

Narrative Evaluations

- 1) *Do you have any practical suggestions for improvements to RBS's online logistics?*
 1. No
 2. I did not find Gather.town approachable or useful.
 3. {no response}
 4. No, even despite technical difficulties I thought everything went really smoothly and there was always something we could work on
 5. optional pre-course zoom and internet walk through
 6. {no response}
 7. {no response}
 8. If supplies are mailed to us ahead of time, it would be helpful to know what we should expect to receive and when (if possible). More events in Gather.town besides general social times. I really liked the Tuesday post-talk reception where we could hear more from the speaker (more things like that).
 9. N/A
 10. I thought everything went very smoothly under the circumstances. Many thanks for all the hard work that took to accomplish.
 11. I think things went really well. It was important to have Will there to troubleshoot.
 12. No
 13. The Gather.town platform is awkward to use and the timing was not optimal for networking after staring at the computer screen for hours.
 14. {no response}
 15. {no response}
 16. No
 17. {no response}
 18. No
 19. {no response}
 20. {no response}
 21. I thought it went exceptionally well - especially with the tech assistant helping out and re-sending the Zoom link every day.

- 2) *How would you describe your encounters with RBS staff?*
 1. All very positive
 2. Will was a great resource and help throughout the week!
 3. {no response}
 4. positive
 5. pleasant
 6. Pleasant and helpful
 7. Excellent – everyone has been kind, cordial, helpful, professional

8. All very friendly and helpful!
9. RBS staff was helpful and friendly.
10. Will was amazing, extremely engaged, and very approachable. I was so glad he was a part of the course.
11. Excellent. HW and Will Norton are really friendly and made the experience very enjoyable.
12. Very friendly, accommodating, and responsive.
13. very kind
14. positive
15. Highly professional, supportive, compassionate
16. Excellent
17. All encounters have been professional, friendly, and any questions/concerns I had were addressed quickly and courteously.
18. Very good!
19. Excellent!
20. Very good
21. Excellent.

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. N/A
2. NA
3. {no response}
4. The lecture was great on tuesday. It wasn't a great week for me to attend social events so I had to skip all of those but I like the idea.
5. n/a
6. {no response}
7. I was kind of Zoomed out by the end of the day, to be honest
8. Yes, like I mentioned I really loved Noelani Arista's lecture and the reception afterwards in Gather.town.
9. Yes, the presentation on Tuesday was wonderful. However, when I did visit Gather.town after sessions and the presentation hardly any students joined. I wonder if there needs to be a better way to get students to come after sessions although it is difficult after being on a computer all day.
10. Unfortunately, this course coincided with the opening of my Reading Room for the first time since COVID, and I was too busy to attend the optional events. I did not know that would happen before applying to the course, or I might have picked another week, but HW class was so amazing I'm very glad I took it.
11. {no response}
12. With the online format, it was mentally difficult to attend extra events due to zoom fatigue.
13. Yes, the lecture was fantastic. It did not relate directly to manuscripts and handwriting but was of fascinating and important content

14. I enjoyed the opening talk with MFS. Although the week lacked the energy of the face-to-face experience, MFS's talk was an uplifting opening.
15. {no response}
16. N/A
17. {no response}
18. N/a
19. {no response}
20. Lecture on Tuesday
21. Due to time differences, this didn't really work for me.

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. Yes, useful.
2. They were useful for getting me into the right headspace for the course.
3. Yes, very useful.
4. Yes. I liked the amount because I didn't have a lot of time to prepare but they helped orient me.
5. the Kathryn James book was most helpful
6. Yes, I found skimming through the suggested readings to be good preparation for the class.
7. I familiarized myself with the course packet but didn't do any reading assignments per se
8. Yes, especially James' book and the transcription practice from the UK national archive. However, a lot of this was gone over again in class so in some ways I was overprepared.
9. Yes, very useful. However, on the one book that was recommended page numbers would have been nice so we could focus on certain sections of the book. I like that we received a reading list at the end and that it was not required of us to read as homework.
10. All the activities and assignments were pertinent and useful. HW clearly has a lot of experience teaching, and the course was well organized and a pleasure to attend.
11. I worked through a portion of several of the web courses and they helped a great deal. I do think it might help to prioritize them given the amount of material they contain.
12. Very useful!
13. they were overwhelming to go through independently and the book was hard to acquire without institutional affiliations for assistance.
14. Yes, the pre-course readings were helpful. I bought the Kathryn James book, which introduced some of the topics we covered in class.
15. The online courses and resources were essential and helped me start this class fully prepared to get the most out of it.
16. Yes - I perhaps would be interested in an extended reading list with more specialized scholarship. We received this information in the course, but I

wouldn't mind seeing some of it in advance. The other materials suggested were very helpful

