

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. I felt that the readings gave me a better idea of what to expect from the course. It was an adequate amount without being overwhelming.
 2. Just right, not burdensome, and on target.
 3. The pre-material was very thorough. I am new to this field so could not suggest any different material.
 4. The course readings were helpful and provided a good foundation for what followed in the course. The fact that a couple of the articles were written by the instructor provided a helpful glimpse into what the course held for us. No recommendations on additional articles at this point.
 5. Yes. No. No. No.
 6. I thought that the pre-course articles were fine, but not very challenging. I would suggest having the instructor assign one of the books on collecting, forgery, book selling, &c. in advance of the course and then use it for discussion.
 7. Pre-course readings were great! I especially appreciated their introductory level and explanation of the jargon and terminology we could expect.
 8. I found the pre-course readings to be helpful. They gave me an idea of what to expect in person.
 9. Since this was a new area for me, I found the assignments to be very helpful for the course.
 10. The material was relatively light but brought forward many of the people we would be dealing with.

- 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 really appreciated the workbooks provided to us by JS. They allowed us to move more quickly through our large volume of material, and will be invaluable to me in the future. Will use it for years to come.
 2. The workbooks will certainly prove useful beyond this course. Most appreciate the option to receive an electronic version of the workbook, volume one, that we can insert our notes into post-class.
 3. The content and the format were thoughtful and useful. I look forward to the electronic document that will allow me to share information with my colleagues.
 4. The workbooks and handouts worked well. It was beneficial to have both a list of the titles we reviewed and a separate workbook to consult with example photocopies. The course wouldn't have been nearly as useful without the books that had been {illegible} for us to review as well. I plan to keep my workbooks in

- my office to consult.
5. The workbook was well designed for note taking and well organized. The addition of an index would be a great improvement.
 6. Both good, especially volume one, which will be my reference list.
 7. Excellent! I appreciated our instructor's commitment to accommodating different learning styles. Yes! It will definitely be my go-to resource at work and home.
 8. The course workbook will be indispensable in my future career. It would be impossible to record the titles and bibliographical information for all of our materials, so having it provided—with space for notes—was ideal.
 9. The workbooks were very helpful, and I know that I will be relying on them when I return to my college.
 10. I expect to use the main course workbook as a resource for many years to come.
- 3) *If you've taken previous RBS courses, how did this one compare?*
1. N/A
 2. This is among the most useful RBS courses I've taken. Also, JS is a wonderful instructor.
 3. N/A
 4. N/A
 5. N/A
 6. Equally good, though different.
 7. This is my first class, so I can't compare, but this was even more useful and diverse than I originally expected.
 8. N/A
 9. This may be the best yet because of its immediate application to my collections and situation.
 10. Not as hectic as the DesBib courses but a good foundational experience.
- 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. As a person who works mostly with manuscripts (at work as an archivist), it was helpful to look deeper into the book resources that will help me write better history and bibliography.
 2. I am inspired to return to my institution and review all bibliographical reference sources available and fill in gaps. Will share what I've learned with other staff too. Hope to pursue some special project where I can apply more narrowly/specifically what I've learned.
 3. The resources were clearly defined, and how specific resources could be used was clearly detailed. I now have a clear workflow plan for my organization.
 4. I particularly liked the materials for Western Americana, a strength at my library. Although our director is responsible for acquisitions, I plan to talk with him back in the office about the sources he consults.
 5. The raw materials (with JS's explanation and descriptions) were valuable on their own. But he put everything into a larger context that will allow me to take what I learned beyond the specific material included.
 6. The resources for reference of US-iana books will be helpful to me; many new resources of which I was unaware.

7. I was happily surprised to see more Latin Americana and southwest included. Yay! Yes, I learned to approach materials I encounter through different and varied perspectives.
8. I was surprised by how useful even older (a century or more) bibliographies can still be. After this course, I think that I will be much more likely to consult these kinds of materials in the course of my work and research.
9. Materials relating to U.S.-iana bibliography and collecting.
10. JS put a very human face on bibliography and bibliographers.

