

James Green
H-70: The History of the Book in America, c.1700-1830
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. I benefited a great deal from the pre-course reading assignments. Having read them placed me squarely in the middle of the concerns that the course addressed and enabled me both to participate more and to get more out of the instructor's presentation.
2. Yes, the pre-course readings from HBA1 and HBA2 were useful and helped to contextualize the specific people and topics we discussed in class. The suggested reading from Gaskell (*A New Introduction*) is also very helpful for understanding the study of bibliography and how books were made, and the Wroth is a classic for anyone interested in American book history.
3. I found them very useful and informative.
4. The pre-course reading assignments were hugely helpful to me as someone who did not have the strongest background in colonial and early U.S. history. The readings were appropriate in length. I particularly appreciated JG sharing shorter, newer readings with us for in-class discussion.
5. I'm not sure we need quite as much HBA1—chapter portions or page ranges would likely be just as useful. Otherwise, it seemed well chosen.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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. The articles and materials that the instructor with the class were of a uniformly high quality. All were relevant to the course discussion and together they provided a window into a range of scholarship on the topics that we discussed that will let me follow up with more research in the future.
2. In addition to taking many (many) photos of the materials we reviewed in class, JG also provided several handouts and had us do some small group work or partner work. The handouts will be especially useful for teaching purposes as they provide explanations of various topics and associated rare book examples, not all of which are

available online.

3. We received some handouts but not a full course workbook. I have taken other RBS courses and frequently refer to those workbooks during my work, so I always appreciate one when it's offered.
4. The handouts were helpful and very informative.
5. Yes, very useful.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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 was very happy to have a chance to spend some time deeply immersed in the material that this course dealt with. There is no doubt at all that it will contribute directly to writing projects that I am already engaged in and that I will undertake in the future.
2. I will definitely be incorporating aspects of this RBS course into my teaching, and, because JG was aware of each student's particular interests and areas of research or interest, he went out of his way to include material objects and discussions that would be directly related to the work of the students. This means that the knowledge acquired in class, and the conversations with JG and other students about my particular area of research, are directly related to my program of study and will help me further my research.
3. This course helped fill in gaps in my knowledge and will help me place books in their appropriate historical context as I work with them in the future.
4. This course greatly broadened my knowledge of book history from commercial, cultural, social, and technical perspectives. It will be of great use in my own research and also for teaching book history classes in the future.
5. My knowledge of nineteenth-century publishing from a material and craft perspective was greatly enhanced by this course, as was my knowledge of copyright, piracies, and other such international practices. I feel I have a much, much better grasp on what I'll be looking at in my own studies going forward.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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, the instructor was extremely helpful, both in his introducing and delivering an impressive amount of content, and in soliciting and engaging with questions and comments from the class. I was hoping to have a direct engagement with a person who has mastered this area of knowledge, and I was satisfied that this instructor and this

class achieved that for me.

2. Yes, the contents of the course had both breadth and depth and adequately provided the information promised in the course description. The inclusion of student research topics into the course materials helped make the class even more applicable to student learning objectives.
3. Yes. I did.
4. Yes.
5. Yes, and yes.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. Consider alternating after-class lecture event locations in Philly so students at the Library Company don't have to make their way to UPENN every afternoon, in rush hour.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. Perhaps add more content dealing with the Caribbean periodical and print situation, but otherwise no.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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

1. Curators, special collections librarians, and scholars at various stages of their careers will benefit most from taking this class.
2. Anyone interested in an overview of American book history before 1840.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. Anyone who needs to familiarize themselves with early printing in the Americas.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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

1. Yes, without a doubt.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. I had a tuition waiver, but certainly feel this class was jam-packed and thoroughly

worthwhile!

5. Absolutely.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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

1. Yes, the class had a shared session with another class in which we discussed subscription printing of Bibles in 1840 and beyond. This dovetailed well with course content and the session was lively and interesting.
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. This was a great class. JG is a wealth of knowledge, and the location was really fun and allowed us to examine a lot of fantastic rare books.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. A haiku: Rare Book School was just / An awesome experience / You should take this class!
3. Essential.
4. {no response}
5. If given the opportunity to learn from JG, as the colonial advertisement says, "enquire of him and know him further!" It's well worth your time. ☺

6. {no response}
7. {no response}