

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. The pre-course readings were useful, informative, with clear and systematic presentation—they could be used as reference works at any time.
2. The reading was very useful, however, I didn't initially receive details about specific chapters to focus on, only a book list.
3. I completed the course readings and found all of them helpful. Going through the exercise of reading all the texts helped me grasp the information and applications that EH taught us with greater ease.
4. Yes. No.
5. Yes, very, particularly *Five Hundred Years of Printing*. Good for evening brush up.
6. Truthfully, I did not read the reading list. But I was expecting an email in its regards before the class, and did not receive one.
7. Yes, readings were useful.
8. The reading assignments were very helpful, but somewhat repetitious. {private response}
9. I'd slim down the required reading.
10. {private response}
11. Reading assignments were helpful and I am glad I now own the books for reference.

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. Very helpful and easy to use as a reference tool.
2. Yes, I'm glad to have the workbook to take home.
3. The workbook was a helpful visual tool, and it should continue to be used. It might also be nice to include basic photos of examples of books from the periods we were discussing for basic references.
4. OK. Organization of the workbook is a bit strange.
5. The workbook was useful, especially the timelines for providing context.
6. Excellent.
7. The workbook was great for illustrative purposes. Some version of the PowerPoint slides would be great—perhaps an electronic copy of all the links to the videos?
8. The workbook was helpful, but since it was primarily illustrations, I don't expect to use it much after the course.
9. Liked the workbook, but maybe include a list of YouTube clips so we can return to them later.
10. {private response}

11. Yes to both questions.

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

1. Dynamic, engaging, and interactive!
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. Similar.
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. {private response}
11. This is my first course—and it makes me want to take another.

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. Learning about the coming of new technological innovations in printing processes.
2. I honestly enjoyed all of it. I work with a huge range of material in my job, so it was very useful to get a clearer sense of chronology, development, &c..
3. I most enjoyed looking at and handling the books themselves. However, the discussion about the book trade and collectors was extremely interesting and I feel that I have a new perspective I can use with current and future clients.
4. Technology, history, context, and different points of view.
5. I walked away with a good framework for “training my eye” to see books, to see books within the contexts of their production, and what I need to look for to apply a bibliographical vocabulary to discuss them.
6. Yes....
7. I really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the course, and the diversity of backgrounds of the attendees. Great to have non-librarians, people with arts, museum, or book arts backgrounds!
8. The most interesting aspect of the course was learning to identify printing and illustration processes.
9. Seeing the fine press books was most inspiring.
10. {private response}
11. Lots of new insights—mostly knowledge that I didn't have before which will help me in my continued curatorial work.

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!
2. Yes. Of course, it's difficult to get too in-depth in one week. Yes.
3. EH was wonderful and effective. I felt that I got all of the information about this particular piece of book history.
4. Yes. Type history not really covered. Not sure what I hoped to learn, but very

- enjoyable, interesting, and captivating.
5. Yes. My expectations were somewhat nebulous, but a logical development of vocabulary/perspective spun itself as the week went along.
 6. 1) Yes. 2) We could go into further depth, but not necessary to coursework. 3) Yes.
 7. Yes, as promised, and yes, there is always so much more—perhaps more on the book trade?
 8. Overall, the balance of information was very good. I would have liked to spend a little more time on the period of 1870–1970.
 9. Would love to have learned about printing developments alongside or more in concert with learning about The Grolier Club’s holdings.
 10. {private response}
 11. Yes, the course description and syllabus were accurate, and I learned more than I had even imagined.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. In my professional setting.
 2. It will be useful in identifying print techniques for conservation purposes, and also in communicating with curators.
 3. This historical and practical information will allow me to speak with clients and future clients (and all interested parties) with a better context and understanding about our collections, and books in general.
 4. Assimilate into my class; pursue writing on a related topic; and collect a book or two!
 5. I am transitioning to be the special collections librarian in the new year, so said skills will be hot in the skillet when I get back home Monday.
 6. I can be a more informed binder.
 7. Identify and describe in catalog records more of the type, binding, illustration, and paper features of interesting items.
 8. I expect to use the skills in identifying printing and illustration processes in my job.
 9. {no response}
 10. {private response}
 11. See Q4. This information fills out an important area of nineteenth-century British and American culture that I did not have prior to taking the course.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. People from different backgrounds and levels of experience would enjoy it and benefit from it!
 2. I think anyone working with books in some capacity with historical curiosity would benefit, so a fairly broad group!
 3. Someone who is at all related to books in their professional field is a good candidate for this course. I would say a college degree or great understanding of books would be required to grasp some of the material though.
 4. Good. All professions related to books.
 5. Anyone who has real patience to apply toward learning about the book.
 6. Likely most beneficial to those who have never made books. Collectors, librarians,

