

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 reading was appropriate and relevant. I am going to buy some of the books for future reference.
2. Quite helpful!
3. Yes, especially the online courses with some practice transcriptions. It made the learning curve less steep. None to add; do not remove any.
4. Yes. Yes. I think the list was fine.
5. I did little of the pre-course reading because I have read similar material in the past. My past reading proved to be enough of a preparation, but I would strongly suggest doing some preparation to anyone with no previous experience in paleography.
6. Use the Cambridge University resource! It provides a warm up for the week. I would have enjoyed further reading in advance of the course.
7. Yes. The reading assignments were great, and the online resources listed were very helpful.
8. None of the pre-course reading was expected or discussed.
9. The readings were all very helpful in getting an understanding of the early modern book/manuscript culture. Consider distributing the reading list via Zotero.
10. I didn't get to them all, and that turned out to be okay. I found it hard to get the info to "stick" without what we later learned in class.
11. Yes, very handy for getting started.
12. {no response}

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 was great and I will certainly use it as a reference. I appreciate the bibliography and online sources.
2. I will be keeping my book/workbook very near my desk. It is such a great resource.
3. All of the in-class materials were extremely helpful (handouts). I will keep them for a long time, especially the alphabet.
4. These materials were fine as long as they are updated as more info might become available in the future.
5. The workbook will continue to be valuable to me, I'm sure. All of the handouts were useful and appropriate.
6. The handbook was wonderful—I will use it in future research and teaching. We did receive many handouts. Perhaps you might collate them into a "Materials Handbook"? No real complaints.

7. The workbook will become part of my reference collection. It is full of resources I didn't know about.
8. Very helpful. I will keep it forever.
9. This workbook was directed to the specific tasks and assignments as well as containing suggestions for future reading. No waste. I will continue to use it into the future. Consider distributing the bibliography via Zotero.
10. The course workbook was hugely useful and will be much referred to in the future.
11. Yes! I will be using the workbook to correct catalog records immediately when I go home!
12. HW's provided course pack amounts to an indispensable handbook. I will keep it with me as I pursue research and further hone my paleographic skills.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. Favorably.
5. I took the intensive "DesBib" course previously, and this course required less work, but was still very intense. The two were comparable in terms of skills and historical understanding required.
6. N/A
7. All the RBS courses I have taken are top notch, including this one!
8. N/A
9. Very favorably—both were hands-on and outstanding experiences. I've used what I learned in "M-95: The Medieval Manuscript in the Twenty-First Century" to offer workshops to grad students, and will do so with this one.
10. This was as amazingly wonderful as the others.
11. I took "DesBib" and this was a bit less antisocial and grueling, but still very challenging.
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 information on manuscript circulation and uses was fascinating, and I do plan to incorporate it into the dissertation. I am also now planning to do a digital transcription project!
2. I liked working with the physical materials, and trying to imitate the hand helped me later when trying to figure out what letters were intended. Information about research tools and figuring out which ones to go to was also super valuable.
3. I thoroughly enjoyed the many transcriptions. The regular practice made the learning of the various hands less daunting, and made me more comfortable. I also loved the actual writing with a quill. I would like to have done more of that.
4. All of the materials and exercises were helpful to increase knowledge and the application thereof.
5. The practice was most valuable to me—I feel prepared to begin new projects.
6. I enjoyed the lectures throughout the week, references to manuscripts, and online resources. The course has led to project ideas. And, of course, I now have basic

skill in reading secretary hand.