17. {no response}
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. Yes
21. {no response}

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. I think so
2. The content provided was useful and fun! I was excited to receive packages from RBS and all the materials are things I will keep going forward.
3. Very useful.
4. Amazing resources. I especially appreciated that HW added readings as well. The course definitely left me wanting more information and I feel I have the tools to keep exploring on my own!
5. quite useful
6. The course workbook was extremely helpful. I made many notes in it and fully expect to use it as a reference for my work going forward.
7. Fantastic; I will keep it and refer to the notes I took in my future research
8. The Alphabet Book was VERY helpful. Great to get a physical copy, but even better that it's available online.
9. The course workbook was great! I wish we spent more time using it during class or doing assignments with it. I will certainly be using this in the future. The alphabet sheets were the best part.
10. The work book is invaluable. I will continue to refer to it often.
11. It was appropriate and helpful and I will definitely consult it going forward.
12. The Alphabet Book is an indispensable resource that I will continue to use for some time. The facsimile folded letter was a great, hands on way to understand the three dimensionality of a letter.
13. very wonderful and so helpful. I think I will continue to use them.
14. Yes, it was useful, but I think we did not get to all of it because the time was shorter than the traditional week at UVA.
15. Yes, the materials were very useful. I'm so glad we received some 3D items and real paper.
16. Excellent. I will definitely continue using the materials after class. The care that went into sending us packets of information, plus quills, paper and ink, was incredible.
17. The handbook compiled by the instructor was such a useful tool to have during the course, as well as a great resource for after the course. Thank you, HW!
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. Yes

21. The teaching materials were incredibly useful within the course, and I also foresee them being really useful for my own personal research now that the course has ended.

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. A bunch of laughs
2. I walked away as a more proficient reader of early modern hand, which will help me in my day job and with my own research.
3. Professional development.
4. I improved at reading which is great because I'm doing archival research in the fall. But more than that, some of the sources we looked at ended up possibly being useful for my dissertation which was an added bonus.
5. working with special collections in my institution to transcribe documents
6. I hope that my improved paleography skills will better allow me to read and describe manuscript annotations in any early materials that I catalog.
7. I will directly apply my new skills to reading early modern English letters, commonplace books, and other documents! The work with the *Hesperides* commonplace book inspired me to look for other references to sibyls (a research interest of mine) in other English commonplace books/miscellanies.
8. I expect I'll be much better at transcribing manuscript annotations in print materials as part of rare book cataloging.
9. I am excited to get back to work to catalog some more early modern English manuscripts.
10. I began applying the content of the course immediately to material that I had questions about. This course really filled a gap in my academic and curatorial/reference training.
11. I will be putting a collection of 17th-century materials online to be transcribed by volunteers. I will also be better able to assist researchers who work with our materials.
12. Archival research, researching digitized manuscripts, &c. Transcribing marginalia and improving my ability to describe/transcribe handwriting. I appreciated the discussion of "tangled texts." I realized that a lot of visual elements I analyze in printed texts (i.e., cartouches, frontispieces, &c.) can be found in manuscript form as well. In general, the course helped me develop a heightened sense of what can be found in manuscripts.
13. I have discussed with my supervisor about cataloging some of the early modern materials in our collection that have not yet been cataloged.
14. I feel much better prepared to research and work with early modern manuscripts of a variety of genres.
15. {no response}
16. Oh yes, I have many new ideas for how to incorporate secretary hand / English manuscripts into my lectures, class materials, and possibly even research. Even seeing the way that HW taught on Zoom was incredibly edifying - using different activities (Quizlet, breakout rooms for group work, asynchronous work, the

virtual escape room - Dr. Wolfe really embraced all these different methods which was amazing to see from the other end as a student.

