

### **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. Yes, the readings were very useful. Future years may want more readings or practical starters for coding environments and languages.
2. The readings were helpful context for topics that we did not have space to cover in the classroom (or were not the point of the class, but were useful to know about).
3. I appreciated the small load of pre-course prep. It allowed me to fully absorb the lectures without worrying about what I might have missed beforehand.
4. {private response} The advance email to install programs was very useful, as was the “pre-orientation” to software/systems/languages we could expect to be introduced to.
5. I wonder if the reading list could have featured more intro material about the applications or coding language we were going to learn about. I found it very difficult to keep up in the class and wonder if I read about Unix, or data scraping, or Python, if that would have helped.
6. The readings were incredibly helpful, particularly because they articulated how the tools used in class could be applied to larger projects. My one suggestion would be to remove some of the readings on bibliography as they did not figure very heavily in the class discussion.
7. They were useful. It was a good thing to start looking around at digital projects. I did not do any additional preparation.
8. The pre-course readings were very useful.
9. The readings were nice, but certainly not necessary for the course. Having a digital humanities project in mind throughout the course, though, was very helpful!
10. I enjoyed the pre-course readings. I think it would be helpful to list some online tutorials in a few programming languages, so students could get some basic chops in programming code before the class.
11. Very useful, though some will make a lot more sense now that I’ve taken the course!
12. The readings were generally useful, but also broad. I imagine most people would experience some trouble with at least one item on the list (likely more).

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. Yes, very useful. The ongoing use of coding environments and scripts will be great to continue to use.
2. There was so much material covered in the class that the documentation provided (mostly online files) will be critical for following up on the course.

3. {no response}
4. I really appreciate the cheat sheets produced, although I wish there were more of them. It sounds like many helpful materials will be left on GitHub for us to access, though.
5. We didn't have a workbook or many teaching materials, but some reading about what we were doing would have been helpful.
6. The teaching materials were pretty helpful; I definitely think that some of the "crash course" handouts will be useful when I try to use some of the tools on my own.
7. The course workbook is very practical: light (I came by plane), concise/straight to the point, it is a good quick reference guide. It will definitely be useful to take it and practice all that I discovered this week.
8. {no response}
9. The instructors put most of the material we used in GitHub, and I will continue to use these cheat sheets!
10. It might be useful to have a short guide to, or even list of, all the tools we looked at in class.
11. {no response}
12. The materials offered were useful, and I imagine they'll be highly useful in the future.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Very different—few physical materials, tons of screen time. Very explicit focus on applicable research methods, which I really appreciated!
4. Less formally discussion-driven, although there was plenty of effort made to encourage questions.
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. This course was so different from the other courses I took.
9. I have never taken an RBS course!
10. Very different. Very digital.
11. {no response}
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. I learned the very real ways that digital approaches can be used to analyze books and data. I understood more fully how tasks and processes can be accomplished in coding environments.
2. So many new plans and ideas!!
3. I took this course with zero background in the topic and no presumption of coming away with any proficiency. I came away with a solid overview of methods and stakes in the field—exactly what I had hoped.
4. Absolutely—I feel more comfortable now understanding the different sorts of tools

- appropriate for different sorts of projects, even while I don't feel equipped to tackle them independently, and I never expected that I would!
5. Seeing a new tool was interesting.
  6. I found the exercises in extracting data from cataloging records and refining/reorganizing said data particularly useful and relevant to projects that I could see myself developing outside of this course (provided I have time). It will take some time to process all the information received this week, however.
  7. All aspects were interesting. The course opened a new perspective to me. I discovered so many opportunities for work, study, and research. I was particularly thrilled to hear more about linked data as I'm working on this for my MLIS dissertation.
  8. Honestly, I found everything interesting and hope to find a way to MAKE it relevant. I know I will have the language to better express ideas related to current and upcoming projects.
  9. I was very interested in the work we did with MARC, but the background and theory we received was above and beyond. I'm so excited to continue working on my digital humanities skills.
  10. I feel like I got a good idea of the array of tools out there, which I can keep tinkering with, and also know more of what to look for when searching for digital tools that are applicable to my own specific field.
  11. New ways of thinking about cognition—it was clearly the tip of a very big iceberg, but one of the most appealing aspects of the class were the digressions into theoretical regions.
  12. I was intrigued by the introduction to web scraping techniques and more advanced visualization tools.
- 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, the instructors were able to teach us what was promised. The entire course was a surface level view on many different approaches or techniques that exposed me to a range of things I want to utilize in the future.
  2. {no response}
  3. Yes! So helpful, and never made me feel silly for asking stupid questions or needing to slow down.
  4. Absolutely. I was hoping for a hands-on orientation to digital humanities tools and environments, and that's what I received. I think a smaller number of topics developed in slightly more detail would be nice, as it seems we were racing against the clock at times.
  5. Instructors were helpful in helping everyone with the computer functions—the pace was very fast, and it was more doing than introducing. Some people were at the level of doing, but I needed more basics.
  6. The instructors definitely did their utmost to make sure that each student could follow the course and make the most of their experience. They certainly made good on their promise to introduce the students to digital tools for bibliographic analysis. I do think that they often skipped over some information that would have been useful (example: extracting MARC records), but overall I am satisfied with the information I will take away from this course.

