

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. Readings were extremely useful. I read through some other articles on the old reading list for additional background information. {private response}
2. Yes, all useful.
3. The pre-course reading assignments were useful. I thought about the direction my course project would take before the course began.
4. Yes, the readings were well selected.
5. I was added to the course late, but if I had time I would likely have done additional research.
6. The readings provided an excellent breadth of common knowledge from which to begin as well as methodological and critical perspectives from which to draw.
7. I liked starting with McKenzie and Genette. Keep Jackson, Kastan, and Pettegree.
8. The selection and range of readings were very appropriate to the goal and theme of the course. AB and DH led lively discussions around the readings.
9. This course, more so than any other I've taken, focused closely on the assigned readings. The course was structured around them and the discussions profited as a result.
10. The pre-course readings were very useful—it's a good thing to read and re-read them in preparation for the class.
11. The pre-course readings were extremely useful and, in fact, essential to the course. I appreciated the fact that each session was structured around specific readings. Compared to other RBS courses I've taken, the reading list for this course was distributed relatively early (also, it more or less matched the Advance Reading on the website), which I found very helpful.
12. Yes. Yes. We discussed some. {private response}
13. Yes.

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. Hand outs given to correspond with books on display were very useful, both in the sessions and after class.
2. N/A
3. The teaching materials were helpful in contextualizing the broader themes of the course.
4. See Q1.
5. {no response}
6. The materials were appropriate and useful.

7. I appreciated the handouts of collection materials.
8. The book display sessions were really useful to not only contextualize the readings, but also to engage in in-depth discussions around books and their history.
9. I would have liked a workbook.
10. {no response}
11. The catalog lists from the Houghton were very helpful for note taking.
12. Yes. Yes. Yes.
13. Yes. I would like copies of PowerPoint presentations and a bibliography.

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

1. I have not taken RBS courses before.
2. Less technical.
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. {no response}
6. This is my first RBS course.
7. Better! Because this is my area.
8. It was as good and relevant as other courses I've taken in the past.
9. Intellectual level was higher than most. But the professional make up of the course (six librarians, five academics) meant that two or three people were burdened with (or perhaps enjoyed) the bulk of the discussion in seminar.
10. N/A
11. This course felt more dynamic and interactive, in part, I think, because of the discussion of the readings, but also because of AB's and DH's teaching styles.
12. N/A
13. Very well.

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. Everything was useful and interesting to me as a librarian—new ways to think about scholarship, reading, theory. Yes, ideas for exhibits and how we as librarians can assist with accessing information (catalogs, descriptions, bibliography).
2. Some of the readings gave me new perspectives. I enjoyed having the opportunity to work with the Houghton collections.
3. The ability to work with the special collections at Houghton Library was truly formative and helped advance my research.
4. Sense of the discipline and methods of book history, its value for my own research. Lots of new options and tools.
5. The instructors demonstrated knowledge of various backgrounds and approaches to the history of the book.
6. The methodologies provide a new and valuable access point into my research interests.
7. So much to focus on. The combination of excellent collections and superb professors made this an exceptional experience.
8. The models, methods, and approaches to studying the history of the early modern book presented during this week will be of tremendous use for my work and research.

9. Yes. Access to the Houghton and the instructors were the best parts of the course.
10. Resources and suggestions for continued readings.
11. The seminar helped me situate my own research in broader theoretical discussions. Also, it exposed me to topics and debates in the American field that were, until this week, entirely unfamiliar to me.
12. Pedagogical and technical discussions were very useful.
13. The cultural aspects of early modern printing.

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. Wish we could have discussed some of the readings in more detail, but there is never enough time.
2. I would have liked more discussion of non Anglo-American book histories, e.g., Italy, Spain, France, and Germany. We didn't talk about Europe at length.
3. AB and DH are remarkable and gifted instructors who opened me to new ways of thinking about book history.
4. {no response}
5. I believe everything promised was addressed or touched upon.
6. The instructors are talented educators and clear experts in their field who worked to make the material personal to my interests.
7. Absolutely, and much more.
8. Both DH and AB engage with the students and readings in different ways, each one creating an ideal environment for learning through conversations.
9. N/A
10. They did. Additional time spent for examining and discussing the items would add to the development of better analysis.
11. Yes. In addition to gaining a better knowledge of broad theoretical questions, I gained a lot of insight from the hands-on instruction.
12. I think I ought to take DesBib.
13. Yes.

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

1. To become a better subject librarian/bibliographer. Also, the skills and knowledge will assist in understanding and cataloging our collection, will aid in creating exhibits, and I will be better able to engage with scholars.
2. Will contribute to a scholarly article.
3. My personal research has been invaluablely enriched by taking this course.
4. To supplement research skills, historical analysis.
5. I will continue to use the information acquired here to expand my knowledge of book history and in my future career as a librarian.
6. The tools of book history will provide a methodological framework from which to engage my research interests.
7. Make my dissertation and future work more nuanced and contextualized.
8. I will integrate some of the skills I gained this week to my teaching.
9. To supplement my historical and book historical knowledge for research and teaching in the future.

