

Consuelo Dutschke  
M-10: Introduction to Paleography, 800–1500  
8–13 July 2018

**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, very helpful. It might have been good to assign the English translation of Cappelli.
2. {private response}
3. Course readings were quite good and not too long.
4. I thought the course readings, the binder, and the in-class exercises were helpful and well-organized.
5. The pre-course reading was a good, albeit brief, intro to paleography as a discipline, and laid some groundwork on scripts.
6. Our pre-course reading was a helpful introduction, but I didn't find it particularly useful. I spent a while brushing up on my Latin before taking the course, and that was definitely necessary.
7. They were incredibly useful in giving us a sort of background. I would have the de Hamel article read before the beginning of the course.
8. Yes, they all seemed appropriate and helpful.
9. The readings were useful but not necessary.
10. Reading was useful. One point of confusion: readings listed online did not match those emailed to us before class.
11. Yes, I think requiring Derolez (or parts of it), rather than suggesting, would be helpful.

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 binder was extremely useful. I will continue using the plates to practice what I have learned.
2. In this day and age, full color print quality image can and should be used.
3. Content was appropriate, useful, and well-presented (all contained in loose-leaf binder, &c.). I found the assignments very difficult, though, and took a long time to complete. Not so much the professor's fault as me perhaps being out of my depth.
4. I loved it all.
5. Very helpful workbook, as I will continue to return to these images and transcriptions for reference. {private response}
6. The workbook was great in terms of providing material for hands-on paleography practice. I will continue to refer to it. I do wish we had a few more centralized notes in the workbook—our “p's and q's” chart, for example, was really useful, but I would have benefitted from other quick reference material.

7. I loved having a workbook in a binder with all the materials. It is super helpful to be able to write on a copy of the page we are discussing in class.
8. Yes, everything was great.
9. It may be more helpful to require Capelli to be purchased as I ended up needing a copy. Everything useful and appropriate!
10. Excellent workbook that I will continue to refer to.
11. Yes. Yes.

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

1. N/A
2. The schedule was a bit relaxed for my taste.
3. Very different in its subject matter and specificity, so can't compare.
4. This is my first, but I loved every minute of it.
5. N/A
6. {no response}
7. They were both incredible; though, being at UVA had more perks like breakfast included and meeting the director.
8. N/A
9. The two courses had very different content and are therefore hard to compare. Both had remarkably qualified and enjoyable staff.
10. Just as quality as the other two—I will definitely be back.
11. {no response}

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 how to read a variety of scripts and how to establish where manuscripts are from were both extremely relevant to my work.
2. The insights of the instructor on localization, gained from deep experience, were especially interesting.
3. I liked the way we not only worked on transcriptions individually, but as a class, cooperating, with the text projected on a screen for all to see. That kind of collaborative learning was most helpful.
4. This course, and CD in particular, gave me the confidence I was lacking in paleography. I am now excited to put into practice what I have learned, and to keep improving my skills.
5. The bâtarde script was most relevant to my research area, but the sections on other scripts were so clear and engaging that I won't shy away from expanding to different kinds of sources.
6. The time we spent reading as a class was most helpful for me. Seeing how my classmates and the instructor adapted to reading different scripts will definitely influence the way I approach future manuscript-related projects.
7. I am a new person (better scholar) after this course without a doubt.
8. Most interesting was actually reading in class medieval scripts; as it pertains to my own work.
9. Yes! I have so many plans now that I have taken this course. I feel properly prepared to revisit class content professionally and I have several project ideas.
10. Learning how to tell location/relative date of manuscript is directly relevant to my

- research and will inform my book project.
11. I think more homework would be beneficial.
- 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, I learned what I hoped to learn. I would have liked to work on an individual project, perhaps as homework, and receive feedback on it.
  2. While billed as an introduction to a six hundred year span, the emphasis—rightly—was on the latter half of the span.
  3. The professor, and my fellow students, were most helpful and encouraging, and delivered as promised, but my own background going into this was so weak it really affected what I learned. I might suggest a stronger background in Latin than was suggested in the course description.
  4. I could not have learned this information by reading on my own. CD's positive energy and detailed explanations were invaluable to my learning process.
  5. Everything that was stated on the schedule and course description was covered, and more or less on the students' input on how much time we wanted with each script.
  6. Yes! I feel much more confident reading, dating, and localizing than I did before taking this course.
  7. Absolutely! Though Spanish is very underrepresented (understandably so).
  8. Yes, everything was acquired.
  9. Yes. Nothing left out. I wish the class kept going another week, but I did learn as expected.
  10. All promised things touched upon. Would have liked more practice identifying unknown manuscripts.
  11. Yes. No. Yes.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. For research purposes.
  2. In research and teaching.
  3. {no response}
  4. I plan to use these skills daily as I work with my collections, answer reference questions, serve patrons, and give presentations in my reading room.
  5. These skills will be indispensable for my dissertation research. I look forward to reading my sources quickly and confidently!
  6. I will use these skills when reading and transcribing texts in manuscripts I'm studying for my dissertation. I also plan to use some of these skills when teaching.
  7. My newly acquired skills will be utilized in future work places as I intend to only work with manuscripts.
  8. Ideally, in future research and in my own reading for pleasure.
  9. Work presentation and research.
  10. Take info into archives while researching a book.
  11. Add to a class I teach.

