

Ryan Boatright
I-35: The Identification of Photographic & Digital Print Processes
2–7 June, 2024, Charlottesville, Virginia

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. Yes! Didn't have time to look at them at-length, and they were dry and difficult without the grounding that the course provided. But they will be great to look back to as references with my newfound knowledge.
2. The pre-course readings were incredibly useful, providing a great introduction. They will remain useful as references moving forward.
3. They were useful for becoming familiar with processes ahead of time, although the level of detail is daunting. I'm glad to have them for future reference.
4. Extremely helpful—I came into class with a rough understanding of base principles that I would not have otherwise had, and that classmates who did not had to ask a lot of questions about.
5. {no response}
6. The pre-course readings are more like helpful resources than assigned reading, but even reviewing them beforehand will let you know what to expect (and they will become indispensable to you after completing the course!).
7. Yes! No improvements to suggest.
8. The three assigned books were useful and it will be helpful to consult them after this course.
9. Yes, the pre-course readings were useful, and I am pleased they will continue to serve as professional resources. Knowing the standards in the field is a huge takeaway for the course.
10. Yes, but much more useful as further reading and reference works.
11. Yes.
12. Yes. Somewhat expensive and hard to find.

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. SO very useful. I think this will be such a great guide that I will want to keep forever. Also love the idea of building a personal didactic collection, which this guide will help me to do.
2. The workbook is a useful place to take notes, as it is a printout of the slides—I wish it were easier to print it in color, as this is a course about identifying print/digital processes and color is a big key.
3. It was extremely useful to have the slides printed with space for notes. The I.D. notes provided in Google Drive were also helpful. The samples of digital print processes were also helpful to see in class, and it would be great to have a complete set for each student. The variety of photographs and prints we saw during class was incredibly useful.
4. Workbook very helpful to keep up with lectures, structure my notes, and take image references away with me. I think other materials (I.D. handouts in Google Drive) will be better references for identifying in the field, however—more concise.

5. The workbook is excellent, and I'm very glad it was provided. It would be useful to be told it would be provided in hard copy ahead of time. I assumed it would not be, and looked into making a printout myself, which I ultimately decided against because of the expense (\$150-200). I would have been pretty upset if I'd shelled out that money only to be presented with a printout in class.
 6. The workbook of slides was a great way to take notes. The content was very useful.
 7. Very useful, excellent content.
 8. It was nice having note space for every slide but it will be difficult to use as a reference source since it's so huge and you have to hunt down any specific process.
 9. The bound printouts of the slides were a major asset for note-taking and following along with the course content. I will definitely keep it as a reference after the course. I also appreciated the digital resources RB shared.
 10. Yes, will be useful after class.
 11. Next time, I think a worksheet with all the terminology would be helpful to focus.
 12. Excellent. A lot lies on color so was difficult to know that without following in person.
- 3) *Which aspects of the course were most intriguing and relevant for you as an individual? Did you walk away with any new insights, ideas, or project plans?*
1. I think learning early processes was the most transformative element for me—to feel much more confident that I understand the technical aspects of photographic processes. Also, I found the photomechanical parts really useful.
 2. I am immediately going to apply this knowledge to my work.
 3. I'll feel much more confident identifying photographic and print materials in archives and in teaching students about these processes. I'll also be able to use more precise terms in my own writing because of this class.
 4. I was inspired to start examining how things around me were printed! I also feel ready to make better choices about how to store photographic materials in my work archive. I've also been inspired to take up darkroom photography!
 5. I will use what I've learned in class at work, and it has also given me some ideas for personal projects.
 6. The hands-on identification practice was so important. The only way you learn how to identify prints is to actually do it!
 7. The broad overview of photographic processes and their development was very well-thought-out and will remain with me as I work with relevant materials.
 8. It was very useful for my future goal of working with archival materials. I feel more confident identifying and cataloguing visual material. I know what areas to study and memorize and how to improve.
 9. I really appreciated the hands-on I.D. practice we did through the week. Instructor-led, hands-on practice was the most useful. I will definitely put my new I.D. skills to use in my archival description and preservation work.
 10. Very excited about some of the new techniques. Will try to use some in my own visual work.
 11. Hands-on practicum. Mini-workshops with my stuff.
 12. Yes—new insight. Best part was hands-on study collection use (from RBS and RB).

