

## **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. I appreciated the pre-course reading and also the recommendations for further reading that I was able to jot down over the course of the week.
2. Yes, pre-course readings were informative to get context for subjects discussed in course.
3. They were very helpful in giving important background information, though not sure both the Gaskell and Sterner were needed.
4. I really enjoyed the Rota text. Accessible, interesting, and aesthetically pleasing book. The Gaskell was helpful, but was very dense (plan ahead!). I didn't enjoy the Steinburg.
5. Yes. Maybe a suggested "further reading" list with more specific scholarship to particular areas?
6. Yes.
7. Yes. Would like a text that delves into certain complex processes (illustration, tech (?), &c) with more illustration to better understand descriptions.
8. The readings were very useful for providing overall context.
9. Mostly very useful, and mostly not redundant.
10. Pre-course readings were very helpful and well chosen.
11. Yes—very useful.

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. I assume it will be useful after the course and I intend to look it over more fully.
2. Course book was not very useful at all, needs better printing quality, course book needs better structure instead of the current way it was organized.
3. The PowerPoint was hugely helpful and the workbook will be vital to future work.
4. Very helpful and I plan to use these resources (especially the videos and images) in my own teaching. The notebook wasn't as used as the power points, but the timeline and extra info will be helpful later on.
5. Very useful! I will definitely continue to use it as a scholar and teacher.
6. The PowerPoint slides especially were very helpful and I anticipate using them and the web links.
7. Quality of the reproduction in workbook were very low. Would have liked a digital version to accompany. I will use course workbook in the future.
8. It was fine—useful to see images, but it could have had even more. There were times that I

wished there was an image of something, but there wasn't.

9. Workbook was mainly used for reference purposes, and not frequently consulted during class.
10. Very appropriate and useful
11. This content will remain useful to me after the course.

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. There were several "aha" moments for me as a bookmaker and I found the class stimulating and also clarifying in terms of my own ideas.
2. Class was very informative and I will continue to be able to use what I learned to create new displays, offering talks, and new collecting areas.
3. The clearer knowledge gained will be instrumental to understanding the books and prints I work with every day.
4. I plan to incorporate into my own teaching. This course helped me connect the dots between things I already knew—chronologically and thematically as well as learn many new things.
5. Yes! I have a list of new ideas/new avenues to explore in my current research when I get home. This course has also made me reconsider some of the teaching methods when I teach similar courses.
6. Definitely adding some new units to my book history class!
7. I feel better prepared to work with my organization's Rare Book collection. I'd also like to mount an exhibit featuring some of the information I gained through the course.
8. I have a better sense of context, and some specific clues I can look for in an individual book. I'm hoping to go into our library stacks and see what I can see, now that I have new points of view.
9. As a collector I've been exposed to new venues and ideas for collecting, as well as a prime example of a highly focused "collection" in the case of *Jane Eyre*.
10. Too many to list!
11. This class was a good synthesis of material I knew about and the history of printing various presses {illegible}

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, short of a personally individualized course, built purely to the specifications of my own interests, this course taught me what I'd been hoping to learn and gave me the resources to a more informed exploration of my own interest in the future.
2. Yes, although better organization of lecture would enhance the flow of the course and understanding the progression of printed materials after 1800.
3. Yes!
4. Yes, for the most part. I had hoped to talk more about libraries and circulation more generally, but I also understand that materials would be somewhat tangential to the main aims of the course/course description. Very satisfied overall with the skills and info learned!

5. Definitely! The combo of lecture, videos, and first hand experience with materials made so many concepts much clearer to me than they were before.
6. Yes—learned a lot. I especially appreciated when we got to closely examine books and try to figure out how they were made.
7. Yes and Yes!
8. Yes, although there wasn't as much about the business end of the publishing world. I guess the advance readings supplied that.
9. Mostly, yes. I learned much more about reproduction processes that I had expected, in a good way. Would have liked to learn a little more about collectors/collecting ("golden age," &c.).
10. I learned more than I expected, and my expectations were high.
11. Yes.

5) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*

1. Not that I can think of.
2. Yes, more hands on experience of handling of materials that are shown.
3. Probably not possible with Grolier-held materials, but more opportunity to handle the books would have been really helpful.
4. I had hoped to touch/handle more books. I know many cannot be handled but incorporating more books that can would really enhance this course.
5. Maybe more encouragement for participants to communicate/get to know one another before or earlier in the course? I think we gained so much by getting to know one another and seeing different perspectives.
6. I would have loved just a bit more time to look at the materials presented in class since it was often hard to see them in the moment.
7. If possible to set up the configuration of the room to allow students view of materials. Sitting at the edge I wasn't able to appreciate the details in some materials.
8. It would have helped to have more space, so books could be laid out ahead of time. And probably useful to have an assistant do that, so the instructor could just focus on his presentation.
9. {no response}
10. {private response}
11. {no response}

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

1. Someone wanting an overview of the history of the book following the course of mechanization and automation.
2. Special collections librarian and any one interested in learning about printed materials.
3. Everyone working with books in any aspect.
4. Anyone interested in learning more about publishing and printing developments in the West, but especially students and instructors.
5. Anyone who works with or studies materials from this period.

6. Graduate students and faculty, also librarians and collectors (especially people with expertise in earlier eras or just one).
7. Anyone interested in post-1800 printed materials. Professors, librarians, students!
8. All kinds of people.
9. Special collections librarians and others with an interest in the history of printing and publishing.
10. Anyone interested in the process of book-making, including teachers, dealers, librarians, artists, and collectors.
11. Educators.

7) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Yes! Yes!
4. Yes and yes.
5. Absolutely!
6. Definitely felt worth it.
7. Yes and yes!
8. Yes, although seeing more items would have been nice. The instructor said he had more at UVA, like a line of type, or a litho stone.
9. Yes! and Yes.
10. Absolutely.
11. Yes to both.

8) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. Yes, we went to the Met. It was quite lovely.
2. Yes, very informative
3. Yes!
4. Yes. Especially loved the trip to the Met collection. Seeing the books and getting to experience them in person was so helpful. The Barbara Heritage presentation was also excellent and interesting, although I was more familiar with some of that material already.
5. Yes. It was interesting to have another perspective on the materials and processes we'd been discussing.
6. Yes, we went to the Met and it was great
7. Yes. I enjoyed seeing the Met's collection and the expertise shared by Holly and her team. Valuable conversation/discussion.
8. Yes, the visit to the Watson Library was great.
9. The visit to the Met library was super! Loved their decorative bindings.
10. Yes.
11. Yes.

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. Give yourself ample time to read the advance reading list but also make sure that material is somewhat fresh in your mind.
6. Be ready to take lots of notes and debrief later, there is a lot of material to cover!
7. For field trips, would recommend taking the bus for people with mobility/knee/leg concerns.
8. The advance reading is really helpful, and maybe even crucial. It's hard to cram everything into the class days.
9. {no response}
10. Doing the reading before the class is not absolutely necessary, but it helps.
11. {no response}

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

1. I'm sorry I can not
2. Great information, a little disorganized, more hands-on experience of materials, responsive instructor, a great class.
3. RBS never disappoints!
4. Nerd paradise!
5. Information overload in the best way.
6. it could be a book / but it looks more like a shoe / all is now chaos
7. A wonderful experience!
8. Stimulating and exhausting. Makes me want to go out and investigate more.
9. Just do it!
10. I will never look at a book the same way again.
11. Great course.