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

1. This course is ideal for someone who has taken at least two years of Latin. {private response}
2. Any medievalist with a rudimentary command of Latin, and little or no formal training in codicology and paleography would benefit.
3. Very high level. A post-grad student in art, languages, or classics.
4. Anyone who has a working knowledge of Latin, and an interest in primary source material from 800–1500 will benefit from this course.
5. I feel this course is best for teachers, students, and those who work with special collections—Latin reading comprehension is a must.
6. This course would be most beneficial to someone with a good amount of experience reading Latin and at least some exposure to, or interest in, medieval manuscripts. It was a challenging but rewarding week.
7. Any student or professional who wishes to read manuscripts would gain a lot by attending this course.
8. It was an intellectually stimulating environment. People should probably have basic Latin.
9. Academics, librarians and art historians with formal Latin study; masters or some grad work.
10. High intellectual difficulty, good introductory information. Anyone needing to read/identify manuscripts would benefit.
11. Good introductory level.

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. CD is a fabulous teacher. I learned so much from her, so it’s hard to single out any specific moments. It was all top notch.
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. I didn’t realize how burned out I was from daily library activities. CD’s course was a much needed respite from my work place, and here I remembered why I chose to become a medievalist in the first place. Thank you!
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. Reading everyday words.
9. N/A
10. {no response}
11. {no response}

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

1. {private response}
2. More transcription homework with faster review in class, and a generally more intense schedule would have allowed for more practice with the expert in the

room.

3. {no response}
4. I don't think it could.
5. {no response}
6. Streamlining group reading, possibly as group work—often it was difficult for one person to read when put on the spot, which took up a lot of class time.
7. Can't think of anything. It is amazing.
8. More time and practice. Hard to cram so much info into five days.
9. Couldn't have!
10. More time practicing IDing unknown manuscripts would have been useful. Less time spent reviewing homework to compensate perhaps.
11. More reading.

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

1. Yes, despite what I mentioned in Q9.
2. Yes. Yes.
3. Yes, I would recommend to people with stronger language skills.
4. Absolutely.
5. Yes.
6. I would definitely recommend this course.
7. Absolutely!
8. I think it is overpriced. It is a good experience, but financially prohibitive for many.
9. Yes, absolutely. I learned an incredible amount, and am inspired to continue studying paleography.
10. Yes!
11. Yes. Yes.

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

1. The second day in SC was wonderful. The first day there were too many of us to really see the sources in question.
2. Yes, although we could have looked at more during our sessions in SC.
3. {no response}
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. Somewhat. I only found SC tangentially beneficial.
9. N/A
10. {no response}
11. {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. {no response}
3. Did all the optional events and enjoyed them. Lecture last year was on a medieval French manuscript, and lecture this year was on...a medieval French manuscript. Would appreciate more variety, but recognize that's coincidence.
4. I loved the lecture on medieval medical French texts.
5. Booksellers' Night is the best!
6. Yes! I really enjoyed visiting the booksellers in Charlottesville!
7. The lecture definitely offered great insight. Every location (i.e., Yale, New York) should have one.
8. {no response}
9. I thought there might be a Movie Night—bring it back!
10. Loved Amy Ogden's lecture!
11. Lecture was good idea.

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. Do it! You will not regret it. In fact, you may become addicted to Rare Book School.
8. Have definite goals and come with an open mind.
9. Do it! CD is a treat.
10. Make sure you review your Latin!
11. {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 will be back next year.
2. It is the once-in-a-lifetime experience you can repeat.
3. {no response}
4. Restorative.
5. Engaging, memorable, and welcoming.
6. I never want to look at French Bâtarde again, but when I finally do, I'll be able to read it.
7. {no response}
8. Valuable, exhaustive, and enriching.
9. Nunc bibendum est!
10. So many minims  
Is that a "u" or two "i's"?  
I am so tired.
11. The theory/reason of books.

## 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: 6 (54.54%)

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

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:  
3 (27.27%)

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

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

I paid 100% myself: 3 (27.27%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (18.18%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 3 (27.27%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 3 (27.27%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 5 (45.45%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (18.18%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (9.09%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (9.09%)

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

*Who paid your RBS travel expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 6 (54.54%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (18.18%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (9.09%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (9.09%)

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

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

### **Library disciplines:**

Digital collections librarian: 1 (9.09%)

Public services librarian: 1 (9.09%)

Other: 1 (9.09%)

### **Student working toward a/n:**

M.L.I.S./M.L.S.: 1 (9.09%)

Ph.D./D.Phil: 3 (27.27%)

### **Professional educator:**

Assistant professor: 3 (27.27%)  
College/university administrator: 1 (9.09%)