

John Hessler
H-110: The Art & Science of Cartography
16–21 October 2016

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. {private response}
2. Yes, reading was helpful.
3. Yes, read the books. Maybe a bit expensive if work does not buy materials.
4. Yes, very useful for situating the course topics. I did some work related to how my own research ties into the course.
5. Yes. No. JH included supplemental reading throughout the week.
6. I wasn't able to find all of the readings, but the ones I did read were helpful.
7. I would have liked to have had more context for the advance readings and some contact from the instructor ahead of the course. The advance readings were numerous and dense and included collections of essays, some of which were not relevant to this iteration of the course.
8. Yes. I will re-read them after the course with new context.
9. Very useful reading list. I took advantage of my public library, interlibrary loan, eBay, and Amazon to gather my materials. A couple of the articles were difficult to find.
10. 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. {no response}
2. Yes, will continue to use readings.
3. Not relevant, don't work in {illegible}.
4. Yes, appropriate and useful.
5. {no response}
6. All teaching materials were very useful.
7. Yes, these were helpful and were more realistic in quantity than the advance readings.
8. {no response}
9. I will certainly re-read the additional materials that were handed out during class.
10. N/A

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. Most fulfilling from a curiosity standpoint.
6. This is the best RBS course I've taken so far. The information was all very interesting and useful.
7. N/A
8. More academic and intellectually challenging.
9. JH made this a truly unique experience. His knowledge across so many different fields added a level of complexity that was very enjoyable and inspiring.
10. Loved it. The instructor is very generous with his vast knowledge on many subjects! He is to be greatly admired for his accomplishments.

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. Philosophy of cartography, time in the vaults and detailed interaction with the maps as physical objects. I have many new insights on the philosophy of science during this period to explore.
2. Better basic knowledge of the history of cartography and thought process of Ptolemy.
3. Yes, Ptolemaic mapping.
4. I thought the range of contextual topics—historical, artistic, archaeological, scientific, and philosophical—gave a tremendous background.
5. Seeing and learning how the maps/charts were created, artistically and scientifically.
6. Gaining a better understanding of the progression of cartography will be very helpful in terms of contextualizing the maps we have in our library's collection.
7. I enjoyed the discussion of the pre- and post-contact maps and the medieval Ptolemaic maps we looked at in the vault.
8. Most relevant was looking at the different physical formats of maps in the vault.
9. I was most interested in the sociological and philosophical contexts of mapping. I will certainly continue to digest a ton of new insights and bring them to my work and my thinking on the topic of place.
10. I am just beginning to learn more about the history of cartography. This class has provided a great starting point. Thank you.

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. JH was generous in his knowledge and tailoring the class to the interests of the students. I have several new and promising research interests that came out of it.
2. Instructor was very helpful in applying previous knowledge to a more global thought process.
3. {no response}
4. Yes, the instructor did a wonderful job.
5. Yes, and so much more. Not that I know of. Absolutely.
6. I would have liked to learn a little more about non-Western maps and conceptions of space, but I understand that this was beyond the limits of the class description.
7. Nothing was left out, but I think I'd enjoy a bit more hands-on time spent on the

- technology aspect.
8. I would have liked a little broader scope. Course description should emphasize the focus on the Waldseemüller map.
 9. Yes. No. Yes. I am particularly enamored with the idea of exploring the methods of Ptolemaic projections.
 10. It was not just about the materials, but how to view the materials in a historical context.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. I learned much about the philosophy of cartographic analysis to use in my own research and also to teach junior colleagues.
 2. Helpful basis to understanding the growth of cartography.
 3. Will use skills in cataloging and item descriptions.
 4. I hope to apply it to both my research and teaching.
 5. To incorporate maps into my teaching and exhibits.
 6. I'll use this knowledge to acquire new maps for the library, and to use these maps as teaching materials.
 7. I hope to develop a few adjunct courses and workshops for use in our GIS program on MapAnalyst software, maps and epistemology, and so forth.
 8. In researching maps for purchase for my institution.
 9. I will incorporate new thinking as I develop my visual art project on place and self.
 10. This course has helped to develop a basis of knowledge of cartography that I can develop further: how to look at maps, past and present, and how to think about creating a map.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. I was very glad to have done all the reading beforehand and to have come in with a good understanding of the general history of the period. We were moving quite fast on the main concepts and I would advocate that preparation.
 2. High, but not unapproachable to a layman.
 3. Nine out of ten. High intellect, for academics and people with serious interest only.
 4. It did require a range of disciplinary interests, including scientific/{illegible}, but it was instructed in a way that certainly did not require expertise.
 5. Special collections librarians, GIS librarians, curators.
 6. Anyone interested in the history of western cartography.
 7. Complex and rigorous. Best for people who work with manuscripts directly.
 8. {no response}
 9. Very high intellectual level. Anyone who wants a bigger and more complex brain will love this immersion.
 10. Anyone with a strong interest in the conceptual and physical aspects of cartography.
- 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. There is nothing that compares to handling the artifacts themselves in physical form.
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. Delving into Ptolemy's mathematical and representational concerns in conversation with examples of Renaissance Ptolemaic texts and maps was fascinating.
5. All of the materials we saw in the vault.
6. Looking at the various maps in the LC vault was particularly enjoyable, as was the trip to the digital imaging department.
7. There were many of them.
8. {no response}
9. I love that the Waldseemüller map represents an ephemeral moment in human culture on the brink of a tremendous paradigm shift.
10. {no response}

