

Narrative Course Evaluations

1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Did you do any additional preparation for your course? Are there any books or articles that you would like to see included in future years? Any that you might suggest removing?*

1. Great pre-course reading. Very helpful for background, but not overwhelming.
2. Yes. No additional prep beyond pre-reading.
3. The pre-course readings were indeed useful in providing a general context for the examples viewed during the week, but were not explicitly referenced in the course sessions.
4. The pre-course readings were useful and put us all on the same footing. They could be slightly repetitive at times.
5. The pre-course assignments were great for introducing students to the material, especially students new to the subject. Some of the information was a bit repetitive though, and I would suggest removing the book entitled *A New Introduction to Bibliography* from the list.
6. I found the reading assignments useful for preparing for the class and anticipate that I will use them in the future as reference sources.
7. The pre-course reading was helpful and provided an excellent introduction, especially as I had limited experience with the topic. I did all the assigned reading, but found it useful to start with and focus on Griffiths rather than Harthan. The readings mostly served as background to the week.
8. Yes! The pre-course readings were quite helpful and applicable.
9. It was somewhat helpful. Much of it was review for me, but I can appreciate the need to make sure everyone is starting on the same page. It was a helpful refresher.
10. {no response}
11. Pre-reading was appropriate.
12. Suggested readings provided a useful grounding in the subject, although they weren't absolutely necessary for understanding class sessions.

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. Appropriate and useful—yes! Continue to be useful—absolutely! I made notes all over with things to look for, update, check on when I get back to work.
2. Excellent survey syllabus and incorporation of actual examples, tools, and techniques. Was surprised there was no mention of Caldecott and the Caldecott award or similar recognition of outstanding work in illustrated children's literature.
3. The workbook and instructional packets were very helpful, and I could see myself relying on them in the future as study or reference tools.

4. The workbook and materials were great and will continue to be useful.
5. Absolutely loved being able to handle examples of the illustrations we were learning about. Though I did not make use of the course workbook, I will refer back to the other handouts (Bibliorama, special collections) for future reference. There are now a few prints I just have to have!
6. Very helpful! So nice to not need to write the bibliographic, &c. information down while listening to EB speak and look at slides. Will be a handy source for me after the class.
7. Excellent, helpful, and useful! The expanded bibliography is very much appreciated.
8. Yes, the content was useful and will continue to be useful. The bibliography for follow up reading is especially appreciated.
9. Yes, content was appropriate and helpful. The exit reading list will be very useful.
10. Workbook was excellent.
11. It would be helpful if packets were identified as to which process created them.
12. Yes, very useful. I especially appreciated the printed book lists, which meant that I didn't have to try to take hasty notes as we were looking at things.

3) *If you've taken previous RBS courses, how did this one compare?*

1. All have been splendid. I would recommend this one to anyone interested in the history of book illustration. EB "knows her stuff" and has a fun way of sharing her knowledge. The week just flew by!
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. The format was different. More absorbing info than doing or producing something. For me it was more about drawing connections than learning all new information.
5. N/A
6. All three have been excellent. Superb instructors focused on interesting and relevant content. This class was equally stellar! {private response}
7. N/A
8. The previous one was DesBib, which I thoroughly enjoyed. This class was more relaxed, but very good and will prove quite useful as I include info in teaching. Have names and resources to cite for future purchases.
9. This class was as challenging and interesting as the other classes I've taken. I saw more books and examples than in any other class, which was great.
10. N/A
11. Most favorably.
12. I think this is my favorite class so far! EB was both erudite and entertaining, and fellow students came from an interesting mix of backgrounds.

4) *Which aspects of the course were most interesting and relevant for you as an individual? Did you walk away with any new insights, ideas, or project plans?*

1. Getting more grounded in time periods and artists associated with various techniques will be extremely useful as I plan for future rare book collectors classes. I do have some ideas for two fall classes in particular.
2. 1460-1840 discussion was most useful as I know little of these illustrators. Also,