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. We covered material as fast as we possibly could, without missing too much. While there is never time to cover everything, JS selected sources from a wide range of genres. I learned much more than I anticipated.
2. Yes. I would have liked a bit more specific to Latin America, but I am truly quite satisfied with the info provided as I know now how to dig deeper for more bibliographical sources. JS has prepared us well for continuing bibliographical research!
3. Yes. See Q5.
4. I think JS did a fabulous job covering a huge amount of material in a well organized, engaging way. I learned everything I had hoped to and more.
5. Classroom instruction not only directed me to material I will use, but helped me prioritize sources so I can build my reference library over time.
6. Yes. No. Yes.
7. Yes! JS was great and consistently requesting feedback and soliciting our questions. I really appreciated him adding in-class exercises. I learned what I hoped to and much more. I return to work with new skills and increased confidence.
8. I will leave this course feeling entirely satisfied with my experiences and the skills gained.
9. I learned what I hoped to learn, and was continually impressed by the instructor's command of the material.
10. {no response}

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

1. My job as an archivist/special collections librarian and my history research will both benefit.
2. I have many rare materials to catalog that will be much better and more accurately described, because I will be better able to research them. Also, hope to perhaps assist bibliographers in identifying materials in our collection that should receive special attention, perhaps for digitization, an ongoing effort at my institution.
3. The resources detailed in class will be employed in helping our volunteer staff of librarians determine the history and value of our rare books collection.
4. As mentioned in Q4, I intend to discuss the acquisitions process of Western Americana with my director and will (on my own) consult some of the sources we learned about to review our current holdings.

5. To improve my research and cataloging skills. I'll be sharing this info and techniques with my colleagues as well.
6. Both for my collection and at Watkinson Library where I am working on a project.
7. I intend to apply my skills to my instruction work, acquisition choices and selection, and exhibit research. Oh, and to my work with donors and outreach activity.
8. I will employ these new skills as a collector, researcher, and rare book cataloger.
9. Evaluate and better interpret the collections in my care by utilizing these bibliographical tools to improve descriptions of our materials and their importance.
10. I do research on materials I acquire and on directing new acquisitions. I expect to be able to find relevant information with greater efficiency.

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

1. I think that, for this course, field experience and terminology knowledge are more of a requirement than high intellectual level.
2. I think this is best for folks who already possess some book knowledge, either beginner/amateur collectors or librarians with some, but not extensive, experience with bibliographical sources. I am not a reference librarian, so I am not (was not!) familiar with many of the sources we covered in class. I highly recommend this for catalogers like myself who are not rare book librarians.
3. Master's degree and beyond; perhaps a very motivated undergrad student.
4. I'd say it would definitely help to have an M.L.S. to understand the basic terminology and concepts of the course. A novice would have a much steeper learning curve.
5. Someone with curiosity about the origins, history, and movements of books in America.
6. High but JS keeps things colloquial, and is patient as he goes along.
7. Prior to the class, I had some familiarity with Americana but not much. I think this class is great for a range of students, from the person who knows nothing, to a book dealer wishing to learn more about their specialization in Americana.
8. I think that this course would be most beneficial for librarians, collectors, or dealers who have a beginning to moderate level of familiarity with these sources, but who are looking to expand their knowledge of them so that their bibliographical research can be more comprehensive and efficient.
9. Collectors; new librarians/archivists in the field; librarians/archivists new to this type of material; special collections/rare book catalogers; booksellers.
10. It requires processing a large flow of information. I think it could be valuable for anyone doing research on antiquarian material.

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. I enjoyed watching JS interact with the other students and Mr. Reese. His knowledge is readily at access to him (quick on his feet).
2. Most satisfying to me is the feeling I got from JS that it's OK not to know

everything. He is so down to earth and humble, despite being so knowledgeable and experienced, but he made me feel like I can become as knowledgeable as he is. Great mentor!

