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M-90: Advanced Seminar in Medieval Manuscript Studies
11-16 June 2017

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 was familiar with most of the readings from graduate school, so they're a refresher. Assignments were hard, but also appropriate for the advanced level of the course.
2. The reading list was extremely helpful! Especially as I had not done a lot of paleography before.
3. Yes. Yes. No. No.
4. Excellent. All books will become staples of my library.
5. The readings are very useful reference books, and I'm sure I'll go back to them in the future. {private response}
6. Very useful. I was already somewhat familiar with most of them, so I knew what to expect in terms of the level of the course, and what kind of background knowledge was expected.
7. Definitely. They are great reference books that I'll keep in my personal collection.
8. The readings were useful.

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 Yale manuals on binding and script are great and I will be adding them to my teaching.
2. I will definitely use the booklets distributed for reference and teaching!
3. Good.
4. Great, with excellent demonstrations.
5. The professional handouts were beautiful and great teaching tools. {private response}
6. Both appropriate and useful. I will certainly continue to use them.
7. The assignments started via email about a month before the start of the class. They were a bit overwhelming at first, but they certainly helped me get prepared for the first day of the class.
8. Very useful and I'll be happy to have the handouts, booklets, and bibliography in the future.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A

4. Very different. Hands-on antique materials.
5. RBS courses like this one give me the opportunity to work with more materials and advance my research. {private response}
6. N/A
7. One of the tops!
8. 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 was so pleased to have jumping off points for one, if not two projects. BAS was really encouraging, which is helpful too! The emphasis on geographical recognition of decorations was new to me, and I will use it at work.
2. Working on my individual project was amazing—the manuscript is worthy of further attention and I will definitely continue to think about it.
3. General contact with different scripts and types of books! Yes.
4. Latin and Greek binding. Everything is revelatory.
5. I enjoyed the workshops on binding and ink chemistry. I also got help and feedback on an ongoing project.
6. Getting a wider perspective on manuscripts rather than just a single geographical or language area. And a lot more! The course was very inspiring.
7. Being able to see the actual manuscripts was the best! I may turn it into a future research project.
8. The transcriptions were very helpful and I have a better sense now of how to improve my paleographical and codicological skills.

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 was happy with the level of script difficulty, but (and this may not be popular with my fellow students), I wanted more sight transcription practice!
2. Yes. There was a lot of info I will continue to digest.
3. Yes. More transcription might be nice.
4. Absolutely not left out. Great learning atmosphere.
5. The instructor was very knowledgeable and helped us with transcriptions.
6. Yes, the course matched the description very well and I learned a lot.
7. Definitely! BAS is very knowledgeable and very willing to share her knowledge. I'm walking away with more areas to study in the future.
8. BAS was wonderful, and the course was well-developed. And now I'm more aware of how much I need to learn.

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

1. This will help my cataloging for sure, but I'm also going to bring my improved transcription and collation to other projects I work on.
2. In my research for my dissertation, in which I will consider manuscripts.
3. To teach other undergrad enthusiasts and to supplement further papers.
4. Reading manuscripts, research, and writing.

5. I plan to use these skills to start a new project.
 6. I will apply them to my Ph.D. dissertation work, and hopefully to many other future research projects.
 7. At my job, and perhaps turn it into a project for a doctoral program which I've been considering.
 8. For my dissertation research and—please God!—career.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. Ph.D. students, or librarians specializing in medieval manuscripts.
 2. Someone excited about looking at and identifying manuscripts!
 3. Course was more broad than deep—definitely for those self-motivated to start and work on projects independently.
 4. High level.
 5. Ph.D. students, special collections librarians, or people with manuscript projects.
 6. We all had quite varying backgrounds, so I'd say anyone who already has the basics of paleographical/codicological skills.
 7. Definitely challenging in terms of transcribing Latin, but doable.
 8. Fairly high. Lots of independent work. Covered lots of ground. Definitely best for students with significant context already.
- 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. Watching everyone's final presentations was wonderful—so much brilliant original scholarship in just five days!
 2. Looking at: beautiful manuscripts; interesting or abnormal details.
 3. {no response}
 4. Latin script, watermarks, and collation.
 5. {no response}
 6. There were many. I can't think of a single one.
 7. {no response}
 8. No "aha" moments, just a huge amount of new information, well-explained.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. I feel that two weeks would have been easier, especially with the projects. But of course that's {student didn't complete the answer—RBS staff}.
 2. We could have crawled under the table into the center of the room to better look at manuscripts.
 3. More transcription.
 4. Start at 9 a.m., even if going until 5:30 p.m.
 5. {private response}
 6. No suggestions for improvement.
 7. More time to view the manuscripts! Being huddled into a group and trying to get a glimpse of each manuscript was hard when we were moving from room to room.
 8. It was too short.

- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes, but only for manuscript scholars and librarians interested in the Middle Ages!
 2. Yes to both.
 3. Yes.
 4. Yes. Yes.
 5. Yes.
 6. I do, and would definitely recommend the course to anyone who is past the introductory level and would like to enhance their skills.
 7. Yes!
 8. It was wonderful. I'll definitely recommend it.
- 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. Yes, very nice time.
 5. N/A
 6. N/A
 7. N/A
 8. 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 the lecture. Maybe next time it should not be held on the first day? We were all exhausted.
 2. The most impressive part of the experience is the manuscripts in the class—everything else pales in comparison.
 3. N/A
 4. Yes, I liked the Shakespeare tale.
 5. The lecture was very interesting.
 6. I attended and enjoyed them. I think it's good that they are optional, however. The week is a rather intense experience.
 7. N/A
 8. Yes, and it was nice to spend time with classmates outside course hours.
- 13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. BAS is the best. So supportive, really good mentorship as well as teaching.
 2. {no response}
 3. {no response}
 4. Know Latin, and know relevant art history.

5. Be sure to brush up on your Latin!
6. {no response}
7. Definitely brush up on your Latin.
8. {no response}

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

1. I am really tired, but I learned so very much. Thank you, RBS!
2. I would definitely take this course again if I could!
3. !!!!!!!!
4. Thrilling!
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. Well worth the money!
8. It was very cold
and there were books everywhere
I got chills! Thank you.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 8 (of 8)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 2 (25%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (12.50%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:
4 (50%)

No response: 1 (12.50%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (37.50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (12.50%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 2 (25%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; my institution/employer paid the rest:
1 (12.50%)

No response: 1 (12.50%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (50%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (12.50%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest:
1 (12.50%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (12.50%)

No response: 1 (12.50%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (50%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (25%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest:
1 (12.50%)

No response: 1 (12.50%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (12.50%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (12.50%)

Other: 1 (12.50%)

Student working toward a/n:

B.A./B.S.: 1 (12.50%)

Ph.D./D.Phil: 3 (37.50%)

Professional educator:

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (12.50%)