

Ryan Boatright
I-35: The Identification of Photographic & Digital Print Processes
1–6 June, 2025, 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. {no response}
2. They were useful as an extra/optional reading, but definitely not necessary to read beforehand. RB starts you from zero and builds up your confidence and skills much faster than the textbooks would.
3. I thought they were a good foundation
4. Yes, they were. I mostly skimmed them because they are resources I would use more as reference.
5. {no response}
6. They were useful for familiarizing myself with general concepts and terminology ahead of time and will be valuable reference material for the future. Highly recommend spending time with those ahead of coming
7. Super useful. The readings are dense and I found it best to read the book on digital processes in a nonlinear fashion. The color book was also helpful and also dense. I think they both make more sense now.
8. Yes, they were useful—three shortish books seemed manageable, they were a good intro to the concepts we learned in class. Books had good examples and illustrations, I will refer back to them now, with my knowledge from the class
9. Great reference reading list, both books and online materials.

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 course content was excellent. To understand all the different printing processes covered is a lot to comprehend. RB balanced the course with discussion, presentation, storytelling and looking at materials. I left knowing more than when I started. The workbook and suggested reading will be a helpful reference as I move forward. I already have the magnifiers in my shopping cart.
2. Extremely grateful I had the course workbook, but I wish ours was in color since it is all so image-based. I'll definitely use the workbook later.
3. Liked not needing a laptop and all the slides and room for notes were present
4. I liked the spiral course packet, but I wish it was in color. I know that not always practical, but for photo identification it would make a big difference.
5. I'm happy to have all the slides and appreciate the note space that accompanies each one. I will be using my notebook for reference and will certainly continue to turn to the Graphics Atlas as well. My only note is there were quite a few extraneous slides
6. Everything was well laid out—the amount of photos, images, examples available were very useful

7. Yes. It is useful. Great to have the download in color, too. I believe I will refer to my notes often.
8. Mostly printouts of all the slides, which was useful in some ways (didn't have to duplicate info), I still used a notebook to take extra notes—reference sheets for different processes at the end will be very useful.
9. Extremely useful content and excellent workbook with a lot of applicable and valuable information. I will continue to refer to it in my future work.

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. As an artist, photographer and imaging specialist the course was very relevant in both my personal and professional life. RB talked us through the choices he makes as a master printmaker which will help me make future paper and printing choices in my own artistic creation. In my working day environment, what I learned will help me identify and speak intelligently with colleagues about the various printing techniques.
2. For me, the display and care of prints was most useful and gave me more knowledge and ideas.
3. I thought the course brought new insight and things I can be aware of when dealing with images/photographs.
4. All of it. This class directly relates to my everyday duties.
5. The history of photography, esp. nineteenth-century processes. I will need to continue practicing identification but I feel like I've learned the alphabet to a new language and I still need time to fully absorb it all.
6. I came into the course most interested in learning nineteenth-century photography, but now see that I will also get a lot out of the digital and more contemporary processes as much if not more than I expected.
7. It is all useful. I think however that I gained the most in understanding how many digital processes exist.
8. Yes, I am coming away with a lot of new information and context for the history of photography and digital printing and for identifying processes. The hands-on aspect, being able to see and hold many examples, really helped.
9. Hands-on aspect and identifications of all photo processes. I have learned tremendously a lot in this course and most importantly have an understanding of how to approach identification process, what sources and tools to refer to.

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. I learned more than I hoped to learn. I love the history of photography as does the instructor. He took us back to the beginning of the camera obscura, then on a journey to contemporary practices in the field of photography. RB has a deep knowledge and passion for the subject of photographic, photomechanical and digital printing practices.
2. Definitely to both!
3. Yes, the schedule was rapid but we covered all the basics
4. Yes and yes.

5. I think no, but the question is how much will I be able to retain!
6. Absolutely, that and more, RB is a great and knowledgeable instructor
7. It may have taken all week and a couple of frustrating days, but I learned a ton and by Friday it was all starting to stick.
8. Yes! I have the knowledge (and the reference materials) I need to identify print processes.
9. RB is an excellent instructor. ALL information promised in the course was provided and beyond promised. Great materials, examples, packet prepared for class! A lot of reviewing and ensuring that everyone had good understanding of all processes and comfortable identifying them!

