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M-85: Introduction to Islamicate Manuscripts  
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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. Very useful.
2. The pre-course reading assignments were wonderful. They struck an important balance between cultural contextualization and tools for manuscript description and analysis.
3. They were very useful—I appreciated having a little background before the class.
4. Most of them, yes. Hirschler was a bit tough to get through, but I appreciated all the suggested readings. I'll use them in the future!
5. Yes! The Hirschler readings were especially rich. I have a background in Persianate manuscripts so it wasn't a problem for me, but I suspect further readings on Islamic dynasties would have been helpful for those less aware of Mamluk, Ottoman, Mughal, &c. histories.
6. Yes! More suggestions online would be great—there's a great bibliography in the course pack.
7. I do feel that the readings were useful. I didn't read all of them prior to the course, which I don't think diminished my experience, but I'm glad to have the bibliography to refer to in the future.
8. Yes, it provided a very useful foundation on a tough subject. More clarity on what is required or recommended could be helpful.
9. Very useful.

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. If there could be a list of all the manuscripts we handled that would be great. The lecture of each session is not quite related to the workbook. Would be great if the workbook could be in the order of lectures.
2. I will certainly keep the workbook, especially because of its bibliography.
3. The booklet distributed is very useful and I will definitely refer to it later.
4. Yes, they were excellent and will be very useful! It was a great refresher on components of the material book. And the Islamic info was very helpful.
5. It will absolutely be useful, especially the object consult template and the bibliography. I will probably use this as a model should I ever make my own pedagogical utensils.
6. Appropriate and useful. Would be grateful if it were expanded, with more script samples, for example.
7. Yes, the workbook was extremely useful during the course and I'm sure I will refer to it in the future.
8. Definitely useful during and after the course for reference. Perhaps adding some information on illuminations and illustrations—like terminology, stylistic elements.
9. The teaching materials were super, and I will certainly use those and the workbook for reference in the future.

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. The handling of objects.
2. I am more intrigued by the subject than I was coming into the course. My immediate plan is to come up with a program of self-study based on the bibliographies, as well as to revisit the two repositories and study some of the manuscripts more closely.
3. Not only do I better understand the materials, but I also have ideas for future possible acquisitions as for enhancing our catalog records.
4. I loved learning about the illuminations/illustrations. So many new ideas! It will greatly impact both my teaching and research.
5. Yes, particularly around objects with which I hadn't previously been familiar. Beyond exposure to new objects, speaking with my fellow classmates who come from the library sphere was extremely enlightening as to the kinds of projects one may pursue outside of the profession.
6. I run a project cataloging Ottoman Turkish MSS for which I hire graduate students w/ linguistic and historical background. This has been so helpful to organize the attributes I've seen in practice into a more coherent theory.
7. Learning about the conventions and variations of Islamicate MSS was extremely valuable to me, and I was particularly pleased to get to see some of the West African MSS and scientific MSS, since those are prevalent in the collections I work with.
8. The discussion of layout and identifying different types of text as well as illustrations. Yes—lots of ideas and inspiration for projects.
9. Seeing the manuscripts in person, and so many of them. Yes, I will go through related manuscripts I recently worked on to see if I can improve my descriptions.

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. Very helpful.
2. Yes, and yes.
3. Definitely!
4. Yes, they were both phenomenal and I learned SO much. With the time allotted, we covered a lot in a single week.
5. Yes—and then some!
6. Yes! Both from planned exercises and from their openness to lots of questions.
7. Yes, I learned so much, even more than I could have anticipated.
8. Yes, excellent introduction (crash course) which can be built on using suggested databases, resources, and collections.
9. Yes. Totally exceeded expectations.

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

1. To better catalogue the Islamic books and manuscripts in my library and the collection of my instruction.
2. I will be more informed about some of the collections in my care.
3. Mostly for teaching with related materials, as well as cataloging new acquisitions.

4. I plan on developing a unit on Islamicate manuscripts in my medieval manuscripts class. I also hope to continue research on Islamicate manuscripts!
5. It will inform my ongoing dissertation research as well as future opportunities I hope to have as a teacher of this material.
6. To continue Ottoman project and advocating for those collections. I'm also co-curating an exhibition on Islamicate manuscripts.
7. I plan to develop a research project exploring materials used in West African MSS—this course has been inspirational.
8. Hopefully to acquire Islamicate manuscript leaves of facsimiles to provide our students and public with a better global understanding.
9. At work and for personal research.