7. Yes, they did. They were very helpful, and always did their best to enable us to get results. They also offered to help us later on after the course with our own projects. They will help me set up what I could not set up this week because of a technical issue. I learned so much more than I had expected.
8. Yes. I really appreciated how the instructors took the time to explain each concept, and their patience as we applied these new skills.
9. Yes, definitely. It really is meant for every skill level. I consider myself on more of the advanced end of digital humanities, but I got just as much out of the class as the beginners.
10. We went through a lot of things very quickly. It was hard to digest it all over the course of the week. I liked when we at times stepped back and looked at the bigger picture, and where the individual tools fit into digital humanities research as a whole.
11. I did. I knew the course would be fast-paced, but I know the kinds of questions I need to address to the digital services folks at my institution.
12. I learned what I hoped to learn, meaning an introduction to more advanced techniques.

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

1. I will use digital methods to analyze book distribution records and publisher information to continue my ongoing postdoctoral research and scholarship.
2. {no response}
3. I probably will not use these methods in my own research, but plan to use my knowledge to have more informed conversations with people in my field who do employ them, and also to be able to help future students discover these methods.
4. {no response}
5. I am not sure. I don't have the basics to even get started.
6. It's too soon to say. I am still processing the information I acquired this week. If I can acquire the resources, however, I would be interested in using the tools to build a database of a collection I processed in the past. But again, it's too soon to tell.
7. I plan to go back to the exercises and practice. I will try to engage in digital humanities projects.
8. I am still thinking this over.
9. I hope to put into motion many of the digital humanities projects that have been taking up space in my head! I also want to recruit more students (peers) into working on this kind of work.
10. Start collecting data and analyzing it!
11. Virtually everything we covered was relevant to the project I'm working on with colleagues to create a robust union catalog for hard-to-find items.
12. Hopefully for a long time.

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

1. It was not so difficult to grasp the digital approaches no matter what one's specialty is in scholarship, be it book history, bibliography, or library sciences.
2. Someone interested in digital humanities or ways to facilitate their (or others')

- research of text or printed material through digital processing.
3. Fast moving and high conceptual/logical level. I am weak in math/logic/languages, and found the discussions of theory interesting but often hard to follow completely.
  4. Someone comfortable with computers. I think it's welcoming enough that diverse levels/fields/backgrounds can benefit, but it would be hard for a student who can't touch-type or navigate a file system, for example.
  5. People who have experience with coding and computers. Grad students at the beginning of their careers.
  6. I think that people who have used some of the tools or who have acquired knowledge of coding before the course would benefit more than those who haven't, just because of the pace. However, I was still able to follow along relatively well as a novice.
  7. Any person willing to try and discover new techniques, and who likes to persevere.
  8. Those with prior experience with coding might benefit most. They may be able to more easily apply the skills and concepts after the course has ended.
  9. All skill levels, any background. The instructors are extremely knowledgeable and shape the class around the students' wants and needs.
  10. High. People who have specific projects and research questions that they think would benefit from digital tools.
  11. Someone with a good working knowledge of digital tools is likely to benefit most; I don't have that knowledge myself, but it wasn't a problem because I knew that limitation coming into the course.
  12. A technically savvy individual who wants to further dip their toe into the subject.
- 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. Understanding how computers could actually elucidate insights from texts was incredible.
  2. I loved CS's explanations of how the math/code works; this will really help me "get" things I've been introduced to before but did not understand. It also helped me see how to apply certain approaches to my own scholarship.
  3. I am amazed at all the things BP and CS showed us this week and thinking more about ideas of computers/tech as collaborative.
  4. I especially appreciated hearing about my classmates' projects and how some of these tools could be used for their/our own work.
  5. N/A
  6. A definite "aha!" moment came when we learned how to make graphs and charts based on data we were extracting from either MARC records or text themselves. I would be interested in using these skills in future projects.
  7. They were many, too many to tell. Linked data was a good one.
  8. {private response}
  9. There were many discussions on the future of digital humanities work and its value that were particularly interesting for me. We did lots of hands-on work, but the theory was the most valuable.
  10. The phenomenal world is within an event-driven ontology.
  11. See Q4.

