

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 pre-course reading was brilliantly structured, with required reading and suggested reading categories. Extensive bibliography was very useful to have from the start.
2. The reading assignments were overall useful. The only slight glitch was that I did not know we would receive PDFs of the assignments and so bought most books before the PDFs arrived (which was not a completely bad thing).
3. The readings were very useful because the course really did take it for granted that students had them as background.
4. Yes, reading was very useful. Would like to have had workbook earlier.
5. Yes, assignments were useful. *From Oracle Bones to E-Publications* was the most helpful, being illustrated and comprehensive.
6. The reading is pretty useful.
7. Yes. Yes. Yes. No.
8. They were good! I'm ready to go back and re-read now that I'll understand better.
9. Yes, bought all the books in February and March.
10. Yes, useful.
11. Very 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. Absolutely. A great resource.
2. Extremely helpful both during the class and in the future. It clearly involved a great deal of work to prepare.
3. The workbook is helpful. {private response}
4. Excellent content. Hard to find some things. I wish there was an index of all the terminology in one place because I often wanted to look up a Chinese word used in the lecture, and it took too long to find it.
5. Yes, content was useful and will continue to be because of all the recommended reading.
6. Workbook is awesome!!! I will keep it forever. Very useful.
7. The workbook is very useful and it will still be very helpful for me even after the course.
8. I love the workbook! I am going to use it to facilitate future collection building.
9. Very good.
10. Excellent.
11. Teaching materials were spectacular.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. It's been my experience that the history/survey courses are the most enjoyable and horizon-broadening experiences at RBS. This course didn't disappoint; it was one of my favorites!
4. Just as excellent for totally different reasons!
5. Haven't taken any before.
6. N/A
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. {no response}
10. Excellent, but did not bond as well with other participants. Everyone pretty much kept to themselves.
11. Very, very good. Even more material than the previous course.

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 gained invaluable insight into Asian print culture and a renewed appreciation for the book and printing in China.
2. The entire course was fascinating, useful, and very inspiring. I suppose my greatest motivations are to read more and visit some of the places mentioned in China.
3. As a scholar of Western book history, I had only the vaguest notions of Chinese book history. I now look forward to putting together a lesson in this subject for my undergraduate literature students.
4. All aspects of the class were valuable. Excellent blend of information, anecdotes (though that word does not do SE's stories justice), and objects. I will approach many aspects of my work differently as a result of this class. It was profoundly transformative.
5. Learning about materials and processes, and being able to see real materials was great. Will want to visit many places in China related to course topics.
6. Song, Yuan, and Ming-edition books. The course makes me more interested in Chinese rare books.
7. The most interesting thing I found is that I can find some points comparative and inspiring.
8. Yes, I learned a lot.
9. The PowerPoint presentations and the opportunity to see/touch materials.
10. Learnt much and have many research and project ideas.
11. Learned many insights, filled in many gaps.

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.
2. Yes. Nothing was left out that was not reasonable to expect for such a large topic.
3. I learned what I hoped to learn and more! SE is a generous instructor, always

