

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. As a highly kinesthetic learner, I found the readings as they related to letterpress printing to be less useful than those about typography itself, but I understand that that's just me. (And of course they appeared in the same books.)
 2. Yes, the readings were useful. They helped me know basic information so that I wasn't starting from zero.
 3. Yes! I really enjoyed the readings and hope to continue to study them in years to come!
 4. The readings were essential to the understanding of the course. Reading Chappell and *Art of the Printed Book* provided the foundation needed to understand the course materials.
 5. We were warned that there would be some repetition, and there was, but as someone ill-schooled in the topic, I was grateful for the repetitions. {private response}
 6. The readings were a great introduction to typographic history, particularly Chappell and Bringhurst. A comprehensive but manageable list. {private response}
 7. Yes. Yes. No. No. Reading assignments were manageable and well-curated.
 8. The pre-course readings were extremely useful, although some of the workbook materials (specifically the pages which identified parts of letter forms) would have been nice to start with as well.
 9. Yes, very useful.
 10. They were useful, though many of them covered similar topics so they felt slightly repetitive.
 11. Readings were great and any repetition just served as reminders of information. I would perhaps have liked a suggested reading order.
 12. Readings were clear, well-written, and helpful (and there weren't too many either, which was great since most of us are working or doing other research and don't have time for tons of additional reading).

- 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. I felt that the workbook and handouts were all useful and would even recommend some more on distinguishing between humanist, old style, transitional, and modern typefaces.
 2. Love the workbook! There's so much to read and review, and I'm sure I will use it as a guide for many years to come.

3. The workbook was wonderful. I'm so grateful to have it as a resource to teach others about printing and typographic history!
4. The workbook and other teaching materials will continue to be consulted after this course. They were very helpful during the week and the bibliography will provide additional reading material for continued learning.
5. I will unquestionably consult the materials collected in my workbook. There could have been a bit more (e.g., paper versions of some key PowerPoint slides).
6. Workbook was really helpful, and I will absolutely use it in teaching and research in the future. There was a good but not overwhelming range of examples. {private response}
7. Fantastic. Content useful, and it will continue to be so. I love the hard copy of the workbook, but it would also be helpful to have an e-version as well.
8. The workbook and teaching materials will be wonderful reference materials as I continue to hone my skills. They also helped orient me during the week.
9. Content was wonderfully curated. I am looking toward using everything learned in my future career.
10. Extremely useful. I will continue to use it in my own work and in future teaching.
11. Type identification materials and specimens will help me in my work. I'm excited to check out our extensive bibliography as well.
12. Material was very helpful—it's especially cool that RBS has so many great prints, original editions and teaching materials.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. I really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the course. It was one of the primary reasons why I wanted to take the class, and I was not disappointed.
5. It is one of the best.
6. This is my first, and it made me want to come back!
7. This course was far more focused and organized; the teachers were also better prepared and more approachable, and were also excellent time managers. Classroom pace was good, and I appreciate that they left time for questions.
8. I loved the extensive hands-on components of this course, and having two instructor perspectives instead of just one was immensely instructive.
9. N/A
10. I preferred this one because it was more hands-on, and there was a variety of activities.
11. N/A
12. 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. The aspect I found most instructive was the hands-on experience typesetting. I'm walking away with hopes of someday analyzing the typography of Victorian periodicals.
2. I came away with a greater appreciation for the craft of letterpress printing, and

- with a better understanding of the history of book production. I loved, too, learning the names of real people behind all those typeface names.
3. I loved visiting UVA Printing & Copying Services because I have never seen many of the machines that are there and now have a much better understanding of how they work!
 4. I particularly enjoyed the type identification exercises. Of course, working with the Vandercook is not to be missed. I learned more about an area of type style I never knew before, and I would like to pursue this more in the fall.
 5. It was all so interesting and new to me. It will surely influence future art projects.
 6. Both the physical act of setting type/printing AND the historical context was relevant to me. I study the exact period of the course, so it was all really useful. It's made me excited to get back to work!
 7. The overview of typography was incredibly useful, as was the time spent in the printing room.
 8. I was particularly interested in learning about setting type, using the Vandercook, and the nineteenth century typographical information. I plan to get in touch with letterpress printers in my area to see if I can build on this experience!
 9. Yes! With typography being so visual, I have been inspired to create wood cuts and plates for illustrations and lettering to develop my own.
 10. I feel much better equipped to analyze and date types. I also learned a lot about the physical labor and tools employed in letterpress printing.
 11. Learning about the interplay of the book trade and printing was very helpful to my understanding of the book as a physical object.
 12. I feel like I peeked through a window into a whole new room full of fantastic and fascinating things that I hope to explore further for the rest of my life!
- 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. I mainly wanted hands-on experience typesetting, which I gained. I do wish I had a better sense of how to identify humanist, old style, transitional, and modern typefaces, but I'm just slow to learn things visually sometimes.
 2. Yes. No. Yes. I improved my ability to distinguish one font from another. I also improved my ability to compose and set type as well as run a Vandercook press.
 3. Yes! JK and KR are wonderful!
 4. JK and KR are fabulous! They delivered as promised and more. They make a terrific team. Overall, this was a week to remember.
 5. The whole was, I think, pedagogically sound, and KR was especially approachable.
 6. The instructors were fabulous—knowledgeable, good at explaining, patient, and helpful. It was a nice balance between hands-on training/application, visual analysis, and historical background. Tremendously useful.
 7. Yes. No. Yes.
 8. Yes. I wish we'd had even more time to set more type and print, but that isn't a fault of the course—I'm just hungry for more.
 9. Yes, though information about the broad nib and split nib pen concerning the slants of the "O"s in the course could be better explained.
 10. The instructors were very helpful and covered all of the material I hoped to learn (and more!).

