

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. The reading assignments were helpful, but the instructor clearly explained in a few minutes what Blagden never really explained through many tedious pages. I also read various items on the Internet.
2. Blagden is a bit of a slog, but did provide a place to start. I found the Stationers' website to be a good quick review before class. I appreciated the long list of readings to pick from that were just suggestions so I could go to materials relevant to my field.
3. I found Blagden heavy going—perhaps a selection of articles might be better?
4. Yes, the pre-course reading assignments were particularly valuable and helped to put the course subject into proper historical context when discussing its connection to European and British history.
5. Yes. I got the course packet a little ahead of time, and it was good to start familiarizing myself with the topics.
6. I suspect the readings will make more sense after. Still, a good sense of what you are getting into and not too onerous.
7. They were fine.
8. Yes, useful.
9. {private response}

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 workbook is excellent and will continue to be helpful.
2. Course workbook had a nice mix of reproduced primary docs and bibliography. A contemporary article or two that makes a scholarly argument about the Stationers' Company (like the one from the reading list) might be a good supplement.
3. Excellent content; I'd only want more of the informational slides included.
4. It was appropriate and useful. The workbook has helpful documents that I look forward to reviewing.
5. The workbook was very useful and thoughtfully prepared.
6. Good collection of relevant documents. The suggested reading list will be helpful.
7. The course book is excellent resource material, and I will be keeping it for the wealth of primary documents included.
8. Excellent! I'm excited to share it with my coworkers via a presentation.
9. The workbook is extremely useful as a resource.

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

1. I have taken many, and I think that this course is my favorite. The material helped provide a larger context for more narrowly focused courses, and I now have knowledge of the background in which events occurred: how, when, where, who, and why.
 2. N/A
 3. One of the very best, chiefly due to the brilliant and entertaining IG.
 4. This course provided a good segue into a part of English history that I am not ordinarily familiar with.
 5. N/A
 6. Very favorably.
 7. N/A
 8. N/A
 9. {private response}
- 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. Absolutely, all aspects were fascinating and relevant.
 2. Most interested in early modern field, which the course spent the majority of its time on. Yes, did walk away with a project plan thanks to the research time we were given.
 3. My entire view of the Stationers' Company was changed—I came in looking for specific info and leave with a glimpse of an entire world.
 4. See Q3. I feel that it also enhanced my knowledge of book history as it relates to the early modern period.
 5. Lots of new information. After spending years studying the literature and book history of the Early Modern period, I discovered new ways of understanding the period.
 6. The historical context was very welcome. A lot of things I did not understand are very clear.
 7. {no response}
 8. The whole subject was fascinating and aligned excellently with my professional and research interests.
 9. The dive into the archives on navigation tools was very, very valuable, as was the examination of ordinances.
- 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. No. Yes!
 2. IG was very patient and helpful with us learning to use the archive. I expected a few more rare materials, but that's partly because I hadn't realized how stationary the Stationers' Register is.
 3. That and more.
 4. IG was enthusiastic about our learning and ready to answer all our questions, and to point our class research in the right direction.
 5. Yes. Learned all I hoped for and more.

6. Very well presented. Instructor's style of lecture was clear and informative.
7. The instructor was brilliant and engaging and went further into the subject matter than I had anticipated.
8. IG did a fantastic job. I wouldn't change a thing.
9. A comprehensive history by the expert.

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

1. To be a better informed person regarding the books and their circumstances as I perform my daily duties. I will savor and enjoy the knowledge and enjoy the connections my mind will make. The memories will make me smile.
2. Much better understanding of book trade that gives context to my own teaching and scholarship regarding literature. Specific project related to Stationers' Register to pursue.
3. I will continue with my original research and then when finished, possibly embark on something more closely related to the Stationers' Company.
4. It will be helpful when working with English books in this period (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries).
5. They will be useful in both my research as a scholar and work as a bibliographer.
6. Providing reference assistance to researchers and incorporating the information into my own teaching and presentations.
7. I hope it will help me contextualize work that will be done for my Ph.D. dissertation.
8. For my Masters thesis and at my work.
9. To inform my future scholarship and teaching.