3. The most powerful moment of the class was understanding the research workflow and understanding how I would be able to recreate it when I returned to my organization.
4. I think the exercises we undertook where we applied our newly gained knowledge were very helpful—I'd definitely continue with these.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. I learned that materials and resources are more interconnected than I originally assumed and that a range of resources are needed to approach bibliography.
8. Some of the most enjoyable moments I experienced in this course originated from JS's tremendous knowledge of book lore and anecdotes related to bibliographers, librarians, collectors, and booksellers.
9. {no response}
10. {no response}

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

1. I would have liked it if we could have had more time, but I see how that is virtually impossible. I would be tempted to ask for a two-course series, not sure if it would work out.
2. {no response}
3. More case studies, please!
4. No suggestions—thought it was excellent.
5. Addition of an index to workbook.
6. See above re: pre-course reading (Q1).
7. Even more exercises! Can't think of anything. It was fantastic!
8. {no response}
9. Perhaps a few more opportunities to do in-class exercises with the materials we are using.
10. JS worked in several short exercises on making decisions and search routes. I think this could be expanded.

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

1. I would recommend the course to others.
2. Yes. Absolutely. This class is super useful plus JS is a great teacher!
3. Absolutely! Amazing opportunity to learn from the top in their field in such a small/intimate setting.
4. Yes, and yes. I'll be talking it up back at work.
5. Yes. Yes.
6. Yes!! Yes!!
7. Yes! Yes!
8. I would certainly recommend this course.
9. Absolutely, and without hesitation.
10. Yes.

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

1. We did not do this. I'm not sure we would have had time; we covered a bunch of source material.
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. We didn't have a field trip, but our visit from Bill Reese was exceptional and very useful.
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. {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. I attended nearly all of the optional evening events. I only missed Ornament Night, and that was due to need of sleep. Was happy with each one.
2. The ornament event was too crowded and disorganized. Did not like that it overlapped with Movie Night—had to choose one or the other. Liked the Linotype film, but poorly attended!
3. Wonderful to hear about the research and experiences of those in the top of their field.
4. Attended both lectures. Informative and engaging. Would recommend to anyone else attending RBS to take advantage of everything offered.
5. The evening lectures were a good change of pace.
6. Yes, both lectures were good, especially Bill Reese. We had the pleasure of having him join our group for an hour, and that was wonderful.
7. Yes. They connected and fleshed out our instruction time. Mike Kelly's talk especially drilled home the value and use of bibliography. Great talk!
8. I attended most of the evening events, which I found to be fun, edifying, and well worth my time.
9. Yes, both lectures were thoughtful, useful, and inspiring.
10. {no response}

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

1. No.
2. Maybe a suggestion to review bibliographical sources with one's own institution just as a show-and-tell or to gain an idea of what's the {illegible}? Not sure that would be useful though.
3. Take your time in class, ask lots of questions, and make time to meet your interesting classmates.

4. No.
5. Bring warmer clothes; cold was distracting.
6. This is a course particularly useful for those researching or cataloging printed Americana. No matter how much you think you know, you will learn new things that will help you in your work or hobby.
7. No.
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. {no response}

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

1. Tired, motivated, curious.
2. Another satisfying week of RBS. I always leave eager to return for more. I have class envy when here—I always wish I were taking the other courses, too! Not instead of, though...I LOVED this class!
3. Rare Book Valhalla!
4. To quote my director, who encouraged me to attend: “RBS is the best thing going in rare book land!”
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. Bibliography is much more exciting than you think.
8. Michael F. Suarez
Shouts “Numquam, Numquam, Numquam!”
All are blown away.
9. I hope very much to come back!
10. {no response}

Student Data

Number of respondents: 10 (of 10)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 5 (50%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (10%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 2 (20%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (20%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (30%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (20%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 4 (40%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 5 (50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (10%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 3 (30%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (40%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (20%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 3 (30%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest: 1 (10%)

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

Library disciplines:

Archivist: 3 (30%)

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 2 (20%)

Public services librarian: 1 (10%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (10%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (10%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Book collector: 2 (20%)