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H-65: Material Foundations of Map History, 1450-1900  
11–16 June, Charlottesville, Virginia

**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. Pre-course readings were useful and I plan to read them again with the knowledge and context I've gained from the course.
2. I did the required pre-course readings as well as the recommended ones. I thought they were all very helpful and enabled me to get a lot out of the class. The materials seemed well-chosen and the amount of reading was not at all burdensome.
3. I was added from the waitlist, so I did not do any pre-reading.
4. On the whole they were pretty useful. The most useful was the reading on bound images which helped me prepare for the terminology used frequently throughout the course.
5. Extremely useful, especially for those participating in the course without previous knowledge or special expertise with maps. Great way to get one's feet wet before diving in.
6. I found the advanced reading useful in orienting myself a bit more quickly and easily to material covered in class, but I don't feel that it was essential to have read them before I came. They were a helpful introduction but not indispensable to my ability to understand the lectures.
7. The pre-course reading assignments were spot-on in terms of relevance to the course content, and very reasonable in terms of quantity.
8. Yes! I don't know enough to say if anything should be added. I enjoyed ME's book (which was optional).
9. Yes. No. Making the updated reading list available sooner would be helpful—I chased down books and articles we didn't need, and ended up still needing some that had been added.
10. The readings were useful, interesting, and not onerous. The instructor did a good job of tying them into class topics without wasting class time covering content we'd seen in the readings.
11. Yes. I read them all.

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. I loved the course workbook and will refer to information within it in the future.
2. The bibliography in the workbook is terrific—I look forward to having that resource handy. Otherwise, the workbook contained the crucial schedule for each day, helpful information, and readings for one class period. The content seemed appropriate and well organized.
3. I appreciated the variety of materials used to teach the course, the course packet, the dropbox article, &c. (I could have benefitted from a brief reading/article on the history of mapping—I could have asked more intelligent questions throughout the week. Haha.) However, the most valuable: the professor gave us his slides at the end of his lectures and that was PHENOMENAL. Worth its weight in gold. Because it's such a visual course, having the slides with the maps there was great. Will be studying those.
4. The course workbook could have been more hefty, with us only using the diagrams and charts in the course workbook in the first two days.
5. I'm looking forward to using the workbooks definitions and bibliography as well as the detailed presentation slides as references for the rest of time.
6. Yes, the course handbook is very useful! ME included a massive bibliography I will be consulting for years to come and will share with my colleagues or suggest that my institution purchase.
7. The bibliography ME includes in the workbook is phenomenal, as are the references he shares in class. I will be using both to continue deepening my knowledge of the field.
8. Yes—very useful. Having access to the slides in particular is great because there is so much in them, particularly the bibliographical stuff for later use. My head is full of ideas!
9. Yes. Yes. It would be nice to have the lecture slides available ahead of time so I could annotate them instead/in addition to separate notebook notes.
10. The course workbook was useful during class, but its real value is in the thematic list of references in the back, which I can't wait to dig into after the course.
11. Useful for keeping track of all the terms.

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 plan to return to the collection at my institution and apply the information learned in this course. I am interested in the idea of potentially creating digital versions of carto-bibliographies using IIF to pull images and information from disparate sources.
2. I really loved this class and am thrilled to have taken part. I am full of ideas for both teaching and research and feel energized to explore map collections near me. I really benefited from the mix of people in the class—as an academic, I learned so much from the librarians. I loved the variety of maps and atlases we saw.
3. I gained lots of insights. Not necessarily related to my research project, but definitely

will walk away with new project ideas.

4. The discussion of the methods of printing maps, including the specifics of and ways to identify woodblock prints, lithograph, prints, letterpress prints, and intaglio prints was probably the most useful. I left with a lot of possible research questions and ideas for comparative regional map work that I can pursue in my future research.
5. The introductory material on the first day of the course was most relevant to me, though everything else enhanced that information in ways I'm certain will be useful as I continue deepening my engagement with maps. I have a couple of ideas for my institution's map collections and bringing them to less traditional audiences at my institution, and I'm personally very interested in researching Black cartographers and where they fit into some of the history we've explored during the course.
6. I feel like I walked away with a little bit of everything! Definitely a deeper understanding of maps and how they are made, which will help with my cataloging, but also ideas for research and collection development.
7. I definitely have new project plans; the course was very helpful in identifying gaps in existing scholarship. I also found the broad exposure to maps of the period very helpful.
8. I really liked the stuff on how maps were physically made and how that changes over time. Doing the copper plate printing was really enlightening—I had no idea how labor intensive it was! And of course looking at actual, real, sixteenth- to eighteenth-century maps is just cool.
9. The whole idea of materiality rather than "history" as a foundation for describing maps. I now have knowledge to help me catalog more accurately, truthfully, and usefully. Also, the idea of "map/not-a-map" being a construct will help me formulate a more inclusive understanding of maps and mapping.
10. The course covered a variety of topics which are immediately relevant to my work. I look forward to better understanding the collections I work with and sharing the conceptual and practical knowledge I gained with our patrons.
11. I liked all of it. Knowing the correct terms and/or at least knowing where to look for information will be useful.