7. Transcription exercises and in-class readings were very helpful to the learning process.
8. Looking forward to practicing paleography on my own, at my own pace.
9. Can't choose just a few. The ability to walk out reading secretary hand is a real plus, but having tools to continue this work, the invitation to stay part of the EMMO/transcription community, and the ideas for projects to follow up on or suggest to grad students are great!
10. Learning to read for content was most important; I'm hoping to keep up practicing in *Shakespeare's World*.
11. Learning the concrete skills, and talking to colleagues about their research.
12. I am ready now to use new materials which one week ago were intimidating and obscure in my doctoral 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. I learned more than I anticipated, and am enthused about all the new venues for new projects that are now available to me. I would have enjoyed more info on manuscript circulation.
2. Absolutely, I feel so much more prepared to work through difficult documents.
3. Yes. No. Yes. I am ready to tackle some early modern manuscripts that I entered the course in order to engage.
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. As I mentioned, the course developed skills and suggested future projects. I wish I had another week to develop/hone the skills learned.
7. She is wonderful! Very helpful and patient! As usual, it's hard to learn everything in one week, but enough fundamentals were covered for me to continue to develop my skills when I return home.
8. HW was wonderful. She covered the material with clarity and a strong sense for how to balance activities and challenges.
9. HW is such a phenomenal teacher! Gracious, knowledgeable, kind, and patient. Outstanding experience which she generously shares. She encouraged all of us, assured us, and got me (and everyone else) to a place where we won't cry when we have to read secretary hand.
10. Yes! I learned all that was promised. Having SC as "speed dating" worked well. Would have liked a bit more practice forming letters early on, to better learn how the possibilities for different joins worked.
11. Yes, very much so. It helped to practice and practice and practice by reading aloud.
12. Ditto (Q4).

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

1. I am going to do research in libraries and I'm going to work on at least two transcription projects.
2. I will use this to work on research and in the future.

3. I hope to supplement my print research with the information from dramatic manuscripts in my dissertation, and I would like to make some editions of manuscript plays that are not currently available.
 4. To have fun deciphering some items I own.
 5. In my graduate research; in creating new editions of manuscripts; in teaching paleography to college/graduate students.
 6. I plan to practice regularly with the resources from the pre-reading, and my Ph.D. application will include reference to this course.
 7. At work.
 8. Archival research.
 9. Will offer workshops, supervised transcription groups, enrich my Lib Guides (and create one or two), and encourage other students and faculty to check out and attend RBS.
 10. Participating in transcription crowdsourcing and cataloging manuscripts.
 11. I'll use the skills to catalog letters in the Morgan's collection in secretary hand, many of which have slightly cursory records (I think past catalogers may not have been able to read them).
 12. {no response}
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. The content was challenging, but not unpleasantly so. It was fun to puzzle things out together.
 2. I felt like it was very appropriate to the group of students.
 3. This was a great course for a student to early modern literature; it is a skills-filled and engaging course full of information with the potential for several further projects.
 4. I think you should have some academic background to make it easier, but any well-read person should benefit.
 5. The course offers a lot to someone willing to struggle until they understand certain letterforms. Someone interested in the history of manuscript culture would also benefit.
 6. Graduate student (including advanced undergrad), and beyond.
 7. Anyone working with early modern English manuscripts would benefit from this course.
 8. Not particularly intellectual—mostly a skills course.
 9. Anyone who needs or wants to learn how to read secretary hand, from upper level undergrads through graduates, book collectors, and others. Advance reading prepares one, and HW's in-class exercises and homework help.
 10. Scholars, catalogers, people who want to read marginalia in printed books, and people who enjoy solving puzzles.
 11. Anyone who needs to read manuscript materials from this period, especially ones for which transcriptions didn't exist.
 12. I learned much due in large part to the rigor and high expectations of HW and the course.
- 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. Loved the numbers day!
2. {no response}
3. Both the actual manuscripts and the quill writing were the most important moments for me. Seeing the manuscripts in person made the information so much clearer, as did writing out the letters.
4. Things went smoothly and in logical progression.
5. The difference between my paleography skills on Monday and Wednesday was tremendous. Realizing the ease with which I could read early modern hands was the “aha” moment.
6. The final session. It was amazing watching the class transcribe a challenging manuscript.
7. All the “aha” moments were being able to figure out the secretary hand that I couldn’t read before.
8. Lots of small revelations about secretary hand that have added up to more fluency.
9. Too many to list. Helped me make linkages between my medieval British and early modern British literature and culture.
10. The benefit of working in pairs and threes was unexpected. We encouraged each other and helped fill gaps with complementary knowledge.
11. Recognizing a tilde on my own!
12. {no response}

