

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. Reading useful. No other prep.
2. Yes, useful, though rarely referenced in class.
3. There were three recommended books. One, *Apart From the Text*, I could not get access to. The prices online were expensive, though that seemed like a useful book. *Five Hundred Years of Printing* was a great overview, and easy to find and afford.
4. Yes, they were useful. I was already familiar with a couple of them.
5. Yes. No. I'm more interested in pre-1950.
6. I thought the reading was useful, but if you are professionally involved with books, not critical. I found Gaskell very DULL. The others were more interesting.
7. Reading assignments were useful. No additional preparation. Gaskell must retire.
8. The readings were very helpful in providing background, context, and terminology about subjects addressed in the course.
9. I would have preferred more current books and some shorter articles.
10. Readings were useful in refreshing the terminology used within the class.
11. I had already become fairly familiar with the course reading beforehand through independent research and practical experience, but the selections were certainly relevant. A fortune and bottomless gratitude await the scholar willing to rewrite Gaskell with a bit more flair.

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. Excellent workbook.
2. Adequate workbook. Not nearly enough visual aids were used to demonstrate printing concepts discussed, making learning and understanding very hard.
3. The workbook, timeline especially, will be useful in the future. I wish we had been able to see more examples more closely and see actual pieces of type, blocks, &c.. It was difficult to really tell the difference between various processes without seeing examples closely.
4. It was somewhat helpful, but the order was hard to follow.
5. Course workbook helpful—content useful and I will use again in teaching.
6. Workbook very useful, less for illustrations of machinery than for typographical examples. I may refer to them in the future.
7. Yes, it will be useful as reference material.
8. The workbook was helpful for visuals, but it would be great to get a copy of the PowerPoint slides or a list of links to films/clips we watched. The rare/special collections materials we used were extremely helpful in illustrating the concepts

discussed.

9. Most likely, yes.
10. Useful visual workbook will be used in my daily activity.
11. It's a handy consolidation of otherwise disparate material and will help keep the historical framework of this period of technological innovation in tact.

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

1. N/A
2. Livelier.
3. {no response}
4. The content was less "new" to me in this class.
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. N/A

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. Liked the broad general survey.
2. Elucidation of book creation was illuminating, though, as I emphasize again, not presented as visually as it should've been.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. History of mechanics of printing. I'd like to organize such a program at a lower level for our local library.
6. Sections involving illustrations. Enormously helpful to understanding how these were printed within the text.
7. {no response}
8. I feel enormously more comfortable examining and identifying books printed after 1800. The discussion of illustration techniques was extremely helpful and I thoroughly enjoyed the typeface discussions.
9. Networking. Examples of specific books.
10. Publishers' bindings, various typographical processes.
11. I was able to connect a lot of scattered knowledge borne of practical printing experience and research into a more coherent linear narrative.

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. Very helpful.
2. Yes. Everything was covered, though in a slightly haphazard, disorganized fashion.
3. {no response}
4. {private response}

5. Instructor very helpful as were {illegible} of fellow students.
6. Everything promised was delivered.
7. {no response}
8. In the time given, I think it was an excellent overview. I absolutely learned what I came to learn.
9. Underdeveloped: representation of women and other underrepresented groups; more social-historical context.
10. Yes. Expected more of a global focus, though.
11. We covered a lot of ground, most of it compelling. Obviously would have enjoyed lingering a while longer on beloved subjects, but it didn't kill me to learn something about aspects that run counter to my interests.

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

1. It will inform my work.
2. To improve bibliographic descriptions in catalog records.
3. {no response}
4. Better general understanding of the period for professional general use.
5. Teaching.
6. Will make me a better cataloger.
7. {no response}
8. I plan to use them in my own personal collecting and professional projects. The knowledge will help me identify books to put on exhibit as well as how to display and care for them.
9. Course development and research.
10. In cataloging, show and tell sessions to library visitors.
11. More focused and refined independent research and a renewed pleasure in working in the classical typographic tradition.

