

## **Narrative Evaluations**

- 1) *Do you have any practical suggestions for improvements to RBS's online logistics?*
  1. Nope! Everything ran really smoothly.
  2. Some of the challenge simply was negotiating a new (to me) suite of digital tools to take the course. Dropbox was not difficult to use, but required a little getting used to, especially in conjunction with Zoom during class and jumping in and out of DB files, of which there were many. I don't see there's much to do about this, but it puts people who are not already very familiar with the use of the platforms at a bit of a disadvantage. There was an enormous reliance on technology this week at RBS, which usually is fine, but sometimes doesn't work so well. See No. 3 below.
  3. {no response}
  4. No more gather town
  5. Having Breanna on the call really made things easier; it may even be smoother for the person in that role to run some of the presentation logistics online (sharing screen so that the instructor can talk through slides without having to run the Zoom, for instance).
  6. Yes: send printed course materials (workbook, exercises) to students in advance. The links from Dropbox mis-functioned at awkward moments, and added difficulty to completing assignments.
  7. A warning that the Orientation meeting is just Zoom 101 would be useful. At the beginning of the pandemic it would make sense, now...I learned exactly 1 thing that I did not use.
  8. I thought that the online pieces were very smooth! I'm impressed at the quality of admin/teaching given Zoom constraints.
  9. Our class had some difficulty with our Dropbox folders, but otherwise the technical side of things was great. Breanna did a great job of handling the breakout rooms and getting us in/out of sessions.
  
- 2) *How would you describe your encounters with RBS staff?*
  1. Very cordial, professional, and responsive.
  2. 100 percent favorable from beginning to end.
  3. Excellent as always
  4. Outstanding
  5. Great! Everyone at RBS was helpful and kind as always
  6. Unfailingly pleasant and welcoming.
  7. Great. Everyone has been fantastic.
  8. Everyone was incredibly helpful and quick to respond!
  9. On all fronts it has been great! As mentioned, Breanna did a wonderful job with our course and running the Zoom space. And I corresponded with Michael Taylor

regarding payments. He was both professional and helpful, and patient as I navigated my institution's business office!

3) *If you attended any of our optional evening events, do you feel that they were a good use of your time? Were there any that were particularly important to your RBS experience?*

1. {no response}
2. One event I was too tired to attend and the other I was unable to attend because I could not enter the Zoom session after two tries.
3. Yes
4. All the optional events have proved very worthwhile and thought provoking. There was one event a few years ago, videos on paper making, I think, where the video quality was very bad, but the messages got across.
5. I really enjoyed them! It's tough to replace the communal feeling of being in person in Charlottesville and getting to mill around and eat snacks and meet new people easily, but I still thought having the traditional Tuesday lecture and an attempt at recreating receptions and gatherings was great
6. The Tuesday evening lecture and Q&A were excellent. Gather.town was a nice try, and did permit me to have a few good encounters, but it was not really a comfortable environment for me.
7. I didn't attend, without actually going to RBS, it is difficult to be completely immersed in it.
8. I didn't--would've liked to but unfortunately it was a hectic week.
9. I watched Alex Hiladgo's talked after the fact. Wish I could have been there in person, but was unable to do to a prior engagement. I also attended the talk from Theo Dunkelgrun that Peter Stallybrass arranged for our class. It was wonderful and very beneficial!

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

1. {no response}
2. Yes, the pre-course readings were useful. I would try to front-load as many of the readings as possible prior to the beginning of the class, because so much time is spent going through the workbook and doing the exercises. Also, for this particular class, I would recommend a general text or long-form article on what the term "reading" means in the humanities. NB: it doesn't just mean reading!
3. yes
4. They were useful.
5. All very helpful! I can't think of any that I'd remove although I may add something that was a bit of a broader survey of the topic as an introduction, especially for people coming at the course without much theology in their backgrounds
6. I might suggest adding Darnton's "communications circuit" diagram and its update to the advance materials, even though it focuses on publishing (not reading).