11. Yes! The teachings built on one another well.
12. I know that recognizing typefaces takes time, but I wish I felt a little more familiar with identifying them. The type quiz was good practice and maybe a little more of that would be even better.

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

1. As previously mentioned, I want to do a study of Victorian periodicals. But I also will generally use this new knowledge when doing textual scholarship and book history.
2. I am not sure, but I hope that the skills and knowledge gained here will improve my job search prospects.
3. I now have the skills to better the letterpress facility I am setting up, with more background on the history. I hope to one day teach a course at my institution.
4. {no response}
5. Perhaps in developing a new course on the history of the book. My skills and knowledge base will influence future art projects.
6. Teaching, research, a greater appreciation for the printed word, and the steps we go through to make that happen.
7. I plan to work the skills and knowledge gained into my current research project. Very useful, thank you. KR and JK were excellent teachers, and also a great pair. I learned a great deal.
8. The skills and knowledge I acquired will be directly informing my doctoral thesis. I also hope to learn more about letterpress printing.
9. In identifying book printing periods as a conservator.
10. In my own research and in teaching, primarily undergraduates.
11. To help me identify books by approximate period, and to inform my understanding of books as objects.
12. I hope to incorporate aspects of the twentieth century private press movement into my dissertation and future research. I'm also inspired to support and advocate for teaching presses in any institutions I'm involved with in the future.

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

1. I think the course will be of use to a wide variety of students, including those in library work, academia, and the book trade.
2. Any intellectually curious person who also loves doing creative work with their hands will benefit from this. City University of New York students need this course.
3. I think this course has much to offer and everyone from students to scholars to craftsmen would benefit.
4. If you read the required readings you will be prepared for the course. I think JK and KR have prepared a course that is suitably vigorous for an RBS course.
5. No previous experience (outside the preliminary readings) is required. The student, however, must be fully engaged, and the intellectual level was high. Advanced grad students, and any practitioner of book arts would benefit.
6. Non-specialists, but with some background in print culture. Good for artist-printers, academics, catalogers...the whole gamut.

7. Typography enthusiasts, research students, professors, catalogers, &c., would all benefit from this course.
 8. As a Ph.D. candidate, I was intellectually stimulated—but I think JK and KR make this course approachable and interesting for everyone.
 9. Freshman/sophomore level. Anyone with an interest in typography.
 10. It met many needs—for academics, catalogers, and designers. The course would benefit a range of people.
 11. The curious literate bibliophile and/or artist.
 12. It was great to have a diversity of people and professionals in the class. I think it was well-suited for all of us as an intro to printing and typography—we covered a lot without feeling overwhelmed.
- 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. Setting type, and seeing how the process worked, was a powerful moment for me.
 2. {no response}
 3. There were so many every day!
 4. Learning what are the necessary questions on how to identify type.
 5. I really appreciate Linotype and Monotype now (the machines, the processes, and the people of those processes). I loved the field trip to the UVA Printing & Copying Services plant.
 6. Setting my own type. The motions of the Vandercook, and hearing about the instructors’ practice. My wonderful classmates. {private response}
 7. Learning how to set type and how detailed it is; understanding a historical evolution of type.
 8. The type quiz—when I realized how much I was able to apply my knowledge. Also composing because it was hard to visualize the process without doing it myself.
 9. Understanding the printing process. JK was a very helpful and skillful guide through that.
 10. Setting type and realizing how heavy and laborious it can be. It was thrilling to print our broadsides.
 11. I knew what Monotype and Linotype were, but not how they work(ed), nor the effect they had.
 12. It’s amazing that we got to set type and print. I also loved the lectures that gave great survey-like perspectives of developments in the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. As mentioned in Q2, a few more handouts on the families of typefaces and how to identify them.
 2. I don’t know.
 3. I love this course!
 4. More time, as usual for an RBS course.
 5. Perhaps more handouts to guide note-taking during lectures (not whole PowerPoints, but perhaps some pithy material from the PowerPoints).
 6. {no response}

