

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. Honestly, because of changing jobs and moving, I wasn't able to do any readings this year. Fortunately, I have some background in the topic so I'm not sure that it hindered me. But if they're going to be {student response incomplete}
2. Yes, although not totally germane to the course.
3. {no response}
4. I thoroughly enjoyed the advanced reading; however, since we had some students with different backgrounds who were unfamiliar with some of the underlying technologies and concepts (e.g., MARC), I thought it would have been more useful to include some more fundamentals. It was also hard for some students to find the reading list.
5. Yes, they were.
6. They were useful, even if we didn't return to them (explicitly) in class. Perhaps there could be some more additions to help students who don't know the next thing about code (i.e., me—see below).
7. Yes. Though we didn't talk about them in class, they helped me feel more comfortable and ready to start the class.
8. Yes? I didn't do all of the readings. The ones I read did help me get in the right frame of mind for class, but we didn't actually discuss any of them in class. But, if you don't have any background in digital humanities, definitely do the readings.
9. Yes; no.
10. Yes, they helped to contextualize the course. It would be great if all of them were freely available as PDFs/online or on Google Drive. My institution doesn't have access to all of them.
11. A few case studies would have been helpful.
12. It would be helpful to rank the pre-reading to indicate which are general background/further reading and which are important to read before class to best understand the lessons.

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. Yes! I think that using notebooks for python (&c.) is a great way to teach coding and I'll use that in my own teaching. And I'll definitely go back to the course materials.
2. It was appropriate and useful but I'd wish the instructors would have advised us to brush up on coding.

3. The workbooks were not only helpful in class, they will be invaluable as I implement what I have learned in my own work.
4. The Python notebooks we used were immensely helpful! Especially since we can now have them to refer to for later. BP and CS were so thorough in their class materials that I'm sure the notebooks will be a huge help to me after I leave.
5. They were very useful and I will most definitely keep them as a resource and refer to them in the future.
6. Thank God for them! I'm happy to have the online coding sets and notebooks—they'll allow me to check everything again in my own time, as the course was a little overwhelming at times.
7. The Google notebooks will be very helpful to return to.
8. OMG, I'm so glad we get to keep the Google CoLab notebooks. There was one notebook for each session/lecture, and it's very thoroughly documented. I'm definitely going to go back and reference them.
9. Yes; absolutely.
10. Yes, the pre-coded notebooks were incredibly helpful and I plan to use them after the course.
11. Awesome-sauce.
12. They were appropriate and useful. UVA internet service problems were extremely vexing, but not the instructors' fault.

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. A project that I thought was dead now has new life! I've wanted to learn word embeddings, too, so now I want to try to build computational {illegible}
2. It will help my research. "Aha!" moment: There are many ways to skin a cat.
3. I said some version of "Aha!" at least three times a day on this course. I am excited to apply my new knowledge.
4. I mostly will be walking away from this class with a greater confidence that I can begin to do the things I was hoping to do in the digital humanities field.
5. So many new ideas! This class helped me to feel more confident with digital approaches to bibliography.
6. I realized I've been naive about using digital humanities tools as a "shortcut"—at the same time, I do have some much more specific ideas about how to make my research more feasible.
7. I think everything we learned will be valuable to me in the future one way or another, even if it's not directly applicable to my work now.
8. In the short term, I'm going to practice using my new skills on a digital humanities project for class. The skills and knowledge acquired in this class will also help me as I learn cataloging. I also have some manuscripts I'd love to OCR ...
9. I feel much more prepared to incorporate coding into my work, and to approach large bodies of text with new curiosity.
10. I will practice the skills I learned and hope to implement them into my workflow at work. Yes, I have new ideas for teaching assignments.

11. So many "aha!" moments. Lots of things to try out and play with.
12. Yes. I plan to use the info I learned to redesign and update a core course for my department's graduate certificate in professional writing/editing.

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, and then more, I think...
2. Yes, although it was not the set of skills I expected.
3. {private response} My learning far exceeded my hopes and expectations!
4. BP and CS were amazing! They are both so knowledgeable and take the time to explain everything in a way that's easy to grasp. {private response}
5. I learned what I hoped to learn from them and more.
6. I must admit to being a little lost a lot of the time—but I came completely unprepared for the coding parts. The course was a lot more technical than I expected—I expected more directly applicable tools. However, the teachers were patient and open to questions, and I do feel like I got as good an overview/map of digital humanities as I could have expected in one week (see Q1).
7. Yes, the instructors were the best part of the course. Both are extremely knowledgeable and great teachers. I feel really lucky to have been able to learn from them.
8. Yes! I just wanted to get more comfortable coding and understanding how to read code and understanding how digital tools can be applied in rare books and they definitely helped with that.
9. Yes, and more.
10. I feel like the course was even more useful than I originally imagined from the description. I didn't know we'd be coding in Python, but it was great. I found it incredibly interesting and useful!
11. Yes (and then some).
12. Yes. I learned much more than I'd hoped, which is refreshing, to say the least.

