

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 think the readings could be updated. We didn't reference them a lot, but they would help anyone with no background on the subject.
2. The reading list seemed solid, and the other students spoke favorably about the readings. I didn't have time to do the reading.
3. The readings were useful but a bit dated and dry. I'd love to see one or two exchanged for something new.
4. Yes, although I didn't get to everything.
5. The readings did not get far enough into the late twentieth/twenty-first centuries; EH indicated he has plans to update the reading list.
6. Very useful, and glad to own them now for future reference.
7. The Rota text was particularly informative and engaging, but I felt as though the readings all covered more or less the same ground, which felt repetitive. {private response}
8. The readings were good. Rota was excellent. They did however cover much of the same ground; the three together felt a bit redundant. It is a problem that none advanced past 1997 or covered the Internet.
9. Very useful assignments (still catching up, but I bought the books).
10. The readings were very informative, but EH himself said he will change them for next year to better fit the class.

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. The workbook could use an update as well. All of the content was useful, but I'm not sure if I'll use it going forward.
2. The workbook was excellent: clear, comprehensive, and well put together.
3. The workbook was useful and will be a great reference in the future.
4. Wish it had followed the sequence of the lectures in class, but it will be an excellent resource at home.
5. Workbook is useful. PowerPoint was excellent—great resource for future reference (EH will distribute PowerPoint electronically later).
6. Very helpful info, diagrams, and pictures in the workbook. Good for future reference. Would recommend building note-taking space into each page of the workbook, with blank pages in the back, so that notes and distributed materials are under one cover for future reference.
7. The workbook provided some helpful visualizations of the various printing processes, and the books and tools we looked at were fascinating. I think some sort

- of chart detailing how to tell different types of illustrations apart would have been even more useful. {private response}
8. Excellent. Will continue to inform me.
 9. The richness of teaching materials! So many beautiful or interesting or curious objects displayed and shown—some (many) for physical holding. EH's workbook is most helpful, as well as his PowerPoint PDF.
 10. I enjoyed handling the artifacts to see real world examples, and the workbook was full of information, but the organization of it could have been better thought out to be more intuitive or comprehensive.

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

1. I loved connecting my previous courses to this one in terms of the themes we discussed. I definitely think all of my experiences have been stellar.
2. Just as amazing as my first one.
3. N/A
4. Excellent.
5. N/A
6. As instructional and fun as previous courses.
7. This was my first.
8. N/A
9. Each had its own virtue, though I think I prefer the single instructor. But then again, it would depend on the subject.
10. 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. I will walk away with a few project plans and I feel very inspired by some of the things we saw. The SC sessions and the in-class exercises were by far the best aspects.
2. I learned so much from this course that it would be impossible to quantify or describe.
3. The entire course was interesting and greatly supplemented my previous knowledge of books and printing processes. I can already see how this will inform my scholarship and work with objects.
4. It filled my nineteenth- and twentieth-century gaps, and was a great balance of commercial and fine-press information.
5. The overview of the various production processes through the period.
6. The linear presentation of the mechanization of the printing and binding processes. I walked away with a much firmer understanding!
7. I most enjoyed learning about nineteenth-century illustration technology.
8. EH presented us with a perfect mix of pedagogical tools. The hands-on experience with texts and printing samples was especially valuable. The videos, too, were well considered. I valued the "exams" describing individual books.
9. EH's survey was what I needed, to fill in areas I was unaware of: technologies, especially, but also their use related to labor and costs. I was most interested in fine publishing and took notes furiously! Excellent videos. And the fine press books and livres d'artist were my favorites.

10. Seeing examples of illustrations and bindings was incredible and I want to continue learning about those processes.
- 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. Absolutely on all points. He was very knowledgeable, and great at explaining very complex processes.
 2. The course description—while immensely helpful and accurate—could not possibly do justice to the depth and breadth of this course.
 3. Yes! I learned a wide variety of information but because of discussions and time constraints, it sometimes felt rushed.
 4. Yes.
 5. Need a bit more coverage of late twentieth/twenty-first centuries, but overall, yes. Although it's a survey course, it is very detailed when necessary and gave me an invaluable introduction, and will make further research into specific mechanical processes possible.
 6. Yes!
 7. I did learn everything that was advertised on the website, but it would have been even better if we had been able to touch more of the books, or if the course had spent less time just going over the material in the reading.
 8. Yes, the content hit the mark. I do wish it had spent more time on current printing practices and had touched on marginalized printing modes like mimeographs and xerography.
 9. I learned much more than I expected; took copious notes; have questions about and ideas for new avenues of investigation on my own (and for my next RBS course).
 10. I came in not really knowing what to expect (through no fault of the course description or anything like that, I just didn't know the format in which EH taught), but everything was intensely researched beforehand and I am left wanting more class time at the end of the week!
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. I hope to bring them back to my job to further support the promotion and stewardship of our printed book collection.
 2. As an RBS employee, I gained greater insight into the importance of the school's mission. And, as a private citizen, my cultural, artistic, and literary knowledge has greatly increased.
 3. It will inform my future worth academically and professionally.
 4. Daily in my job teaching and providing reference.
 5. My research deals with publishing processes and materials, so this will inform my research. I've also taught courses on visuality/materiality of books, and this will greatly enhance my own teaching.
 6. This knowledge will give me a fuller context in which to understand nineteenth- and twentieth-century books that I work on.
 7. I'm not sure, but I enjoyed learning it. Thanks!
 8. The course will continue to inform my trade as an independent bookseller and my