- archivists, &c..
7. Anyone with a good general humanities background and some experience with the book world. Knowledge of book history up to 1800 is helpful.
 8. I think the course would be useful to anyone interested in the topic, no matter the person's background or education.
 9. {no response}
 10. {private response}
 11. Our group was made up of all kinds of book and humanities professions. I would guess that everyone benefitted.
- 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. Great illustration methods of printing through in-class exercises.
 2. Since I don't have a strong knowledge base in typography, I learned quite a lot from those discussions.
 3. Through the historical progression of the book making process there were many "aha" moments because I had very little knowledge of how books were made past the 1850s.
 4. Too many. Filled gaps in my otherwise self-taught understanding, especially of printing technologies.
 5. The idea of "training one's eye." Thinking about ideas in the course in relation to where I am in my life, a career transition looming.
 6. A few relevant binding moments, and understanding a "yapp."
 7. The specifics of the history and mission of The Grolier Club were delightful. Also, the hands-on aspects of seeing Grolier collection materials.
 8. The most powerful moments were seeing the books themselves.
 9. {no response}
 10. {private response}
 11. Too many to list.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. N/A
 2. I would have enjoyed hearing a little more from the other students' areas of expertise as well.
 3. N/A!
 4. More organized.
 5. {no response}
 6. Different room/table layout!!!
 7. I would have loved to have a chance to engage with The Grolier Club library for a reference exercise/task.
 8. N/A
 9. Would have enjoyed more focus/fine examination of type, rather than the overriding old style vs. modern division we used.
 10. N/A
 11. I loved it just the way it was. Well beyond even my elevated expectations!

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

1. Yes! Will recommend to others!
2. Yes. Yes.
3. Absolutely on both counts.
4. Yes, x 2.
5. Yes.
6. ...perhaps...
7. Absolutely.
8. Yes, I would recommend the course.
9. {no response}
10. {private response}
11. YES! YES!

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

1. Yes. The visits to The Grolier Club library and the Thomas J. Watson Library at The Metropolitan Museum of Art were excellent.
2. Yes, the Met visit was wonderful.
3. Yes—the Met trip was fantastic!
4. The Met trip was good.
5. The trip to the Metropolitan was extremely useful, and really did pull our discussions about bindings together in a very powerful way.
6. Yes!
7. The Met field trip was a treat!
8. Yes, the trip to the Met Library was good and could have been longer.
9. Loved the trip to the Met! Would have been great to have a similar trip to The Morgan Library & Museum.
10. N/A {private response}
11. 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. N/A
2. {no response}
3. I attended the lecture and thought it was an interesting experience being around The Grolier Club members.
4. Awkward. Not attended by all. Hard to have a full dinner when you don't know each other.
5. They were good for me to see the workings of The Grolier Club, given my lack of rare book background.
6. I was not in attendance.
7. The reception on Sunday was nice. I regret that my travel schedule did not allow for the Friday farewell get-together.
8. The welcome dinner was a good way to meet others in the class.

9. {no response}
10. N/A
11. Did not attend.

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

1. Highly recommend this course!
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. Do the reading to be sure to help solidify the terminology that does sometimes come thick and fast in the course.
6. More specimens.
7. {no response}
8. Definitely do the readings before the course since they will help you follow the lectures which are full of details.
9. {no response}
10. N/A
11. Do it!

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

1. Excellent! Great instructor and staff! Thank you!
2. Hooray for books!
3. Time well spent!
4. Intense + immersive = good.
5. Reoriented, renewed to re-pursue professional commitments....
6. My feet hurt, my back aches, and my brain is full.
7. {no response}
8. Very positive first experience at RBS.
9. {no response}
10. {private response}
11. Fantastic!

Student Data

Number of respondents: 11 (of 11)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 8 (72.73%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 1 (9.09%)

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

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (27.27%)

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

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: 4 (36.36%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (18.18%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (45.45%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 4 (36.36%)

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

Library disciplines:

Conservator/binder/preservation librarian: 1 (9.09%)

Curator: 3 (27.27%)

Library assistant/clerk: 1 (9.09%)

Public services librarian: 1 (9.09%)

Other: 1 (9.09%)

Student working toward a/n:

B.A./B.S.: 1 (9.09%)

Professional educator:

Associate professor: 1 (9.09%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (9.09%)

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