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

1. I honestly can't think of anything.
2. Tell future students to come with enough coding training (even a beginner's level would help).
3. I would have loved for the instructors to tell us what we were working to accomplish at the beginning of each class session. It could be as simple as "this code book will allow us to generate a graph, or map, &c."
4. {no response}
5. No.
6. Maybe alter the description a little? It currently says no experience is needed, but I felt like at least some was. Or get students to have some basic familiarity with coding through the preparatory reading.
7. Perhaps more preliminary readings/tutorials on the technical aspects of the course (i.e., intros

to coding, &c).

8. Maybe leave more time for questions? Both instructors were great and took time to answer our questions, but we sometimes had to rush through content at the end of class sessions.
9. I think it could benefit from more hands-on time with RBS/UVA SC materials. Perhaps a walkthrough of a sample challenge/computational exercise/solution in the beginning could help students to consider practical applications from the start.
10. Include a tour of the digitization lab at SC.
11. {no response}
12. I don't know. I'm overwhelmed, but that's much better than underwhelmed and seems to be pretty common.

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

1. Librarians, graduate students interested in the digital humanities.
2. People in digital humanities and data.
3. I would encourage more people studying contemporary rare books and bibliography to take this course. The methods taught have wide application.
4. This class is perfect for people with a range of prior familiarity with digital tools - from those who have been made aware of various things without really understanding what makes them work, to people who have some hands-on experience but want to take more control. However, I wouldn't recommend the class for someone who does not understand the basics of computer operation.
5. Anyone interested in coding digital humanities projects.
6. People who already have some computing chops. Researchers working on large sets of data.
7. This RBS course seems useful to both literary professionals and researchers. We discussed both cataloguing and bibliographical issues and text mining and analysis.
8. Anyone interested in digital humanities.
9. Librarians, archivists, and professors working in the digital humanities could benefit greatly from this course.
10. Digital archivists, librarians, digital humanists.
11. Anyone who looks at the world as data.
12. Graduate students, and early career professionals.

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

1. Yes and yes. I didn't pay, but I appreciate the premise of the question.
2. Yes, but with the caveats mentioned above.
3. Yes, and yes!
4. Absolutely!
5. Yes, yes.
6. Yes, with the above caveats/changes (see Q5).
7. Yes!
8. I was here on a scholarship so, yes. :) Would absolutely recommend!

9. Absolutely; yes.
10. Yes. The instructors were excellent!
11. Resounding yes.
12. Yes.

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

1. We went to SC and it was totally worth it.
2. N/A
3. Absolutely! I wish there was time for us to tour the digitization lab.
4. {no response}
5. N/A
6. Yes: SC visit was one of my favorite sessions (because I feel more at ease with actual rare books than with CoLab notebooks AND because it really drove home the point about scans vs. the real thing).
7. N/A
8. Yes, and I actually would've loved more time outside of the classroom in SC.
9. Yes—I really enjoyed the time in SC.
10. Trip to SC was fun and helpful for connecting digital work to the printed books.
11. Absolutely.
12. Yes.

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

1. You will be in front of the computer all day, and that's exhausting in its own way. I'd be prepared.
2. CS and BP rock!
3. Having at least a rudimentary introduction to coding is immensely helpful for maximizing your experience in this class.
4. I think the common fear for this class is that it's not "for you"—that you don't have the experience or skills necessary. But you shouldn't downplay yourself especially with BP and CS's amazing teaching and support, those who are just entering (or looking to enter) the digital humanities world are exactly those who would get the most out of it!
5. N/A
6. Prepare for a lot of coding, and read up a little in advance if digital languages are alien to you. :)
7. Be prepared to learn a lot of coding!
8. Do it! The course covers A LOT of content, but you can always go back and look at the notebooks. Don't be afraid to ask questions! Oh, and ask BP about Sophonisba.
9. I would advise anyone considering this course to apply—it opens a door to many possibilities in the realms of print and images.
10. {no response}
11. On day one, I felt all confident that I was following along. By day three, I was mired in Socratic

dejection. Worry not! By day five, it comes together.

12. Experiment with Google technologies and read up on Python and other programming languages to better follow the most technical lectures.

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

1. "Mounting Google drive / Ed into the class dir / Where'y numpy today?"
2. "Complex and demanding / gave a new understanding / Thanks, NUMPY!"
3. I came, I learned, now I will do.
4. {no response}
5. I thoroughly enjoyed my time here!
6. Numpy and I aren't friends yet, but we'll get there in good time.
7. Jam packed, but very rewarding and inspiring.
8. "Numpy the Panda"
9. A seamless typeface.
10. Jam-packed with information.
11. {no response}
12. The week passed in a Gaussian blur!