I think people interested in Western European history would benefit the most from taking this course.
  2. The course would be of great benefit to any faculty member who works in the early modern period (European and American). It is particularly helpful for faculty who are

- trying to incorporate their library's rare books into their pedagogy, as it models pedagogical methods for using rare books in a course.
3. People wishing to get acquainted with medieval and early modern book culture through a thematic approach to the Bible; people interested in understanding how "the" Bible came to be.
  4. {no response}
  5. Anyone who has to work with medieval items, Bibles or religious topics in particular, but anyone with an interest generally would enjoy the course.
- 7) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes!
  2. Absolutely.
  3. Yes.
  4. YES.
  5. Absolutely.
- 8) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*
1. Did not have this.
  2. Yes. We had a speaker talk about the Polyglot Bible (I believe he was in London). It complemented the subject matter we had been exploring in the course. Many of us attended together in the same room, and it didn't feel that different from attending a live lecture.
  3. Yes.
  4. {no response}
  5. Yes, would love more time at the art museum—someday I will have to come back.
- 9) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. {no response}
  2. {no response}
  3. {no response}
  4. {no response}
  5. Get a feel for the Bible story as a whole so the iconography is more familiar.
- 10) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*

1. One of the best classes I have ever taken. I left feeling so confident in what I had learned over the week.
2. This was possibly the most intense and enjoyable educational experience I have ever had.
3. The delight of surprises and of meeting people from the past through their work on the page is hard to match.
4. Amazing learning experience with superb instructors and great students in the course!
5. Eat ideas quickly / Peter and Lynne like mushrooms / Glowing, we thank thou.