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

1. I will never look at a printed photograph the same.
2. This will give me better context into my collection, better display and care ideas and better ideas of what other institutions and individuals do.
3. I hope to be able to have a decent baseline of recognition techniques and have a good knowledge back drop that could be somewhat insightful at work
4. In processing collections and working directly with artists and fellows.
5. More accurately identifying photographic processes. As a rare book cataloger, it is very important to me that I be accurate.
6. I feel like I have a solid groundwork for identifying photos by sight, and certainly along with reference materials—as an antiquarian bookseller who deals with photos this will be very helpful, the digital processes will be useful in looking at ephemera and certain publications.
7. Frequently at work. Evaluating collections. Teaching undergrads and grads in an MFA program.
8. I will use them to help identify and better describe photographs in my institution's collection.
9. Connect “identification of photo processes and types of materials” important in my everyday work in order to ensure the proper preservation and safeguarding of our collection materials.

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

1. Anyone with an interest in the history of photography and printmaking will enjoy this class.
2. Photography collection managers, curators, exhibit designers, archivists, catalogers, &c.
3. People who work with photographs or images in both early and modern techniques or just want a good foundation
4. Archivists, curators, exhibits.
5. Archivists, curators, booksellers who specialize in the nineteenth century or archives, artists... lots of people!
6. Booksellers/archivists/librarians.
7. Curators, archivists.
8. Anyone interested in photography, with photographs in their professional or even personal collections.

9. Librarians for preservation conservators/paper, book, objects, archivists, collectors.

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. I had so many “aha” moments. When the materials that make photography come to life are explained with cross section diagram, I walk away in awe.
2. Finally having color print ID click and photomechanical process ID click was super rewarding. I feel confident in identifying those now.
3. It was good to see the evolution and incorporate how things overlapped (or differed).
4. {no response}
5. No “aha moments,” just layer after layer that at first doesn't look like much but suddenly I realize I've learned a lot.
6. Being able to not only identify a photo but also understand it's place in photographic history.
7. Many “aha” moments were had. Finally figuring out what a “scaley” dot looks like what the best.
8. Realizing there is so much more to digital printing, or inkjet printing, than I knew.
9. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. No, 10 out of 10.
3. Overall it was a good yet fast based course. {4.9: 10. it is an investment in my skills + totally worth it}
4. I almost wish there were two courses, one up to silver gelatin, another fully devoted to color and digital. I'm a slow processor and being able to slow down and capture everything was hard.
5. RB is great—no need for improvement
6. Bigger room? So many materials and found it hard to move around or see the board.
7. Maybe more hands-on time, but the lecture portions were also very informative.
8. {no response}

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. 10
3. 10. I knew little before the course + at the end felt like I could identify methods of photographic prints I didn't know existed prior to the course.
4. 10

5. I think an 8, but much of it depends again on how well I manage to retain it all. I worry that it was too much information for too short a time period.
6. 10
7. 10
8. 10—I learned a lot and feel I have the knowledge and tools to identify photo and digital print processes.
9. 10

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. We went to the darkroom and made a print. It's always a pleasure to see the latent image appear on the paper. I also gave RB and a few classmates a quick tour of the Digital Imaging Studio which was fun for us.
2. Yes, going to a dark room and seeing the process gave so much context.
3. The darkroom visit gave great context for what we were learning in class
4. Not really. The darkroom visit was interesting, but I don't feel like it added to my understanding.
5. I'm not sure I would have missed the darkroom expedition, that time may better have been used for more hands on time looking at examples.
6. The trip to the darkroom was very useful.
7. N/A
8. Darkroom visit was interesting to see the developing process in real life, and to realize how iterative and time consuming it can be!
9. Enjoyed all the tours and visits including the visit to digitization lab.

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

1. Take it.
2. Definitely take for the course info, but also to get to know other people across different institutions. That was the best part.
3. If you are interested in photos/images it will expand knowledge (especially for people beginning to learn/develop better skill sets).
4. {no response}
5. I would recommend it but tell them to be prepared for a lot of digital, which isn't frequently relevant to my line of work.
6. If you think a better understanding of photography could help you at all - take this course.
7. It starts frustrating, but ends well. Be willing to guess wrong so that you can come to understand better.
8. It was great. RB is very knowledgeable with great real-world experience with both identification of older print technologies and the creation of digital prints.
9. {no response}

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

1. This course will change the way you see pictures.
2. Rewarding personally and professionally.
3. Fast-paced, informative, building blocks.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Great learning experience in a welcoming environment.
7. I am so tired/Happy yes, but so tired/Can I register again?
8. I'm sad it's over!
9. It was enlightening, tremendously educational and enjoyable! Thank you!