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. Absolutely, yes.
2. ME was a terrific guide through the material foundations of map history. I learned what I had hoped to learn and so much more, too. He is also a model instructor—enthusiastic, generous, and accomplished.
3. Yes. I did feel like this course was designed for librarians and cataloguers, which was probably intentional given the course demographic. I would have loved a bit of a timeline with innovations, etc. along with the themes discussed in the course.

4. Yes, and yes!
5. Absolutely. It was a detailed start and a great foundation for myself as a novice to explore more (including on July 1!)
6. Yes!
7. Yes, and yes.
8. YES! And then some.
9. Yes, and yes!
10. Yes, absolutely—the course provided a sweeping—but detailed—overview of map history and in-depth investigations into the materiality of maps.
11. Yes.

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

1. We have items in our collection that were either referenced in the class or are related to materials discussed. When I get back I plan to page these materials and inspect them anew. I may create guides summarizing information about key pieces that I gleaned from this course which I will share with colleagues, students, and faculty. I will definitely include information learned this week in future instruction sessions in the map center.
2. I am eager to do more with maps and mapping in my teaching and in my own work. I had hoped to learn how to think more critically about maps as sources and I feel as if I have really developed a much more sophisticated understanding of the importance of maps in terms of context, not content. I have been starting to integrate visual materials more systematically into my scholarship, and now I feel more confident about working more closely with maps.
3. For research.
4. Being able to better identify physical qualities of printed maps is the most applicable skill I learned and hope to continue to refine throughout my work.
5. Programming and outreach for my institution's map collection, but also better supporting students researching (with) maps. I also feel better equipped to more deeply explore maps as sociocultural projects and perhaps "subversive maps" (if that's a thing).
6. I will use it daily in my cataloging work by enhancing records and including more precise and descriptive terminology, and also to round out gaps in our collection and provide better reference services to patrons and colleagues.
7. I plan to use what I've learned to enhance my connoisseurship, particularly with regard to a collection of early printed maps that my institution holds.
8. I work with cataloging rare maps so what I learned will have a direct influence on my work and my ability to do my job properly. I feel much more confident in describing and ID'ing early maps now.
9. Better understanding of the old (and not-quite-so-old) map I'm looking at; less

white-Western-centric tunnel vision when I'm looking at them.

10. Much of my job involves communicating with researchers and the public about maps - I now have a wealth of information to share, as well as a theoretical framework and the skills to think critically about the maps I examine.
11. For my job.

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

1. Map Librarians at almost any level of expertise will find new perspectives and frames of reference in ME's presentations, and people who are new to working with maps will receive an invaluable framework for thinking about historical maps.
2. Librarians, scholars, students at different levels. This class has so much to offer in terms of thinking in new ways about these material remnants of the past and the way they depict visually not only a place, or perhaps least of all a place, but social relations, material history, cultural values, power relations, and so much more. This class seems ideal for those who work with maps professionally (as scholars or librarians) and anyone who wants a deeper understanding of maps as sources and objects.
3. Map librarians.
4. Cataloguers and Map librarians would likely benefit the most, however, I would highly recommend this course to Academics and University Students who work closely with archival maps in any field including History, Anthropology, Environmental science, Astronomy, &c.
5. Anyone with any kind of interest or intersection with maps or considerations of spatial information. So everyone.
6. Map librarians and catalogers. People conducting research with or about maps.
7. I think the composition of this class is reflective of those who might benefit: history professors, librarians, curators, map catalogers.
8. Map catalogers, librarians, map historians or those who use a lot of early maps regularly in their work.
9. I don't know, but as a map cataloger I certainly will.
10. New map librarians, librarians/archivists who work with map collections, and anyone looking to incorporate maps and map history into their research.
11. Anyone really. It's introductory for the most part.