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

1. Outstanding. One who enjoys complicated intellectual thought and anyone interested in this topic.
2. The material is dense, but IG does a great job explaining. A person who needs background yet is also familiar with some aspect of the field (history or literature) probably benefits the most.
3. While the information flew fast and furious, the instructor was careful to provide context for all complex historical or political situations for the Americans.
4. Early Modernists, but also any special collections librarian dealing with collections of this period.
5. It was very clearly presented and easy to follow, but I imagine some footing in early modern history or a similar field would be helpful. Scholars and librarians with an interest in history.
6. Anyone working with the history of England, English literature, or the book trade.
7. Any early modernist scholar would benefit from this survey of social structures. I had no idea about the intricacies of guild life and city politics, but of course all the authors and historical figures that I study were deeply enmeshed in them.
8. Graduate student.
9. {private response}

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. Too many to list. I also had many “aha” moments in the evenings after daily coursework was over.
2. The research time proved very valuable to me. IG’s expansive knowledge of the field helped me contextualize some interesting patterns (perhaps for a project?).
3. Printers submitted manuscripts—not the printed version—for the registration!! Shock and surprise!!
4. Seeing English history through the activities of the Stationers’ Company. The concept of linked data was also interesting. It provides a great deal of useful information.
5. There was a lot I hadn’t known before. The material on copyright was especially interesting in terms of understanding the history of how intellectual production was valued.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. The whole thing was great.
9. {no response}

9) *How could the course have been improved?*

1. N/A
2. {private response}
3. I felt it was just splendid as it was.
4. {no response}
5. I thought the course was very thorough and well taught. I thought the day we spent with some rare book materials was especially useful, so perhaps a little more time spent pairing appropriate lecture topics with materials?
6. It is lecture by necessity so I would not change much. The instructor is an excellent presenter with very deep knowledge.
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. {private response}

10) *Do you feel that you got your money’s worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*

1. More than my money’s worth. I will highly recommend this course.
2. Didn’t pay, but yes, I feel like I was justified in seeking funding from my institution.
3. Absolutely. One of the best yet.
4. Yes, and yes.
5. Yes.
6. Yes. Yes.
7. Yes, and yes, certainly, and I’ll be taking more RBS courses.
8. Definitely.
9. Yes—I would recommend this course, especially for early modern scholars.

11) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. Very much so. Extremely relevant and interesting.
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. We did not go on any field trips.
5. Yes.
6. Yes. If only to get out of the classroom.
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. N/A

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. Yes. Good lecture.
2. Did not attend every lecture—didn't overlap at all with my field, wanted to see Philly instead.
3. The subscription/sales lecture was excellent. Wish at least we might have had a Movie Night.
4. Yes. The evening event provided a way to step out of the course and learn about other aspects of book history.
5. Yes. The lecture and dinners were great.
6. Only one lecture. With courses focusing on the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries, a lecture on twentieth-century books was very out of place. Not really worth the time. No other events at Penn.
7. {no response}
8. Yes! Very fun and informative. Catering staff were great.
9. {private response}

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

1. Begin readings early, and don't feel discouraged if you feel confused. IG clarifies it all and more.
2. Come in with a few possible research questions to take advantage of having IG in the room. Doing some prep will help your own questions to him to be as relevant/informed as possible.
3. Even if your work doesn't relate to early modern, the history of Stationers' Company affects everything. I was astonished at how relevant the course was.
4. {no response}
5. Come prepared to learn a lot! The course is very lecture based, so be ready to take notes.
6. Take lots of notes.
7. {no response}
8. {no response}

9. {no response}

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

1. This is the best course I have taken; the instructor is excellent, and I wish he would teach another course—there is enough material to do so.
2. Highly knowledgeable and entertaining instructor led a history-packed course on a largely misunderstood archive, with lots of potential for future projects.
3. I find my people
Each summer at Rare Book School
Sweet sorrow to part
4. My experience gave me new and exciting insights into the book trade that I look forward to researching in the future as well.
5. 'Tis seldom noted
The Stationers' Company
Owned guns and a barge
6. I didn't know how much I missed history courses.
7. Stationers' don't just print
Printers aren't all stationers'
Thanks so much, Ian Gadd
8. Addicting!
9. IG is an amazing instructor with an enviable depth of knowledge.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 9 (of 9)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 4 (44.44%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 2 (22.22%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 3 (33.33%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (22.22%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (11.11%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (11.11%)

I exchanged goods or services in lieu of tuition: 1 (11.11%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (11.11%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (44.44%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (33.33%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 2 (22.22%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 5 (55.56%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (22.22%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (11.11%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (11.11%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 2 (22.22%)

Library assistant/clerk: 1 (11.11%)

Special collections librarian: 2 (22.22%)

Student working toward a/n:

M.A./M.S.: 1 (11.11%)

Ph.D./D.Phil: 2 (22.22%)

Professional educator:

Associate professor: 1 (11.11%)