17. Yes, I will definitely use all the skills and information from this course!
 18. {no response}
 19. {no response}
 20. {no response}
 21. We talked a lot in the course about how to transfer this knowledge to our students. The course emboldened me to teach a workshop next summer on early modern manuscripts. I plan to use not only the skills and knowledge provided in this course but also many of the further resources that HW pointed us towards - I'm really excited to see how this is going to go with students that have never seen this material before!
- 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. It felt more like a jumping off point, but definitely learned things
 2. I did! And more!
 3. Yes.
 4. Yes and more! I was expecting to improve my reading (check!) but I didn't expect so much contextual information. That was really useful as well.
 5. yes
 6. Yes, I learned a great deal about reading secretary hand, plus information about writing numbers and the dating systems in use at the time. The additional context was helpful for interpreting the materials we looked at.
 7. Yes, absolutely! This was the best RBS course I have taken, overall but especially in terms of learning practical skills. I learned a TON this week.
 8. Yes, I feel like I learned even more than I expected to.
 9. I wish we would have talked more about descriptions for catalog records.
 10. Yes, now I just have to practice!
 11. Yes and point me to resources which will help me as I continue in my profession. Also, looking forward to collaborating with my classmates and others on our professional projects.
 12. Yes! I feel much more confident about approaching 16th/17th c. English handwriting.
 13. yes, absolutely
 14. Yes. The exercises were very helpful for practice and reinforcing skills we learned in class.
 15. I feel completely prepared to pick up early modern manuscript sources without panicking. I not only feel competent with the basic skills and tools taught in the course, but, more importantly, I know how to ask for help, and I also felt the joy of transcribing in a group. That process ensured that none of us got stuck or duplicated efforts like tracking down a word in the OED.
 16. Yes - it was all that I hoped for and more. I can't believe how quickly I was able to go from zero to passing ability to read secretary hand.
 17. {no response}

18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. Not really. The course was built on an advanced technological framework which made at least 50% of the course inaccessible to me. I expected mainly lecture and demonstration, not computer games. I was constantly trying to figure out the technology all week in an effort to access the knowledge. It was very disappointing. I reached out for help and received some, but not enough to overcome the technological barriers. I felt isolated from the rest of the class.
21. I think reading manuscripts is a skill you have to develop over time, and the course gave me a head start in figuring out how to do this, as well as the necessary knowledge and groundwork to keep developing my skills on my own. What I really valued was all the "insider knowledge" and expert tips that HW provided—this I would never even have thought of to ask (how letters were folded and then how the writing would appear once they are unfolded comes to mind as an example).

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

1. A little more structure
2. NA
3. {no response}
4. I loved it, I just wish it could've been even longer!
5. group work over zoom feels less useful than solitary work
6. Learning a little bit more about transcription conventions would have been helpful.
7. It was as good as it could have been online. It would have been better with a smaller group, but I understand why RBS took the opportunity to admit more students given that it was online.
8. I think even more transcription practice/reading out loud would be helpful, especially the messier hands.
9. Perhaps using all the worksheets that were sent in the packet for more practice?
10. I was not looking forward to another virtual training session, as I've just had enough of zoom after this year, but HW made the course really enjoyable and useful. I'm delighted I took it and I don't think it could have been improved under the circumstances.
11. I don't think so.
12. {no response}
13. It felt very short. More historical context/lecture would be beneficial
14. I would have enjoyed a longer day, starting at 8:30 or 9 a.m.
15. {no response}
16. I would have liked to do more writing in secretary hand with the group - but this is clearly a limitation of the format of being virtual. I would have wanted to share my abilities with the group.
17. {no response}
18. {no response}
19. {no response}

20. Instead of expecting us to access online sources during the zoom session to look at examples, the examples could have been shared by the instructor on her screen for the class.
21. {deleted response}

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

1. Graduate students and all researchers
2. I think anyone who is looking for a casual paleography course to improve their own skills would benefit from this course. I am young and early in my career, but I still felt comfortable and like I belonged in the course.
3. {no response}
4. anyone working with 16th or 17th (and probably even 18th) century manuscripts—as part of research or in a curatorial/librarian context. And anyone who works with print in these periods would likely benefit as well.
5. historians, archivists, librarians, academics
6. Anyone who has a need to look at and decipher manuscript materials from early modern England, whether as a researcher or a librarian.
7. Anyone who works on early modern English literature or with EM English books.
8. Anyone who needs to read early modern English manuscript materials for their studies, teaching, or job.
9. Researchers, and cataloging librarians.
10. Curators, special collections librarians, and early modernists.
11. Anyone who needs to read early English handwriting whether for their professional or personal interests.
12. Historians, literary scholars, librarians, people in the book trade. I think it is especially important for early career scholars of early modern England.
13. anyone working with English language materials
14. Any graduate student of early modern literature.
15. {no response}
16. Really anyone working with English manuscripts! Even people who study print material would do well with a working knowledge of secretary hand so they can read marginalia or hybrid books.
17. {no response}
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. Early Modernists
21. Anyone working with early modern literature or documents. We had many medievalists in the course as well, who wanted to read early modern marginalia in medieval manuscripts.