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

1. {no response}
2. So many moments! I loved seeing so many examples of maps and atlases—I marvel at the holdings both of RBS and of SC at UVA. Working with the press was a real highlight, as was learning so much over the course of the week about how books and

maps were created.

3. {no response}
4. The explanation of cartographic allegory in *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* was incredibly interesting. Every day I had a similar experience.
5. We continued coming back to the problem of assuming that all mapping is a single endeavor in every culture, every era, and every corner (so to speak) of the globe. Weirdly, this gave me an “aha!” moment about the study of children’s literature. Not especially map-related (though children’s lit and maps are worth interrogating), but rather materiality-related. I’m very excited about it!
6. Learning the differences between different methods of map production—these moments occurred constantly!
7. ME’s deep erudition created a stream of such moments.
8. For me, the realization that an “earlier” state of a map may be purchased and bound before a “later” one because they pile the new printings on top of the old. For cataloging we have to determine publication date so this is important to understand when map dates seem inconsistent.
9. Lots of little “aha’s!” Mostly, “so that’s what that meant.”
10. The detailed history of map printing—and how it differed from book printing—was eye-opening.
11. Seeing the atlases and other rare materials in archives. Investigating printing techniques.

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

1. {no response}
2. This course was really great. I have no recommendations for improvement—this has been a wonderful week and a great way to launch the rest of the summer.
3. This course needs to be at the Osher Map Library. I would love to see more originals, even though we saw quite a few. It would be so amazing to let ME do his thing at his institution. (I recognize logistical concerns are at play.) But more experiences handling real maps would be better. Also, in addition to letterpress/woodcut and copperplate printing, it would be great to have a lithography session as well as a paper making session.
4. Possibly more highlighting of Arabic and Asian mapping traditions throughout the course. We discussed some of these global traditions but not in the context of each of our subtopics, which would be interesting to see.
5. More opportunities to take it.
6. {no response}
7. A map engraving for the printing demo would be great.
8. Except for wishing for more time, no.
9. None come to mind!

10. {no response}
11. Probably. Can't think of anything specific though.

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. 7
4. 10
5. 10
6. 10
7. 10
8. 10
9. 8
10. 10
11. 10

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

1. Yes, our trip to SC was really fantastic—we saw incredible objects—and the printmaking session was fun and thought provoking, underscoring the importance of materiality to understanding maps.
2. We took an excursion to SC and we also got to use the letter press to make books. Both were wonderful—I especially liked working with the press.
3. Definitely loved the copperplate printing demonstration.
4. SC and the printing demo enhanced the experience.
5. Yes, the mini field trip to see maps in SC was a wonderful enhancement to the maps and techniques we discussed.
6. I loved the visit to SC—it was great to see the atlases we had been discussing earlier that day. The printing demonstration was also lots of fun.
7. N/A
8. Yes—the printing field trip is so useful for understanding how things get done. And going to see the actual books at the library was great.
9. We kind of did, to the printing press? Yes it enhanced the experience—fun and cool.
10. Field trip to SC—was interesting. The materials weren't new to me but it was fascinating to examine them in the company of a distinguished and knowledgeable expert.

11. Yes. Field trips are always fun and you usually get to do more hands-on practical applications.

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

1. {no response}
2. My advice is to take the class!
3. {no response}
4. N/A
5. Read the advance readings in advance, and make a list of questions for yourself. Ask whatever doesn't get answered throughout the week (a lot of it will get answered throughout the week).
6. Do it!
7. Do all of the required readings and as many of the recommended readings as you can!
8. Do it!
9. {no response}
10. Do it! Prepare to have your brain jam-packed with information.
11. Have fun.

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

1. {no response}
2. An invigorating and inspiring week to launch a summer of research, reading, and reflection. Thanks so much!
3. {no response}
4. Passionate about / cartographs and maps and such / happy at RBS.
5. Ceci n'est pas une carte.
6. I was skeptical, but RBS lived up to the hype.
7. Fantastic!
8. Cartography lore, / Dr. Edney knows his maps, / Oh, book nerds unite!
9. Map history? Nah. / Materiality? Yes! / Who, what, why, made how?
10. Map of my brain: carto-bibliography, history of printing, map modes, spatial discourses, atlases.
11. Awesome.