- technique and technology, commercial application, and audience was very helpful, key knowledge.
3. The hands-on aspects of the course were easily my favorite and helped me appreciate the general trends and techniques as embodied in actual books.
 4. I particularly enjoyed the SC visits and Bibliorama. Any opportunity to engage with the illustrations was wonderful. I am very happy to have a deeper understanding of the illustration processes and how they changed from one to another.
 5. Individually, I was most interested in the cartography, anatomy, and architectural books. As such, I am now going to be focusing more of my research on illustration in non-humanities literature. Was it viewed more as an art form or as a method of diagramming? Both? If so, which took precedence?
 6. Course packets and Bibliorama! So helpful to be able to closely examine the prints while hearing about the history and techniques. Project: look for/at copies of some of the books at my institution. I have quite a few new ideas for purchasing and exhibits!
 7. The course struck a good balance of attention to technique/process and historical currents. I loved how hands-on we were with materials this week—it was helpful to have a sense of how the quintessential images related to other illustrations found in the same book or of a period.
 8. The Bibliorama was most interesting and relevant, but would not have been useful without the readings and morning slides. I learned a great deal that will be applicable in teaching: collection development, as well as presentation of items (trays!).
 9. I loved learning about illustration and its influence on the history of reading—not the focus, but very interesting. I am leaving with many new insights and one or two new project plans.
 10. All of the course was interesting and relevant. I loved that it was split up into content, hands-on packets, special collections “show-and-tell” and Bibliorama (a hands-on show-and-tell in class).
 11. Art history and print identification methods and “tells.” Oh yeah, learned some new words, too!
 12. The class provided a very useful overview of book illustrations which will give me a framework for continued learning about the topic.
- 5) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Was anything left out or undeveloped? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*
1. Yes, yes, and yes! Having attended RBS five times before, the bar is very high regarding my expectations for courses. Even with those high expectations, I learned even more than I expected to learn. EB is a great teacher in the truest sense of the word.
 2. I learned more than I imagined! Loved the inclusion of Sabuda pop-up books and graphic novels as this really demonstrates the instructor is teaching current trends in book illustration in addition to historical research.
 3. I learned a lot about the history of book illustration but, perhaps more importantly, I rekindled my passion for beautifully illustrated books.
 4. Yes! Although I wish there was a bit more about social context and the impact

- other technologies had on illustration. Maybe a bit more class discussion built into the structure of the class? I learned so much more than I hoped to!
5. This course covered everything in the course description, though I wished we had focused or at least spent a bit of time on Tolkien's illustrative process, as well as Milne's and St. Exupery's. I had expected to learn more about the processes by which illustrations were made though I now know I'd need to take TB's class for that.
 6. Yes, the course met my expectations well. I appreciate the exit reading list in our packet, too. Many, many thanks!
 7. Yes. Yes, I feel that I have a much better sense of the historical arc of illustration history in the west which will be helpful as I start work on my dissertation.
 8. I did learn what I hoped to learn. I feel EB did a wonderful job of navigating the {illegible} points of illustration history. The hands-on examples were the best part.
 9. Yes, she did. The end of the twentieth century was a little light, but that is not my interest so I didn't mind. I learned what I hoped to learn.
 10. Yes, I learned a great deal and look forward to building on the foundation.
 11. Yes, no, yes as EB expanded on print identification "tells."
 12. Yes, very good. Good balance between covering history of illustration techniques and illustrators/styles.

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

1. I work with the materials in our rare book room for classes for our college students, campus events, and displays. I'll be able to use what I've gained from this week in all of these areas.
2. I am a collector of illustrated books and specific fine bindings. My plan is to focus on that collection and exhibit it locally as a series of exhibits on the "art of the book." I will need to catalog what I have as a first step.
3. The knowledge I have gained from this course will be immediately applicable in my research on illustrated adventure stories.
4. The skills and knowledge will contribute to my personal joy and professional life.
5. I plan to incorporate this knowledge in my art history research and as I narrow my focus to a certain literary time period. The survey course really helped give me a taste of those periods.
6. This will help me with instruction, reference, exhibit preparation, and choosing books for purchase.
7. Related to Q6, I think I've also come away with new abilities to look at the relationship between image and text on a page both technically and aesthetically.
8. I will use the skills and knowledge acquired to aid in instruction sessions, inform discussions with faculty on items for class, purchases, and to share information with my colleagues to enhance the units understanding of illustration. I will also be able to argue for added/directed resources for building up areas and for preservation of books in the collection.
9. To give greater context to books that I pull for visiting groups; to inform my blog posts for the library; to improve my cataloging.
10. This was purely an exercise in intellectual curiosity for me.
11. Cataloging, identifying prints correctly, enhancing descriptions, and finding "better" books when scouting!
12. Knowledge will be directly applicable in teaching, exhibit planning, cataloging,

and collection development.

