

## 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. All were useful especially John Baker's chapter on legal publishing and chapter on bibliographical description.
2. Yes, the pre-reading was a good introduction and not overwhelming.
3. Pre-course readings were useful. *Book Collecting As One of the Fine Arts* by Colin Franklin might be good to include.
4. The pre-course reading was a lot and somewhat rigorous, but very necessary for a foundation of the content.
5. Yes. No. Everything was good the way it is.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. Yes, useful. I think they were all appropriate to have as pre-reading. I groaned a bit at the length of a couple (e.g., Canon Law, Civil Law Primer), but they covered the topic completely and coherently.
9. Reading was very helpful.
10. Yes, extremely useful. No additional preparation.
11. These readings went much further in depth into the history of law than we did in the course. They were essential to my understanding of much of the course's content.

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 will continue to refer to it. Good to have citations to everything mentioned in class.
2. The course workbook is an excellent source.
3. Course workbook was great.
4. The course workbook was very helpful for taking notes and contained much more useful articles. I will use as a reference tool.
5. Content was helpful, and I intend to keep the workbook as reference for future.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. It was useful and will continue to be. MW is sending us some others via email that will also be helpful when we get back.
9. Workbook was great. Might have helped to have it before class.
10. Course workbook is fantastic, and I know I'll continue to refer to it in my work for years to come.
11. The course book was great. I will refer to it often for the comprehensive lists.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. They were both great.
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. It's a smaller class, and there wasn't quite the instant connection between classmates that I had in the other, but everyone was great and brought a variety of viewpoints that made for an excellent class. Both instructors have been excellent.
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. I have taken one other course, and both this one and that were top notch.

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. Yes, ideas on how to develop the rare book collection guidelines for selecting appropriate trials. Seeing all the usual sophistication and beauty of old books was an eye-opener.
2. This is a new field to me, so I am walking away completely inspired and enriched by what I have learned.
3. The course was comprehensive. In that sense, it will take a while for everything to sink in.
4. Yes, I need to be rich so I can collect all of the books my heart desires! Aside from that, I walked away with more understanding and ideas of how to better my library's collection.
5. Got plenty of new knowledge that will prove helpful.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. I have at least four new focus areas to look into when I get home. I also look forward to continuing to foster the relationships between colleagues developed this week.
9. This class gave me some great ideas.
10. All of them. Yes, absolutely!
11. Generally, MW encouraged us to think "outside the box" when thinking about collection development. I see our collection differently now—not everything is about the big, important books.

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. Got us off to a good start by applying lessons learned while still fresh with prompt group feedback.
2. Definitely yes. I now have a basic skill set to explore rare law book collections,

collecting and research further!

3. MW is incredibly knowledgeable and generous in sharing what he knows.
4. Everything was wonderfully developed and then some! Especially the experiences of meeting book dealers!
5. Yes. No. Yes, and then some.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. Absolutely. 100%. If there was anything underdeveloped, I'm not aware of it.
9. Coverage was appropriate. MW did a great job!
10. Yes, MW and Doug are truly wonderful teachers and incredibly generous people.
11. The first two days were focused on a survey of book in the various law traditions. The rest of the week focused on the various aspects of managing a collection. All in all, everything in the course description was covered.

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

1. Improving {illegible} of {illegible} book collection and building a teaching collection {illegible} key subjects.
2. I will use this knowledge and skills to work with my library in getting our valuable collection of books out of storage. I am also going to use this knowledge in my research.
3. Hopefully collaboratively, so that I can share what I have learned with colleagues.
4. I plan to build a collection development policy for my library's rare books and begin work on an annotated bibliography on our current rare book collection.
5. To carry on more productive conversations and for more focused research.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. See Q4.
9. This will be very helpful in putting together our new rare book room.
10. Every day at work.
11. We already had a substantial collection and now I feel confident that I can develop it, promote it, and do great things.