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

1. Anyone that's interested in Islamic manuscripts.
2. Anyone whose work involves Islamicate manuscripts.
3. Anyone who works with Islamicate materials.
4. Anyone interested in learning about it, particularly those who know little about the topic (since it's at an introductory level).
5. Librarians, archivists, cataloguers dealing with Islamic materials who do not have a background in the field, and pre-comprehensive exam M.A./Ph.D. students.
6. {no response}
7. Anyone with an interest, but I think especially useful for catalogers.
8. Catalogers, librarians, and art historians.
9. Professionals who work with books and manuscripts.

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. The introduction of scripts and calligraphy. The visit to the Material library at Penn. Valuable experiences of understanding the paper, pigments and writing tools in the Islamic culture.
2. {no response}
3. Generally, the ability to view and compare related and different examples in person—it was invaluable!
4. Seeing all the beautiful manuscripts and handling them was quite powerful.
5. I am happy to say I can finally distinguish thuluth from muhaqqaq {types of Arabic calligraphic script}.
6. I've been puzzled by the depth of central medallions on Ottoman bindings. Now I know the effect is achieved in part by cutting away the pasteboards.
7. The "show and tell" format of the course is so valuable. Getting to see and handle so many MSS is such a treat. I learned so much from the instructors and my fellow students.
8. All of the mentions of additional resources and databases.
9. I have a much better understanding of scripts and paper used for Islamic MSS.

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

1. If the workbook can be in the order of lectures that would be great.

2. {no response}
  3. I can't think of any!
  4. Hard to say! Perhaps another lecture on the history of Islam would be useful, but not necessary.
  5. It might be helpful to walk participants through the basics of the Arabic alphabet and its histories, probably in the Day 1 lecture. For example, showing the different positions of the letters and explaining the how the alphabet has been used also for Persian, Ottoman, {indecipherable}, and Urdu.
  6. More manuscripts. {Student drew smiley face.} More script examples in course pack.
  7. {no response}
  8. No, excellent information and design.
  9. Maybe provide a full list of all the MSS we saw with shelf marks?
- 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. 9
2. 7
3. 10
4. 10
5. 9. {—only because it probably wasn't for someone who has taken general exams for doctoral work, but it was great review and I still learned lots of new material."}
6. 10
7. 10
8. 10
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. Definitely.
2. {Appended to above answer: "Absolutely!"} Yes, the day at Penn was very worthwhile. The materials library was a revelation!
3. **Yes**—our day spent at Kislak and the Penn materials library.
4. {Appended to above answer: "Certainly! 10— money's worth (especially with a scholarship!)" Student drew a heart.} Yes, the trip to the Van Pelt was worth the day trip. The material library was really cool too. I learned so much!
5. Going to the materials lab was a **huge** highlight—I wish we could have spent all afternoon there.
6. Yes! The Manuscripts Library and Penn's collections were wonderful complements to FLP.
7. Yes, I'm glad we were able to spend a day at Penn to see an even wider variety of MSS. And I loved the visit to the Materials Library—I think that's an excellent enhancement to the course.
8. N/A
9. Totally yes.

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

1. Worth it every minute.
2. Take it! You'll be glad you did.
3. Definitely do it! And do some of the pre-course reading.
4. Nope!
5. Regarding the materials lab, it actually would have been nice to practice with a reed pen or seen a demonstration of paper making.
6. {no response}
7. It was fantastic. MSS, KT, and Sofia did a terrific job running the course.
8. Do as much prep as possible—the more understanding of Arabic, the better.
9. TO come after having done some work or reading on Islamic MSS.

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

1. You won't regret it.
2. Ab Fab.
3. Overwhelming, amazing, unique, invaluable, and now I need a nap. ☺
4. An overwhelming fountain of knowledge has burst through me and leaves me happy to keep learning!
5. What a treat it was / To gaze upon manuscripts / With friends and colleagues
6. A wonderfully insightful, inquisitive, and generous community of book-minded folks. A huge thanks also to the staff of the FLP who made us so welcome!
7. Fantastic.
8. I don't want to say it's typical, but...
9. It gave me lots of new ideas and I'm excited to go back to catalogue Islamic MSS and discovering {sic.} things I overlooked.