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

1. Yes
2. I do—it feels like I got a semester-long course in one week.
3. Yes.
4. yes

5. yes
6. Yes
7. Absolutely! Truly a huge amount of information was taught, and I feel like I have all the resources to continue my study. HW was funny, energetic, kind, and a great teacher.
8. Mostly. Although I could maybe have learned this from repeated practice and reading, it was very helpful to have direction and instruction (and more readings) from the instructor.
9. Yes!
10. Absolutely.
11. Definitely.
12. Yes.
13. yes
14. Yes.
15. Absolutely
16. Yes - I had a scholarship, but it was a big time commitment with a small baby and I had to arrange alternate child care, so it was a chore to work out the logistics but it was worth it.
17. {no response}
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. No
21. Absolutely.

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

1. 5
2. 10
3. 10
4. 10
5. 10
6. 10
7. 10
8. 7
9. 10
10. 10
11. 10
12. 10
13. 10
14. 10
15. 10
16. 10
17. 10
18. {no response}
19. {no response}

20. 3

21. 10

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

1. N?A
2. NA
3. {no response}
4. I loved the escape room!
5. n/a
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. Yes
9. N/A
10. Yes, the game on the first day had a guest who was lovely and whose name I can't recall now...
11. {no response}
12. N/a
13. n/a
14. Maybe. I think I would recommend guest speakers or virtual field trips only if we had an additional morning session.
15. {no response}
16. Yes - amazing bringing in the escape room. Loved seeing the collaboration
17. {no response}
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. N/A
21. {no response}

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

1. no
2. Do it!
3. {no response}
4. HW is a really welcoming and thoughtful instructor–this course could have been way more boring (and I would still have enjoyed it) but it was full of energy and different styles of learning.
5. n/a
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. N/A
10. Many thanks for such a wonderful and productive week.
11. If you haven't done any work with early English manuscripts, definitely take advantage of the online courses in the reading list for the course.

12. {no response}
13. Using two screens is helpful, preferably one larger, and rest your eyes in between sessions.
14. I reviewed my notes each evening and practiced transcribing the alphabet.
15. {no response}
16. Take this course! Dr. Wolfe is amazing!
17. {no response}
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. If it is to be taught in the same technological format, no one should take it who is not technologically astute and used to computer games.
21. Make sure you block out not only time for the course, but time to do homework and practice what you have learned outside the course.

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

1. elderberry wine
2. Welcoming and insightful
3. Highly recommended.
4. Useful and fun!
5. an intense, good time
6. Wonderful and worthwhile
7. Plunging into handwriting and coming up swimming strongly!
8. {no response}
9. Rare Book School is everything!
10. Wonderful.
11. It was fun to learn to read again.
12. {no response}
13. post haste and mind yr c's and e's, lest they look like r's! William Derike is an awful person.
14. This workshop convinces me that the printing revolution led to a <manuscripting> revolution.
15. {no response}
16. {no response}
17. {no response}
18. {no response}
19. {no response}
20. I have taken many RBS courses over the years. This is the very first one that has been "disappointing".
21. It was a delight.

Student Data

Number of Respondents: 21 (of 23)

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

1. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
2. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
3. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
4. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
5. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
6. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
7. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
8. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
9. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
10. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
11. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
12. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
13. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
14. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
15. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
16. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
17. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
18. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
19. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
20. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
21. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

1. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
2. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
3. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
4. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
5. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
6. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
7. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
8. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
9. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
10. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
11. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
12. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
13. My situation does not fit any of the options above.
14. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part of my tuition expenses; I paid the rest.
15. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
16. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
17. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
18. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.

19. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
20. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
21. My situation does not fit any of the options above.

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

1. This is my first course.
2. This is my first course.
3. This is my first course.
4. This is my first course.
5. This is my first course.
6. This is my first course.
7. 3
8. This is my first course.
9. This is my first course.
10. 1
11. 5
12. This is my first course.
13. This is my first course.
14. 1
15. 2
16. This is my first course.
17. This is my first course.
18. This is my first course.
19. This is my first course.
20. 10+
21. This is my first course.

Which of the following best describes your current occupation?

1. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
2. Student working towards a/an: M.L.I.S./M.L.S.
3. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
4. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
5. Student working towards a/an: M.L.I.S./M.L.S.
6. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
7. Professional educator: Associate professor
8. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
9. Library discipline: Cataloger/metadata librarian
10. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
11. Library discipline: Special collections librarian
12. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
13. Library discipline: Other
14. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
15. Professional educator: Assistant professor
16. Professional educator: Associate professor
17. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.

18. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
19. Other Occupations/Vocations: Post-doctoral fellow/researcher/scholar
20. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.
21. Professional educator: Assistant professor