7. I wish we'd looked at more literary texts or normal texts. The focus seemed to be on specialist/fine press typography, not so much literature, and I would have appreciated a session on typography in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Victorian and Modernist texts. I wish we'd spent more time on typography up to 1800.
 8. A short session with broad nib and steel nib pens would have helped make letter angles more clear.
 9. See Q5.
 10. I found the course very well-organized and engaging. I see little room for improvement.
 11. Slightly more guidance on expectations for the typeface presentations so I wouldn't have been so nervous.
 12. See Q5. I also sort of didn't want to do the presentation, though I see the educational value.
- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes!
 2. Yes. YES!
 3. Definitely.
 4. Yes, and yes.
 5. Yes. Yes.
 6. Yes, and yes.
 7. Yes. Yes.
 8. Absolutely!
 9. Yes! Yes!
 10. Yes, and yes.
 11. Yes!
 12. 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 useful to see modern printing.
 2. Oh yes! I loved the trip to the UVA print shop!
 3. Yes! Our visits to SC were amazing! UVA has such an impressive collection of specimens!
 4. We went to UVA SC and the UVA print shop—both added to the overall experience of the course.
 5. Yes.
 6. Yes, we went to UVA Printing & Copying Services, and it was an important and differing perspective.
 7. Yes, the trip to UVA Printing & Copying Services to see the machines was very useful, and I appreciate that KR always kept us on schedule.
 8. Yes.
 9. Definitely! Understanding modern printing practices was useful in situating the type of printing and typography we were learning about.
 10. We visited UVA SC and UVA Printing & Copying Services. Both were informative.

I especially enjoyed visiting UVA SC.

11. Yes! The UVA Printing & Copying Services plant was a great opportunity to see tech in action today on a large scale.
 12. Yes, definitely.
- 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 lectures are always excellent, and Ornament Night was fabulous!
 2. Movie Night was great, but please digitize those VHS tapes soon!
 3. I had a blast at Ornament Night! A big thank you to JK and KR for leading that!
 4. N/A
 5. They are diversions, but pleasant ones.
 6. They were good! {private response}
 7. Yes, all good. Thanks.
 8. Yes. The Monday lecture, Booksellers' Night, and, of course, Ornament Night were the best.
 9. Yes. The ham and wine at the bookseller was particularly important so we got to see books and ephemera in a setting outside the classroom.
 10. Ornament Night was a blast.
 11. Most shops seemed to close early on Booksellers' Night which was very frustrating.
 12. I enjoyed the ones I attended.
- 13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. {no response}
 2. Be prepared to have fun learning a lot.
 3. {no response}
 4. Do the readings.
 5. No.
 6. Bring comfortable shoes, and enjoy.
 7. Take it! The course gave me an excellent overview to historical typography, and the time in the Printing Office was invaluable to me to understand how letterpress printing works.
 8. Take it—even if you aren't a visual thinker/learner.
 9. Yes, just take the course. You won't regret it.
 10. {no response}
 11. You'll be standing a lot. Bring appropriate shoes.
 12. Do it! KR and JK are inspirational, passionate educators with whom it is a privilege to study.
- 14) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*
1. I loved learning how to typeset, and I look forward to seeing how my knowledge influences my scholarship.
 2. 'Twas an absolute Tea-light!

3. I leave today with more knowledge and more friends. Thank you, RBS! I hope to return.
4. Best. Course. Ever!
5. Rare Book School is the once-in-a-lifetime experience you can repeat!
6. The motto of the Riverside Press was something like, "if it's worth doing, it's worth doing well," and that was this experience.
7. Fantastic, useful, informative, stimulating, helpful, and wonderful.
8. These are my people.
9. Perfectly splendid.
10. Excellent.
11. Inky hands make for a happy heart.
12. "A whole new world...a dazzling place I never knew."-Aladdin

Student Data

Number of respondents: 12 (of 12)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 2 (16.67%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 3 (25%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 6 (50%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (25%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 6 (50%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 2 (16.67%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 3 (25%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

- I paid 100% myself: 5 (41.67%)
- My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)
- My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)
- I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 2 (16.67%)
- I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 2 (16.67%)
- My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

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

Library disciplines:

- Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Student working toward a/n:

- M.A./M.S.: 1 (8.33%)
- M.L.I.S./M.L.S.: 2 (16.67%)
- Ph.D./D.Phil: 5 (41.67%)

Professional educator:

- Assistant professor: 1 (8.33%)
- College/university administrator: 1 (8.33%)

Other occupations/vocations:

- Post-doctoral fellow/researcher/scholar: 1 (8.33%)