- research which often deals with the nexus of art and printing cultures.
9. Mindfully.
 10. I am planning on going to grad school to obtain my M.L.S. degree, so this course's information will be beneficial in my later studies.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. The course wasn't overly challenging, and I think it's essential for most in the book related fields.
 2. The course was accessible to an erudite, literary, and bookish person, as well as specialized enough to offer scholars and librarians a great deal.
 3. This course would be helpful for anyone with an interest in book/print culture. It was great having people with diverse backgrounds and experience adding to discussions.
 4. Someone interested in technical aspects, but not too focused on them. A good survey.
 5. Intellectual level is high—great for scholars and others.
 6. Introductory—those with limited understanding of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century mechanization processes will benefit greatly!
 7. It is best suited to someone entirely new to the subject matter. I had enough prior experience that I was a bit bored during the early periods we covered.
 8. It was informative without being intimidating. Beginning to intermediate.
 9. A finely-detailed survey of book-making through technology, by hand, machine, and electronics. EH's framing was what made the course: his topics, questions, and ways of engaging us.
 10. Hands-on learners and curious individuals.
- 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 loved our exercises examining books. Those were the most educational.
 2. The hands-on exercises and show-and-tell sessions are always exciting and gorgeous.
 3. The time with SC, and when EH would test us by having us examine books in pairs.
 4. The examinations and discussions during group work. Loved seeing the progression with hands-on work.
 5. {no response}
 6. The presentation of the advancement of mechanization by encountering "bottlenecks"...a great and memorable metaphor.
 7. I finally understand lithography and electrotyping! Thanks!
 8. The thorough discussion of the economics of the British publishing industry in the nineteenth century will stay with me.
 9. Barbara Heritage's wonderful talk about "Jane Eyre," and livres d'artiste.
 10. {no response}
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*

1. Better use of slideshow/technology in general.
2. {no response}
3. More time! And the opportunity to handle more objects.
4. {no response}
5. See Q1 and Q5. Also, while the packet of examples was good, seeing more examples at once could be useful.
6. Workbook reworked for serial notetaking.
7. The instructor sometimes spent several minutes at a time looking for items in the collection or figuring out what to do next. So, a bit more organization would be lovely. Some more hands-on time would also be great!
8. More current discussions.
9. Can't think how.
10. EH was brilliant, but scatter-brained at times, so perhaps more organization on his end.

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

1. Yes to both points.
2. I would highly recommend this course to others and will.
3. Absolutely! So informative and interesting.
4. Yes. Yes.
5. Yes. Yes, I already have.
6. Yes. Yes.
7. I certainly learned what I'd set out to learn, but I wish it had been a little faster paced.
8. Absolutely. I would highly recommend it.
9. More than; yes.
10. Yes, I would. EH is a wonderful teacher!

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

1. Yes, they were.
2. Our only trip was to Jan Storm van Leeuwen's binding museum, which was wonderful.
3. {no response}
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. {no response}
7. I really enjoyed Barbara Heritage's "Jane Eyre" presentation.
8. Yes.
9. N/A (well, to LT, yes!)
10. N/A

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 went to most optional events and I thought they were great.
2. The evening activities are wonderful!
3. They were interesting but it was a lot after the long days in class.
4. {no response}
5. Lecture was excellent. Didn't find Movie Night so great. Interesting videos as historical pieces, but since quality was low, it was difficult to see visually what is being depicted.
6. Lecture night was an interesting all-school event!
7. Monday's keynote talk was great!
8. Yes. The letterpress exercise was wonderful, as was a non-RBS lecture I attended on Mexican codices at UVA.
9. {no response}
10. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. This course is comprehensive in scope. It is culturally and literarily historical with lots of emphasis on print processes and machinery.
3. {no response}
4. Works really well following H-30: "The Printed Book in the West to 1800."
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. No.
9. Do it.
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. Absolutely wonderful and worth every penny!
2. Absolutely thrilling and delightful and energizing!
3. {no response}
4. Always a pleasure!
5. {no response}
6. Coming back next year!
7. Informative, friendly, but a bit dry.
8. Sehr gut.
9. Happiness.
10. Tiring but incredible!

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: 3 (30%)

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:
4 (40%)

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

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (10%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (40%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (30%)

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

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%: 3 (30%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 4 (40%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 5 (50%)

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

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 3 (30%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (10%)

Conservator/binder/preservation librarian: 1 (10%)

Curator: 1 (10%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (10%)

Student working toward a/n:

B.A./B.S.: 1 (10%)

Professional educator:

Assistant professor: 1 (10%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (10%)

Publisher: 1 (10%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Other: 2 (20%)