10. {no response}
11. Continued research. Also constructing a new book history course and including more book history in all my classes.
12. In research and teaching.
13. {no response}

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

1. Very rigorous—graduate students in history or literature, faculty and librarians with curatorial, cataloging, and bibliographer duties.
2. More general, less advanced. Specialists might not feel challenged.
3. This is a graduate-level seminar in book history.
4. Probably graduate student or beyond.
5. Students should have a solid understanding of research and a basic to intermediate understanding of book history.
6. A mix of book professionals and scholars.
7. Someone comfortable with interdisciplinary discussions and lots of stories from DH.
8. High.
9. Equivalent to a graduate seminar.
10. Graduate level work.
11. The course is probably most suitable to those who've done a bit of graduate work, or taken RBS seminars, in the field.
12. {private response}
13. Scholars and specialists from a variety of backgrounds.

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. Most moments for me were powerful, especially hearing DH's & AB's viewpoints.
2. Seeing the De Bry!
3. Working in Houghton Library for a week results in many, many "aha!" moments.
4. {no response}
5. Every participant brought their own views and enhanced the experience.
6. {no response}
7. Loved the fourteen editions of Foxe and the Luther; illustrations were a ton of fun as well.
8. Many "aha" moments.
9. Early America printed books also!
10. {no response}
11. The discussion surrounding the Jackson article opened an entirely new field, and a new mode of inquiry, for me.
12. To paraphrase AB's book, there's too much to share.
13. {no response}

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

1. I would swap the articles on reading to earlier in the syllabus.
2. Less emphasis on Anglo-American.
3. N/A
4. {no response}
5. When viewing books, it may be better to have the instructor discuss the books one by one first, and then have the class browse.
6. N/A
7. {no response}
8. More examples as case studies from other European countries.
9. Breakfast/coffee breaks.
10. {no response}
11. At times the material did seem to be a bit Anglo-centric. Perhaps a bit more attention to issues like translation and trans-national exchange.
12. {no response}
13. {no response}

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

1. Yes to both.
2. Sure.
3. I certainly would recommend this course!
4. {no response}
5. Yes, and yes.
6. The instructional setting was great.
7. Yes, and yes.
8. Yes!
9. N/A
10. I would recommend this course to others.
11. Yes. Yes.
12. Yes. Yes.
13. Yes.

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

1. Archive visit was very useful for understanding how archives make narratives.
2. The visit to the archives and tour of the Houghton were both great.
3. Yes, the visit to the Harvard University archives was time well spent.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Yes.
7. The field trip was OK.
8. The visit to the archives was very interesting.
9. The Harvard archive—yes, very neat.
10. {no response}
11. Yes.

12. The tour was neat. Would prefer it after hours.
13. {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 lecture was fine—a bit outside of my area, but Richard was a good speaker and tied in with the bibliographer field.
2. Ticknor Society talk was fine.
3. {no response}
4. Yes. Good opportunities for social engagement.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. {no response}
11. {no response}
12. {no response}
13. {no response}

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

1. Start the readings early and re-read before class.
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. N/A
7. Love, love, love. Do not discontinue!
8. N/A
9. The course might deserve a “seminar” title. One thing AB and DH did that I found really helpful was to give us a daily study hall to work with materials for our final project. Another RBS course (an “advanced seminar”) did not provide time for this which meant skipping meals to work.
10. {no response}
11. Be sure to consult Hollis early, and to come with a project in mind.
12. Do the reading, all of it, before the course begins.
13. I recommend this class highly. I especially enjoyed the interdisciplinary aspects of the course.

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

1. Amazing! (And I don't say this lightly.)
2. {no response}
3. A week researching and discussing in Houghton Library with remarkable

- instructors.
4. An engaging, provocative, and congenial experience.
 5. It's a forever astonishing endeavor.
 6. More tools in the scholarly tool box.
 7. Nerdy conversations with my people.
 8. Excellent course!
 9. Exactly what I've come to expect from Rare Book School's courses.
 10. This was a wonderful experience overall—very informative and helpful!
 11. I just want to add a note about the research projects and presentations. Hearing about others' research was a highlight, and I appreciated the time set aside for research.
 12. AB and DH are as scholars on a hill.
 13. Excellent.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 13 (of 13)

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

- My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 4 (30.77%)
My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 2 (15.38%)
I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 6 (46.15%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (7.69%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

- I paid 100% myself: 3 (23.08%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (38.46%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (15.38%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (7.69%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 2 (15.38%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

- I paid 100% myself: 3 (23.08%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (23.08%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (7.69%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (7.69%)
I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 4 (30.77%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (7.69%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

- I paid 100% myself: 4 (30.77%)
- My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (15.38%)
- My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 4 (30.77%)
- I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (7.69%)
- I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (7.69%)
- My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (7.69%)

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

Library disciplines:

- Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (7.69%)
- Public services librarian: 1 (7.69%)
- Special collections librarian: 2 (15.38%)
- Other: 1 (7.69%)

Student working toward a/n:

- M.L.I.S./M.L.S.: 1 (7.69%)
- Ph.D./D.Phil: 6 (46.15%)

Professional educator:

- Other: 1 (7.69%)