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

1. I would have enjoyed working with the quill and ink more—maybe fifteen minutes every day?
2. I wish it could somehow be longer!
3. More writing time perhaps. More time with certain manuscripts.
4. I cannot say.
5. It seemed that we ran slightly over or out of time in a few sessions. Amending that would be an improvement.
6. Would have enjoyed more, shorter pieces. HW’s command of the course, however, is flawless!
7. Everything was great.
8. Less around the room activities, and more individual work.
9. Can you infuse HW’s knowledge into us?
10. Can’t think of anything.
11. {no response}
12. {no response}

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

1. Indeed!
2. Yes, and yes.
3. Yes. Yes.
4. Yes, and yes.
5. Yes, and yes.

6. Yes, and yes.
7. Definitely!
8. Yes, and yes (though I would never have spent my own money—this was my institution's money, of course).
9. Decidedly! Absolutely!
10. Yes!
11. Yes! Wholeheartedly.
12. Absolutely.

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

1. Yes.
2. Yes, visiting SC and seeing the manuscripts there was wonderful.
3. SC was great as it supplemented the manuscripts we had in class.
4. Yes.
5. Yes, handling rare books in SC was important to the course and my education.
6. Yes.
7. Yes.
8. Yes.
9. Yes. The chance to see non-RBS examples of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century materials was inspiring.
10. SC visit was exactly right: one session, with hands-on.
11. Yes, seeing actual materials in SC was good practice for real archival research.
12. {no response}

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. {no response}
2. I did; having that option was nice.
3. N/A
4. The lectures were very interesting and presented by highly qualified people.
5. I enjoyed Booksellers' Night.
6. They were nice, but not crucial to my time here.
7. I particularly enjoy the evening lectures.
8. I did not attend. Not of interest.
9. {no response}
10. I really enjoyed the evening lectures.
11. I wanted an all TB night....
12. {no response}

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

1. Take it! HW is an excellent and patient and approachable instructor.
2. {no response}
3. Take it!

4. No.
5. Even if you feel you may be too experienced for this course, do consider taking it. It will make you an even stronger paleographer.
6. Complete the pre-reading, and prepare for a week of intense thinking and learning.
7. Please take it!
8. Practice at home and online if you need it so that everyone is at a similar level.
9. Don't hesitate.
10. Bring a laptop with as large a screen as you can. You'll want several windows open at once.
11. I personally really enjoyed the "culture" aspects of the class.
12. {no response}

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

1. Thrilling, motivating, energizing, fun, and friendly.
2. I can hardly wait to come back.
3. It has been illuminating.
4. Good.
5. It was an intense, educational, and exciting experience, and it fosters a wonderful community.
6. This week developed many of the skills and habits of mind I wanted in graduate school. It was challenging and generative.
7. Lovely!
8. Hot, sweaty, secretary hand, Hoos.
9. My brain exploded, melted down, and reformed in a better, fuller, and richer way!
10. Rare Book School is an invigorating mental gym and relaxing mental spa at the same time.
11. {no response}
12. {no response}

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: 2 (16.67%)

I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (8.33%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 5 (41.67%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (16.67%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 2 (16.67%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)
I exchanged goods or services in lieu of tuition: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 10 (83.33%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)
I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 8 (66.67%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (16.67%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (8.33%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (8.33%)
Public services librarian: 1 (8.33%)
Special collections librarian: 2 (16.67%)

Student working toward a/n:

M.A./M.S.: 2 (16.67%)
Ph.D./D.Phil: 5 (41.67%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Other: 1 (8.33%)