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

1. Like a graduate survey course.
2. Lay people and professionals. Very accessible.
3. {no response}
4. It's hard to say. The content wasn't complicated, but some of the terminology was unfamiliar for non-library people.
5. College student and above.
6. Not too highly geared, but room is full of professionals who could be intimidating if you are not equally educated.
7. Someone with previous knowledge of the book trade, printers, &c..
8. While beginners can gain much information, especially if they read the course material, it does help to have at least a small bit of familiarity with the terminology of book parts.
9. {no response}
10. Intellectual level was very accessible, tailored for a wide array of individual practitioners of the profession.
11. It was an amiable balance of scholarship at a conversational level. Passion for the material will carry anyone through the occasional lag in excitement (technological

dead ends, &c.).

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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. None.
8. Too many to name!
9. {no response}
10. Field trips.
11. Still under consideration.

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

1. Syllabus helped provide a framework.
2. More visuals!
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {Illegible}fication of same books.
6. Closer look at the show and tell books. Hard to see from a distance.
7. {private response}
8. I cannot think of any specific ways.
9. The instructor should turn off cell phone or at least explain why instructor must be interrupted constantly by noise from the device. Less lecture, more experiential learning.
10. {no response}
11. Would have liked a brief but focused intro at the outset on how to handle the books so that everyone could begin with the same protocol, thereby perhaps allowing us more physical contact with the books themselves.

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

1. Yes.
2. Yes, and yes.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. Yes.
6. YES.
7. No.
8. Absolutely to both!
9. Maybe.
10. Yes.

11. Yes, absolutely.

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

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Our trip to the Met's library was wonderful. Seeing the Grolier's exhibits with an expert was also an amazing experience.
4. The bindings at the Metropolitan Museum were great.
5. Yes. Lecture interesting. Trip to MMA less so. Could have been done at Grolier.
6. Yes, the trip to Watson Library at the Met to see covers was interesting.
7. Absolutely. Both of the trips were educational and relevant.
8. Definitely. The Watson Library was so educational, and a joy to visit.
9. The lectures and excursions were the best.
10. Very useful moments.
11. Yes, most relevant and enjoyable.

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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. The Monday evening lecture was pretty terrible.
5. Yes.
6. Good to meet the others in the class at a social setting where ideas are exchanged.
7. {no response}
8. A talk on the first night was a bit overwhelming. It may have been better later in the week.
9. Yes. Without the special lecture and trip to the Metropolitan Museum, we would not have learned that women and other minorities were printers and involved in the book trade.
10. Enriching experiences.
11. The Monday lecture was interesting but quite dry.

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. I think the course is structured to assume you already have a solid mastery of the pre-course readings.
5. No.
6. {no response}
7. Have prior knowledge.
8. The readings will enrich your experience tremendously!

9. {no response}
10. {no response}
11. It would be a great follow-up for anyone taking the letterpress class.

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

1. Very nice.
2. Stimulating. Slightly frustrating in terms of classroom experience.
3. {no response}
4. Rest up and eat your Wheaties.
5. Wonderful experience and hope to take another course someday.
6. Wish I had started coming years ago.
7. {no response}
8. A booklover's vacation.
9. An efficient introduction to book history, if you want a Western perspective that is primarily Anglophone oriented.
10. RBS is a great forum of professional development.
11. Eric Holzenberg
Gave us our money's worth at
The Grolier Club

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: 7 (63.64%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days:
3 (27.27%)

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

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (18.18%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (63.64%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (9.09%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (18.18%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (36.36%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 5 (45.45%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

- I paid 100% myself: 4 (36.36%)
- My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (36.36%)
- I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 2 (18.18%)
- My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (9.09%)

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

Library disciplines:

- Cataloger/metadata librarian: 2 (18.18%)
- Library administrator: 1 (9.09%)
- Special collections librarian: 2 (18.18%)
- Other: 2 (18.18%)

Professional educator:

- Associate professor: 1 (9.09%)

Book trades:

- Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (9.09%)
- Book artist, artisan or printer: 1 (9.09%)

No response: 1 (9.09%)