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

1. If only we had more time.
2. Shorter, four days.
3. Leave time at end of day to go to institutions. Everything in D.C. closes at 5 p.m.
4. Perhaps a little more on the artistic methods and techniques that go into map production.
5. Missed the environment at Alderman/Charlottesville, but there wouldn't be these incredible materials in Charlottesville.
6. Maybe expanding the time frame to include Mercator and other Renaissance map makers. I thought we could have delved a little less deeply into Ptolemy and Waldseemüller in order to talk at least a little about other maps and map makers.
7. {no response}
8. See Q5. Also would like to have looked at more/varied examples of maps and discussed how to classify, recognize, and date them.
9. {no response}
10. Printed copy of PowerPoint presentation for note taking purposes and reference.

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

1. Yes. This has been an amazing experience.
2. {no response}
3. Yes.
4. Yes.
5. Yes. Most definitely.
6. Yes.
7. Yes, and yes.
8. Would recommend to academics with interest in geography, but maybe not librarians with broader remit.
9. Oh yes! Oh yes!
10. Yes. Yes.

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

time well spent?

1. Yes! It was very illuminating to see the full public display at Jefferson, and witness the curator interacting with the public about the artifacts.
 2. {no response}
 3. N/A
 4. Yes, our time in the vault and in the LC exhibitions was a very valuable component.
 5. Absolutely. Imaging center was great. Vault trips were amazing. Visit to exhibition area was very helpful.
 6. Yes, especially the digital imaging lab visit.
 7. Absolutely.
 8. Yes.
 9. Yes.
 10. Yes!
- 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. MFS's talk was wonderful and DJL was very generous in setting up a Folger Library tour for those not in her own class.
 2. {no response}
 3. N/A
 4. Yes, both the welcome reception and keynote talk were enjoyable, especially the keynote reception.
 5. N/A
 6. I enjoyed the guided tour of the Folger Library exhibit.
 7. They were good. I attended only one, the evening lecture by MFS.
 8. MFS's talk was great (too short!) and tour of the Folger exhibit was enjoyable. Otherwise, I wouldn't have made it to the Folger.
 9. Very much enjoyed the MFS lecture.
 10. Always good to see staff members from RBS.
- 13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. Consider doing all the supplemental readings and manifesto footnotes beforehand. You will be rewarded with having the general landscape of topics beforehand. Make the most of your time with JH.
 2. {no response}
 3. {no response}
 4. If you find a course you are interested in, I have no doubt it will pay off.
 5. Start the reading early. A lot to take in, but well worth the time.
 6. Teacher was wonderful, very knowledgeable. This course won't really help with cataloging maps, but will contribute greatly to your overall historical understanding of cartography.
 7. I think getting in touch with JH ahead of time to ask about advance readings is a good idea. He mentioned that RBS had an out-of-date list, so I was confused

- about which parts were most essential and probably didn't need to buy all eight of the books I did.
8. {no response}
 9. Do the readings. Take advantage of the reading room to go exploring the reference and rare materials at LC.
 10. Plan ahead for accommodations. Do the advance reading. It may not make sense the first time, but it will after taking the course.

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

1. Illuminating.
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. Extremely valuable and worth it.
5. John "Indiana Jones" Hessler is a treasure of stories, knowledge, and information.
6. Had a great time, learned a lot.
7. Mind-blowing.
8. Wonderful!
9. I am excited and inspired by this map immersion.
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: 7 (70%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 2 (20%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 1 (10%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (20%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (40%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (20%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 2 (20%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (30%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (40%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (20%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (10%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (30%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (40%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (20%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (10%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (10%)

Curator: 1 (10%)

Special collections librarian: 2 (20%)

Student working toward a/n:

Ph.D./D.Phil: 1 (10%)

Professional educator:

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (10%)

Book trades:

Appraiser: 1 (10%)

Auction house staff: 1 (10%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Independent scholar: 1 (10%)

Other: 1 (10%)