7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*

1. College student level and above—students, collectors, special collection librarians, educators, book dealers...something for everyone.
2. Some book knowledge helpful, but this is a generalist foundational course suitable for anyone with interests in decorative and fine art.
3. The course seems best suited for archivists, students, or librarians who work with books frequently but have less experience describing and critically engaging with illustrations, though I think it would be intellectually accessible to just about anyone.
4. A wonderful introductory course for illustration history. A more seasoned book or art historian, &c. may find the information somewhat repetitive (but still wonderful). The hands-on aspects of the course really make the class fantastic. Anybody interested in the visual aspect and appeal of books will enjoy this!
5. I am an undergraduate student, but I work in a library so I am familiar with procedures to handle rare materials and jargon—those who aren't should probably do a bit of outside research before attending. Course was just challenging enough.
6. We had such a mix of students in our class—from undergrads to grad students, special collections librarians (new and not-so-new), to a bookseller and a book collector, and also RBS staff. It seemed to fit everyone's needs well.
7. An excellent overview, probably of interest to those without extensive training in print techniques or history.
8. Really, all types. But I think it most useful to the person with limited knowledge of illustration and techniques.
9. You do not need much preparation for this course, although a familiarity with print processes would be helpful. Good for librarians working with rare books.
10. I believe I was the least knowledgeable person in the room, but I felt the course was accessible both to a beginner and someone further along.
11. Suitable for all.
12. This course is appropriate for anyone with a basic knowledge of book history and an interest in illustration and design.

8) *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. Actually seeing items illustrated by the artists we talked about. Getting to see the copies in SC, and actually looking carefully and closely at the copies out in "Bibliorama."
2. My knowledge of illustration began with William Blake. It was hugely helpful to see techniques, styles, and trends that preceded Blake, his contemporaries, and successors as "what's new is old."
3. N/A
4. Just seeing the sheer complexity of the work and the advances throughout history was amazing!
5. Some of the prints we viewed made me fall in love with literature all over again. I

- may become a collector because of this class.
6. {private response}
 7. Was great to recognize the interplay between how prints could look (technically) and were supposed to look (market, aesthetics).
 8. Several “ahas”: That’s the difference between wood cut and engraving!; lithography does not mean what I thought it meant; steel engraving is amazing and I can see the difference; I wish I had more budget resources to purchase some of these.
 9. Several “aha” moments. This class really opened my eyes to the artistic and commercial factors at play in book illustration (and to the book in the hand press period in general).
 10. Bibliorama was a wonderful, thrilling, educational time.
 11. Holding a copy of a French (Paris) illuminated book of hours from 1521 was like holding my first grandchild!!! Where else but from the RBS collections could I have done this?
 12. I had several “aha” moments of understanding techniques that I’d heard of (e.g., wood engraving) but couldn’t previously distinguish from similar methods.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. {no response}
 2. More mixed media. A documentary on the making of Barry Moser’s bible was referenced. This would be a great learning tool. Probably similar documentaries exist which could be used.
 3. I felt that the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century sections were a bit rushed. Perhaps these could be more rigidly structured in the future.
 4. More discussion on the impact of the images with the text—how it influences the reader. Maybe a bit more discussion in general.
 5. Focus slightly on text, too, if only for the illustrations’ context! The program in general could benefit from more marketing and advertisement outside of the library community. Undergrads considering library sciences would really benefit from these classes but that age group is severely underrepresented.
 6. Nothing comes to mind.
 7. I think the challenge of the course is how to stay away from technical explanation—both necessary, but not the end goal. I found it really helpful to see YouTube clips or metal plates when we were discussing technique. It would have been helpful to have the same sort of thing for halftone, &c..
 8. Not sure. By Thursday, we were all tired, so I don’t really have any complaints. Perhaps have some more videos of the techniques. I know that is not the {illegible} of the course. However, it would help to understand the process.
 9. It is hard to say we looked at too many books, because of course that is the most fun part! But, considering this was a history class (as opposed to skills based), to spend only half the time in lecture seemed a little light. There is so much to cover, one or two more lectures could help.
 10. Perhaps a “key terms” vocabulary sheet in packet, for students new to this subject matter.
 11. Identify all packets with the process that created and printed them.
 12. {no response}

- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes! Absolutely!
 2. Yes! Yes!
 3. Definitely!
 4. Yes, and yes! EB is a fantastic instructor and does a wonderful job! So happy I was able to take this course and learn from EB's expertise.
 5. I definitely got my money's worth though, all things considered, I wish the course fee was slightly cheaper considering meals and housing are not covered, with the exception of breakfast. 100% would recommend the course to others.
 6. Yes! Absolutely!
 7. Yes.
 8. Yes! Yes!!
 9. Yes, and yes!
 10. {no response}
 11. Yes! Yes!
 12. Yes.
- 11) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*
1. The trips to SC each afternoon were well worth it.
 2. We visited SC daily. Time very well spent.
 3. The time in SC was well worth it for the marvelous examples.
 4. Yes! SC visits are well worth it.
 5. One-and-a-half hours each day to view materials in SC was a great respite from the lecture (which was still very engaging), and gave great insight into the workings of a rare books library.
 6. N/A
 7. N/A
 8. {no response}
 9. {no response}
 10. Everyday we spent a good hour to ninety minutes in SC which was thrilling and educational.
 11. Rare Books Map Room? C'mon—you know they are going to be BIG...and awesome!
 12. {no response}
- 12) *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? Any that you could have done without?*
1. The lectures (both) were great. I always look forward to them at RBS. The chance to see the Paper Museum display was an added bonus.
 2. Enjoyed the videos on papermaking, &c. except quality of films was very low on two of the three films.
 3. N/A
 4. N/A

5. Monday lecture was only relevant for those seriously interested in librarianship. The Paper Museum was very enlightening. Booksellers' Night was a wonderful away to see the city.
6. I attended most of them, and do feel that they were a good use of my time. Paper Museum was fantastic, despite being a bit overwhelming after a full day of class.
7. I didn't have the stamina to get to as many as I'd have liked! The Paper Museum was amazing.
8. They were all quite good, honestly. I appreciated the digital humanities talk on Wednesday as we are planning to build an interface for a large and unique collection. It really all was useful.
9. All good.
10. {no response}
11. The Paper Museum. Absolutely could not get enough! A very, very useful take-away! (Really, it ran from 5-7 p.m., and I was there until 7:25 p.m. and barely squeezed it all in. Thanks!)
12. Enjoyed both lectures that I attended.

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. N/A
4. Absolutely worth it if you have any interest in illustration.
5. Bring a pencil! Follow the recommendations of the food guide if you come—they were spot on. EB is the most enthusiastic instructor, and I would not hesitate to take another class from her.
6. I loved/appreciated EB's thoughtful teaching method as well as her sense of humor and anecdotes about many of the personalities.
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. I am very glad I took this course, but now I also want to take TB's class on identification! The class is great, and will leave you wanting to explore printed illustrations even more.
10. {no response}
11. Focus on reading the two smaller books on the reading list.
12. Highly recommend this class to anyone who deals with illustrated books!

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

1. RBS classes have been the best professional experiences I've had in a varied library career of thirty-nine years—and the most fun!
2. A picture is worth a thousand words. How we render and view illustration reflects our history and prevailing philosophy.
3. I felt like Samwell Tarly must have when he first arrived at the master's citadel in Oldtown: awestruck.
4. Enriching and delightful!
5. Wonderful! Worthwhile! Wow!

6. Just do it!
7. It was a joy to spend this week here—I feel excited and curious about going back to my library, and very much look forward to coming back. Thanks EB and RBS for a wonderful week!
8. The experience of learning new information in a beautiful setting, building new connections across the country, learning through all the senses, and handling rare books with similar-minded people has made this a revitalizing and energizing week. Thank you!
9. As always, a wonderful privilege to be here. The wonderful staff at RBS do such an amazing job of taking care of all the little things, it frees the students up to really focus on the learning. Many thanks for all of your hard work!
10. Sheer and total bliss.
11. Illuminating!
12. Summer camp for grown-up book nerds!

Student Data

Number of respondents: 12 (of 12)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 6 (50%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 1 (8.33%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (8.33%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 4 (33.33%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule:

My situation does not fit any of the options above:

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (16.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (50%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (16.67%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (8.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest:

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; my institution/employer paid the rest:

I exchanged goods or services in lieu of tuition:

I had an RBS course tuition credit from a previous year:

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (25%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (58.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%:
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest:
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest:
I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (8.33%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above:

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (25%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (50%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (16.67%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%:
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest:
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest:
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (8.33%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above:

*Which of the following **best** describes your current occupation?*

Library disciplines:

Curator: 1 (8.33%)
Library administrator: 1 (8.33%)
Special collections librarian: 3 (25%)

Student working toward a/n:

B.A./B.S.: 2 (16.67%)
Ph.D./D.Phil: 2 (16.67%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (8.33%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Other: 2 (16.67%)