7. Yes, they were useful and though I did not read all of them, they are a useful bibliography which I am sure I will use in the future.
  8. I really wanted to do all the pre-course readings, but I unfortunately happened to have the busiest month of my graduate career in June so wasn't able to do much of it. I am fairly familiar with the course themes/period so didn't struggle too much to stay engaged in the course despite this. I would have been more likely to do the reading if the advance reading was all posted on Dropbox in a clear way (instead of having to search for articles/books myself)! (I actually think that some/most of it was, but it wasn't clear from the outset and I hadn't had time to poke through the Dropbox files.)
  9. The course readings were well-selected and fit right into the topic of the class. I did have a bit of trouble finding some of the readings in the Dropbox, but that seemed to happen for a few of us. I imagine an in-person class would have eliminated any of those issues.
- 5) *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. {no response}
  2. Good and useful content, and a lot of it. I think the problem is that there is so much coming at students during the week that one can feel properly swamped very quickly.
  3. The course workbook was useful for the course itself. It remains to be seen whether it will have ongoing usefulness.
  4. We need hard copy workbooks. This year the work book was virtual and that was laborious at best. Yes, it will continue to be useful after class.
  5. The workbook was incredible! Extremely comprehensive and full of great information. Will definitely continue to use as a resource
  6. The Workbook is a wide-ranging sampler of primary source material that provides entry points for a variety of topics. I certainly will be referring to it during my ongoing research.
  7. Peter's slides are very useful. Without slides it would be very difficult to sit on zoom for that long. I will save the slides and use them in the future.
  8. Peter Stallybrass had SO many helpful powerpoints and resources that I'll definitely go back to!
  9. The workbook will be a valuable reference tool for me for years to come! I found it both thorough and helpful and it tied into the readings and presentations very nicely. The Powerpoints that Peter and Lynne provided will also be extremely useful tools down the road.
- 6) *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. {no response}
  2. I will never look at a Bible in the same way again. It's an even bigger book than I knew.

3. {no response}
  4. Many aha moments. I hope to assist in a volunteer capacity in a transcribing project.
  5. The first thing will probably be to go through all my works in progress and make sure I'm not accidentally restating any of the various myths about Biblical reading that Peter demolished throughout the week! Certainly this course will broaden my work, especially regarding how Bibles were collected and read comparatively. Also all of the work we did on the illustration and illumination traditions really informed my work and I'll have a much easier time analyzing or just thinking about Biblical illustration now
  6. The course gave me a much richer understanding of all the facets of 'reading' as well as of the process of translation and transcription. One new area of interest from the class for me is the use of time in the regulation of daily life, as modulated by Books of Hours.
  7. The class was immensely useful to me as I consider the reception and expansion of scripture in the 19th c. and what leads up to it.
  8. The course gave me a much better sense of material culture, which is definitely my weak spot as far as research goes. I have a richer understanding of how the bible was used which will definitely help my dissertation project.
  9. There were many "aha!" moments for me, and I've already started to incorporate what I learned in the class into my job. As a special collections librarian in a theological library, there was a lot for me to take away from the class. I'm still digesting all of the great things I learned!
- 7) *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. {no response}
  2. For me, this was an introductory course. I was not as prepared as I would have liked, but that is the fault of nobody but me.
  3. yes
  4. I learned far more than anticipated.
  5. Yes! We covered a ton of ground in five days.
  6. {deleted response}
  7. Yes. Though personally I would have liked a little more time in the 19th century, it was very helpful and I learned a lot.
  8. I thought that the course would be more focused on medieval materials (for some reason). I did enjoy the non-medieval material enormously also, but I would've liked even more medieval material as that's why I signed up for the course specifically.
  9. Peter and Lynne were fantastic and delivered even more than I thought I would get out of the class. I was happily surprised by the breadth and depth of coverage in a week-long course.
- 8) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*
1. {no response}

2. Overall the class was terrific and the team that produced it was first-rate.
3. {no response}
4. In person with primary teaching resources.
5. I don't think so! At least not in the Zoom environment
6. {deleted response}
7. Please bless we're in person next year.
8. I thought that the course was great. I did have scheduling difficulties though. I was really disappointed that there weren't many medieval RBS courses on offer this year, and the two that were on offer were the same week! It was a really, really rough week for me to take the course. I almost didn't.
9. My only suggestion for improvement would be to give us more time with Peter and Lynne. We had a great afternoon each day with them, but I felt that the 11:00-1:00 slot (which was set aside for us to work on our own or with our classmates) could have been shorter and given us another hour or so with the instructors. I loved working with the other students, but thought that the full group time led by Peter and Lynne was the most valuable.

9) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*

1. {no response}
2. Those with the most preparation in "reading" at the post-graduate level.
3. {no response}
4. Anyone interested in the history of the Bible and Book printing technologies.
5. Academics working in humanities fields, especially those that involve comparative work
6. {no response}
7. I don't think you can think about book history in the past without thinking about the role of the Bible, so I suspect most people who would be interested in RBS at all.
8. Lots of people! But as for PhD students: I think that someone earlier on in their studies (like 1st or 2nd year) would particularly benefit. As I'm in the dissertation-writing stage, I felt a bit hyper-honed in on my dissertation topic and wanted more in-depth study on that. Had I taken the course earlier in my studies, I would've felt more freedom to explore!
9. Anyone in the rare book, archives, library, or book history world. I'm looking forward to my next class already!

10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth?*

1. {no response}
2. And more.
3. yes
4. yes, absolutely
5. Yes!
6. Definitely.
7. Yes.
8. I did not pay for it :)

9. Definitely...especially since my institution paid!

11) *On a scale of 1–10 with 10 being most likely, how likely are you to recommend this course to others?*

1. 9
2. 8
3. 8
4. 10
5. 9
6. 9
7. 10
8. 7
9. 9

12) *If your course had any virtual field trips or guest speakers, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. {no response}
2. Unfortunately, I could not enter the Zoom session with the guest speaker, but I intend to listen to or watch the recording. Thank you, RBS, for making the recording available.
3. yes
4. YES
5. Yes, Peter arranged an extra guest lecture on Thursday that I found really stimulating and full of valuable information
6. {deleted response}
7. Yes.
8. {no response}
9. Definitely! See previous comment about Theo Dunkelgrun's talk. It was a really valuable addition.

13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {no response}
2. Not recommended for those with bad eyesight!
3. {no response}
4. Make sure it's in person. There were so many interesting people in the class and virtually, we never really got the chance to get to know each other and build relationships.
5. If you work on religion, take it!
6. Do the Bible readings in advance.!
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. Know your Bible!

14) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*

1. {no response}
2. Challenging.
3. {no response}
4. RBS inspires me time and again in ways I can never anticipate, always exceeding expectations exponentially.
5. Just because I haven't had a chance to shout out Lynne in this survey yet, I'll use my single sentence to say that she was a vital presence in this course and her book history knowledge and knowledge of the American contexts of Biblical reading were invaluable!
6. What, after all, is reading? Memory, hearing, seeing, imagining, touching, singing, chanting, deciphering, translating, gathering, scattering. This week at Rare Book School with Peter Stallybrass and Lynne Farrington has been an exhilarating excursion. Applause & thanks.
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. This course with Farrington and Stallybrass / Was a wonderful treat for the class / We'd all gladly return / Our applause did they earn / I'd rave on, but don't want to be crass

### **Student Data**

*Number of Respondents:* 9 (of 12)

*How did you arrange for time off to attend this course?*

1. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
2. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
3. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
4. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
5. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
6. I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule.
7. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
8. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
9. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

1. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
2. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
3. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
4. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
5. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
6. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
7. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.

8. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
9. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.

*Not including this year, how many RBS courses have you attended?*

1. This is my first course.
2. 2
3. 8
4. 3
5. 1
6. 1
7. 1
8. This is my first course.
9. This is my first course.

*Which of the following best describes your current occupation?*

1. Other Occupations/Vocations: Post-doctoral fellow/researcher/scholar
2. Book Trades: Appraiser
3. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
4. Book Trades: Other
5. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
6. Other Occupations/Vocations: Independent seller
7. Professional educator: Other
8. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
9. Library discipline: Special collections librarian