12. {no response}

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

1. Perhaps an initial, additional session on Sunday evening or early Monday morning to ensure everyone's working environment has properly been set up. Save last minute downloads or GitHub pulls.
2. {no response}
3. Probably not monetarily possible, but...provide loaner laptops for all with sufficient operating space. I had to delete a lot of my files/apps to make room.
4. Better preparation in terms of pre-loading files, &c. Wifi spottiness was occasionally a problem. More "leeway" time built in so that we weren't falling behind when things did run a little over.
5. Maybe in the course description say something about the very fast pace, and suggest that participants be familiar with some coding or at least coding "speak." Have a dataset to bring.
6. {private response}
7. The screens were sometimes difficult to read; more zoom in would be great.
8. {no response}
9. Maybe if we all worked on a specific project or had individual projects we could work on for homework? Honestly, it was set up in an amazing way!
10. Maybe have people try applying some tools to their own projects earlier in the week, perhaps during one mid-week session, in addition to the last Friday session.
11. Divide it in two: one week = the rudiments; second week = advanced applications.
12. I'm not certain. The course was at times chaotic, but so much material was covered that I'm uncertain if that could or should be improved.

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

1. Yes, I'd definitely recommend this course to other scholars.
2. Yes.
3. Yes!
4. Absolutely, highly recommended. Having two instructors with different styles/backgrounds/foci was also extremely helpful.
5. Not sure. I don't think I was prepared enough to really have taken away something I can use in the near future. I am not sure I was a good fit. I might have selected a different course if the description were more true to the course pace.
6. {private response}
7. Definitely.
8. I do. Yes.
9. Yes! If there is any reason you will be doing any kind of digital humanities work, this class is for you.
10. Yes.
11. I did. I would.
12. Yes. Yes, if they were a good fit for the coursework.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. N/A
12. 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. N/A
2. {no response}
3. N/A
4. Only reception. It's hard in Philly to have the same milieu, but a sit-down reception really made mingling impossible. Maybe a private room with a cocktail hour? I liked having a sit-down portion since it encouraged deeper conversations, but would have liked both.
5. N/A
6. The evening events were great fun!
7. I attended the Tuesday lecture, and it was very informative.
8. I attended the lecture on Tuesday night and found it very interesting.
9. The talk by Laurie Allen was amazing. I went to all optional events, but this talk was above and beyond.
10. The lectures on Tuesday night and Thursday at noon were both very good.
11. Great talk by Laurie Allen! Perfect supplement to the course.
12. I enjoyed the extra events, but I wouldn't say that they were important to my experience.

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

1. Come with your own projects in mind where you might apply these methods to your own work.
2. Have a good working knowledge of your machine and a willingness to tinker.
3. I would encourage digital humanities skeptics/novices like myself to take this with an open mind and willingness to think very big picture. I have a sense of the lay of the land in this area now, which is so important!
4. Having sufficient computer memory and storage, for other needs, is really helpful for viewing virtual machines.
5. {no response}
6. Definitely a course to take if you have a project in mind but lack the practical

- knowledge. If not, it's still fun to be dazzled by the potential of the digital humanities.
7. A course to take!
  8. Be sure to bring a computer with sufficient space and memory!
  9. Go with something a little more specific in mind. A project you might want to work on will be amazing motivation.
  10. Do some tutorials in a programming language beforehand.
  11. See Q9.
  12. Be certain that you can keep up with the technical facets of the course because it moves quickly.

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

1. It left me wanting more.
2. {no response}
3. Thank you CS and BP for your incredible patience, generosity, and good humor this week. I learned so much, and enjoyed every minute in your course.
4. A week well-spent.
5. {no response}
6. It was confusing, but it worked!
7. World-opening (literally as well as it was my first time out of Europe!)
8. {no response}
9. Greatest decision I've ever made.
10. {no response}
11. Whew! (Head spinning! Need the weekend for ideas to settle in...it's intense, but in a good way, definitely.)
12. It was great, but intense.

### **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: 4 (33.33%)

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: 4 (33.33%)

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

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (41.67%)

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

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

- I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)
- My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (16.67%)
- 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%)

*Who paid your RBS travel 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: 2 (16.67%)
- I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 3 (25%)
- I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 2 (16.67%)

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

**Library disciplines:**

- Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (8.33%)
- Library assistant/clerk: 1 (8.33%)
- Special collections librarian: 1 (8.33%)
- Subject specialist/bibliographer: 2 (16.67%)

**Student working toward a/n:**

- M.L.I.S./M.L.S.: 3 (25%)
- Ph.D./D.Phil: 1 (8.33%)

**Professional educator:**

- Assistant professor: 1 (8.33%)
- Associate professor: 1 (8.33%)

**Other occupations/vocations:**

- Other: 1 (8.33%)