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!
2. Overall, the course has built a foundation and provided resources that will help build skill with practice, because this does take practice! I had hoped to learn more about best preservation practices for the materials, as that was specifically mentioned in the course description but, really, not a huge deal.
3. Yes, my ability to understand and identify photographic, photo-mechanical, and digital processes grew tremendously. I would have liked to spend a little more time on display practices, but I was very satisfied with the knowledge I acquired about identification.
4. Yes, and yes—RB was supportive, patient, and thorough. I gained a lot of new knowledge on photographic prints, and more than I ever imagined knowing about digital!
5. Yes.
6. Yes! RB is a great instructor, very knowledgeable and approachable!
7. Yes, and yes!
8. Yes! I would have liked a bit more information on archival storage methods. It seems like there was more of it in the curriculum but we ran short on time.
9. Yes, RB has a huge breadth of knowledge and experience and was a generous instructor. I appreciated his teaching style—he encouraged questions and fostered a lively, inquisitive atmosphere where everyone's expertise and ideas were valued.
10. Yes. Also need to buy loupes, microscopes.
11. Yes.
12. Yes, definitely. RB is very knowledgeable and a great instructor as well as practitioner in the field.

5) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*

1. Will be so useful to make me a better teacher/researcher/writer about photography.
2. At my job, which involves describing prints and photographs.
3. In dissertation research viewing Nineteenth- and Twentieth-century photographs in archives, and in teaching history of photography.
4. I plan to more confidently evaluate photographic and printed materials I process archivally, and to be better equipped to apply for photo librarian positions.
5. Since no one else in my department is interested in photographs, I will now be the “photo person” in the cataloging department.
6. During archival research and to understand the ways different photographs and prints age.
7. This will inform my institutional work with describing and housing photographs.
8. This will be very useful information for future cataloging and digitization projects since I can accurately describe things beyond “photograph.”
9. I will use my new knowledge and newly acquired resources in my archival description and preservation work.

10. To better describe any institution's collections and to train other cataloguers to do so.
11. Teaching my staff.
12. Teaching, personal use in own artwork.

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

1. Archivists, scholars, anyone interested in photography.
2. Anyone looking for a solid introduction to photo and digital print processes.
3. Art and photo historians, librarians and archivists with photo collections.
4. Archivists, art historians of photos and books, conservators.
5. Aspiring/current art librarians, archivists.
6. Archivists and art historians interested in the process.
7. A very wide scope of people based on their interests and professional responsibilities.
8. People in archival professions or anyone tasked with cataloguing photographs.
9. Archivists, curators, art historians, preservation specialists.
10. Archivists, photo historians, anyone responsible for identifying and describing photographic processes.
11. Photo archivists, archivists, photo conservationists.
12. Those working in photo collections, artists, printmakers.

7) *If applicable, what were the most original, powerful, or otherwise noteworthy educational moments in the course? Were there any "aha!" moments you'd like to share?*

1. Learning the difference between printing out papers and developing out papers was really illuminating—thinking about the significance of this shift and how the making of photographic prints really shifted in the aftermath of Kodak's film and the necessity for enlargements. Also, really helpful in helping me understand innovations in color photography and digital printing—fascinating to think about the kind of bureaucratic history that predated using digital printers as artmaking tools.
2. The hands-on time with the materials was absolutely the most important benefit—you really can't know it until you see it.
3. The test at the beginning and end really showed how much I had learned. Starting to view all the processes again on Friday morning also really helped everything come together. Hands-on time with materials was invaluable!
4. I actually understand how Additive and Subtractive color works and can differentiate the two!
5. {no response}
6. The "aha" moment happened for me on day five during the all-process identification sessions. Putting all that knowledge together was key.
7. By reviewing photographic processes through different lenses (pun intended) including historical, commercial, mechanical, chemical (&c.) information was taught and then continuously reinforced with more information.
8. Just learning to signs to distinguish techniques. Before this all photographs were a mystery. Now at least I know all the vocabulary even if I can't perfectly identify everything.

9. Every single example shared and discussion with RB was worthy of an “aha” moment.
10. The concept of layers in the photographic print.
11. The fact there is a multitude of digital print types.
12. RB sharing his digital study collection.