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

1. A librarian with good knowledge of legal literature and some knowledge of historical legal publication.
2. Any person with an interest in rare law books will find this interesting and valuable.
3. The intellectual level is high, partly because of the diversity and strengths of the students. A variety of people can benefit from taking the course: collectors, special collections librarians, law librarians with limited special collections from large and small institutions.
4. This course is best for a high level education or a person who has been in the field for quite a while. Also, one with passion for the materials.
5. Any intelligent person with a desire to learn more about books would definitely benefit greatly from this course.
6. {private response}

7. {private response}
  8. Librarians, collectors, booksellers.
  9. Level was high. Anyone working with rare books would benefit from this class.
  10. {no response}
  11. I had no formal legal education prior to this course, although I was confident in my general “rare book” abilities, and I thought the course was a great fit for me.
- 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. The slide show of all the visual elements of rare books.
  2. {no response}
  3. Presentations of our assignments were very interesting. Trips to the book dealers were great. We got to see a letter written by Virginia Woolf to her nephew...not law-related, but cool.
  4. {no response}
  5. I learned something new and insightful every day from both faculty and student interaction.
  6. {private response}
  7. {private response}
  8. {no response}
  9. Seeing the oldest known English law book in print—WOW!
  10. {no response}
  11. Any time MW went off script to deliver an aside or tangential comment. You can’t get that (always) from a book!
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. Display of rare books in rare book room to such a large group was a little awkward.
  2. None.
  3. Not a lot of room for improvement.
  4. {redacted for the web—RBS staff}
  5. Maybe sending out workbook further ahead of time.
  6. {private response}
  7. {private response}
  8. A shorter survey.
  9. No improvements necessary. Clone MW!
  10. {no response}
  11. I think I would have liked to spend less time on presentations from classmates. I think we’re paying for the expertise, so I’d like that to be the focus. That being said, MW always had insightful comments.
- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money’s worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes, I would recommend.
  2. Yes.

3. Absolutely. I would highly recommend the course to others.
4. Absolutely.
5. Yes. Definitely.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. Yes, and yes.
9. Yes, and yes.
10. Yes, definitely.
11. Yes, and yes.

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

1. Yes, acquainted us with rare book dealers and seeing their stacks up close. Time spent in rare book room and conservation were informative.
2. Yes, all of the events were great!
3. Yes.
4. Very well spent!
5. Yes.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. Absolutely. I bought something for my own collection and have a lead for a purchase for my institution.
9. Yes.
10. Yes, absolutely.
11. Time spent in the rare book room and other parts of the library were important educational moments.

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 lecture wasn't really relevant to our course and interests.
2. Definitely.
3. The audio system during the talk by Ray Clemens made the talk difficult to hear.
4. This was an incredible networking experience!
5. Yes. Yes. No. Trips to book dealers in an informal setting created great opportunities for relaxed conversation enabling questions and insightful answers.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. I missed Monday—I was exhausted after class. Everything else was great.
9. Yes.
10. Yes, again—all were fabulous.
11. I very much enjoyed the lecture—entertaining and edifying. The two trips to the rare book dealers were great social outings but not much else.

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

1. Get a passing familiarity with your institution's rare book collection and special collections.
2. None.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. You will have fun and will learn quite a bit.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. Take it!
9. No.
10. Do it.
11. Do the readings, especially the ones outside your area of law. Spend a little extra for a hotel, if you can afford it.

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

1. Well-rounded introduction to rare book curation.
2. A worthwhile experience, not only for law librarians, rare law book collectors and other institutional officials, but also for all law school faculty interested in legal history.
3. Wonderful.
4. I need to start saving money because there's no way my institution will support my now full-blown RBS addiction!
5. Great.
6. {private response}
7. {private response}
8. Just Do It.
9. A wonderful and productive week!
10. I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to take this course.
11. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning."

## **Student Data**

*Number of respondents:* 11 (of 12)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 9 (81.82%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (9.09%)

No response: 1 (9.09%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

I paid 100% myself: 3 (27.27%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (54.55%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)

No response: 1 (9.09%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 4 (36.36%)  
My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (45.45%)  
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (9.09%)  
No response: 1 (9.09%)

*Who paid your RBS travel expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 3 (27.27%)  
My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (36.36%)  
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)  
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (9.09%)  
No response: 2 (18.18%)

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

**Library disciplines:**

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (9.09%)  
Library administrator: 2 (18.18%)  
Public services librarian: 2 (18.18%)  
Special collections librarian: 1 (9.09%)  
Subject specialist/bibliographer: 1 (9.09%)  
Other: 2 (18.18%)

**Professional educator:**

Assistant professor: 1 (9.09%)

**Other occupations/vocations:**

Other: 1 (9.09%)