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

1. Sometimes felt like we were going through the concepts a little fast and would have loved to take even more time with identifications to make sure I really understood how to identify the processes we were looking—would have liked more opportunities to test myself. But given the time we had, I think RB did such an excellent job.
2. Twelve is bordering on too many—giving less time to see more stuff (some students saw some samples and others saw others; hard to compare as discussing). Maybe a document projector so the whole class can see examples up close? We were sidetracked a number of times by conversations explaining fine arts processes and other questions which, while interesting, did affect the amount of time we had to actually discuss identifying the prints—the instructor did refocus with an emphasis that this is about identification, so it got better.
3. Maybe a little more time for the test at the end, and having a full set of digital process samples per student. But these are minor—the course was fantastic!
4. Being able to ask questions at any point was helpful in many ways; however, questions could be distracting and frequent interruptions—perhaps implementing more limits on when/how many questions, or pointing the class to readings to learn more about specific processes? Generally though, RB was a gracious and skilled leader of the classroom!
5. RB's photo sample kits are great, but since there was only one for the whole class, it was a bit awkward and time consuming to use. Having one set per student so we could all be looking at the same thing at once (or compare different techniques together) would be a game changer.
6. Having a “test” day the last 30 minutes was difficult as I wanted to walk away feeling like I had a good handle on the material (which I know I do), but rushing through the assessment made me miss some important identifications.
7. I'd love a session where students could make pop prints. I did not pay for this. It is a very valuable experience, but I don't think I would pay full tuition/housing without any institutional support.
8. There was a lot of material to cover and a lot had to be condensed or skipped. Maybe some areas should be trimmed. I paid for this through a scholarship but I spent over \$600 in housing and transportation. I could definitely say I got my money's worth for the amount of information covered.
9. I would have appreciated our slides/notes booklet to be printed in color. It would be wonderful if there had been an Atelier Boba digital print example set for each student. This is a wonderful course with a subject matter not widely taught, available, or understood. RB is an excellent, engaging instructor.
10. Enough small microscopes so we didn't have to share.
11. With the didactic collections, more labels of photo process type on the back so that you can easily see if you identified correctly.

12. Have more darkroom time. Yes, but wish the PDF sent ahead of class came more than a day before. It was hard to schedule my day around RBS without knowing the scope of the schedule (long Friday lunch—first time in person).

9) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? How likely are you to recommend this course to others? On a 1-10 scale, 1 would indicate that you disagree that you got your money's worth, 5 would indicate a neutral response, and 10 would indicate that you agree that you got your money's worth.*

1. 10
2. 9
3. 10
4. 8
5. 10
6. 10
7. {no response}
8. 9
9. 10
10. 10
11. 10
12. {no response}

10) *If your course made any (virtual) field trips outside of the classroom or had guest speakers, do you feel that they enhanced the course experience?*

1. Yes! Loved the darkroom visit.
2. The darkroom trip was great—it would be great if RBS would assist with finding someone to set up the darkroom in advance to save time.
3. Yes, it was helpful to see a darkroom demonstration.
4. Visiting the darkroom was so fun and really helpful as we discussed developing processes. Please keep in future years!
5. {no response}
6. Yes! The darkroom demo is so important.
7. Yes, I very much enjoyed and valued our visit to the darkroom.
8. The darkroom visit was fun! It definitely seems like we would need more time or more pre-planning to have the full experience.
9. Yes, the darkroom was so important to understanding DOP.
10. Went to a darkroom to print. Was already somewhat knowledgeable about this.
11. Darkroom, yes!
12. Yes, but could've used more time and more organization on RBS's part. Instructor did the best he could in an unfamiliar lab.

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

1. {no response}
2. Do it.

3. This was very useful, with a helpful mix of lecture and hands-on time. RB is an expert instructor. I would recommend becoming familiar with the readings well in advance, so the repetition of information can help you remember the various processes.
4. Do the readings (at least skim and write out main points) prior to class! They will give you a base of knowledge to meaningfully build on.
5. {no response}
6. The real work comes from identifying works in person. Studying is good, but spending time with objects is best.
7. {no response}
8. Be prepared to look at lots of things under a microscope. If you have no interest in contemporary or fine art printing some of this class won't be for you.
9. Invest in the recommended reading.
10. Have (better than I) a basic knowledge of photo process terms coming in.
11. Review photo collections at home and archive and bring some, if you can, or take reference photos along.
12. It is great! RB is the best and can relay his knowledge to a large group and keep on task beyond student questions that may not be relevant.

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

1. Overstimulating, but worth it.
2. Every time I attend a course I am impressed by the quality of the instruction and my fellow attendees, and I leave excited to return! RB is great! So knowledgeable and personable—definitely bring him back!
3. This was a fantastic week full of learning in a community of friendly and motivated students, staff, and instructors.
4. Lots of photographs / Mixed with bagels, coffee, and / Extended chats
5. Much better than I expected.
6. {no response}
7. A lot of knowledge / In five days, we learned so much / Developed our minds
8. Bring a jacket! It's chilly.
9. Worth the time and money. A great experience learning and meeting new people.
10. Amidst all the green, / Learning the deep black, silver / Traces so fugitive
11. Thanks, RB, for my favorite RBS course!
12. You'll come away feeling refreshed and reinvigorated to study what you just spent the whole week studying!