- willing to follow up with students' individual questions and interests.
4. Perhaps a bit more time on the twentieth-century book—I would like to have a better grasp of the full range of traditional and Western-style book production, but that would be hard to fit in.
 5. Yes, I learned a lot.
 6. More than enough. I learned everything I would like to learn.
 7. Yes. No. Yes.
 8. Yes. No. Yes, and more.
 9. Yes, learned a lot. Glad I was accepted.
 10. Yes, excellent instructor.
 11. Yes.
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. I hope to develop collaborative projects and comparative research in the history of printing in Asia.
 2. General increased knowledge about Chinese culture and possible handling of some books as they come up for auction at Christie's.
 3. I work book history into my undergraduate literature courses. I now hope to develop a lesson in Chinese book history for my World Literature class.
 4. I will be able to teach college and grad students basic principles of the Chinese printing and book publishing tradition. I will improve catalog records for our existing East Asian book collections. I will get much more out of exhibitions that I visit. I want to learn basic Chinese now!
 5. I will want to visit printing, papermaking, and block cutting places still in China.
 6. Keep learning and integrate the knowledge into my art historical research.
 7. I will use these points and stories throughout my own course.
 8. To help with my studies.
 9. During my travels and reading.
 10. I now have the necessary knowledge to explore key themes further, i.e., ancient Chinese legal text, and also copyright warnings, which were interesting and previously unknown to me.
 11. To further my research.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. Any interested historian or intellectually curious person.
 2. One would need a reasonably high level of education, curiosity, and attention span.
 3. This course operated on a high level, but not so high that I couldn't follow. I would highly recommend this course for those with little background in the subject because it is so thorough. But the students in the class with language and professional background seemed to enjoy it too.
 4. I think that students of various levels can benefit. I know no Chinese and though I know that a LOT went over my head, it didn't matter because there was so much to absorb.
 5. People with some prior knowledge of Chinese history/books/art would benefit the most. Otherwise, it may be overwhelming and hard to follow.

6. Someone who is a specialist in Chinese books or Chinese art, and collectors.
7. Students whose major is related to the history of Chinese books, and librarians and bibliographers.
8. Anyone interested.
9. High. Educated person.
10. The instructor ensures that all levels are catered to.
11. Intellectual level was very high, but numerous anecdotes and “unpublished” data was very useful.

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. Realizing how marginalized Asian printing history has been, despite having the potential to reformulate our understanding of printing history.
2. The connection between book collecting/production and Chinese art.
3. I really appreciated suddenly being able to contextualize book culture across the East/West divide: print matter in Korea and Japan while the Vikings were sacking English monasteries, &c.
4. Listening to SE all week. It was truly remarkable to listened to him and grasp what it really means to be an EXPERT, with a very deep knowledge, travel experiences, professional colleagues, &c. It is rare to encounter and get to learn from an expert like him in a field in which you are not knowledgeable.
5. Great stories from SE about distinguishing and recognizing facsimiles.
6. Every time I saw relics there was “aha!” moment.
7. When the instructor was telling stories of his books.
8. All of it since I had no background.
9. Not especially; all was good.
10. {no response}
11. Many insights, gathered and (partially) digested.

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

1. Add another week!
2. The professor did a masterful job accommodating vast differences of knowledge about China, but somehow those who knew little should have been required to do more reading preparation.
3. Labeling the PowerPoint images that weren’t in the workbook would be helpful for accuracy in note taking.
4. A field trip to China next time, please! But seriously—just more time.
5. More time for discussion between class members or time to ask the teacher questions. People in the class have a lot of interesting backgrounds related to the class topic. Would have been nice to have been able to hear more from them.
6. Cut more on modern books.
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. Can’t think of anything; I’m very satisfied.
10. Need more time; there is still so much to learn.
11. Printed list of everything passed around.

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

1. Yes.
2. Yes, and enthusiastically.
3. Absolutely yes, to both questions!
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. Of course! I will recommend the course to others!
7. Yes. Yes.
8. Yes, x2!
9. Yes, definitely.
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. {no response}
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. No trips.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. {no response}
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. Yes.
3. Both lectures and the Tibetan print demo were great. It might have been nice to have a little talk before the print demo, but the hands-on experience was great. And the scheduling of the Julie Nelson Davis talk to coincide with this class was terrific.
4. Tibetan printing was fun! Would like to have tried cutting a block.
5. The Japanese woodblock lecture I went to was great.
6. Talks and workshop were good!
7. Yes.
8. N/A
9. Didn't attend, was already here when the email arrived. Missed knowing ahead of time, but was tired in the evenings anyway.
10. {no response}

11. Evening lectures.

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. If you're interested in this subject but don't have any background in it, take the course! It will give you a whole new perspective on book history.
4. Do it—even if you don't know much about East Asian books, you will be able to keep up and you will build a foundation for further learning.
5. None.
6. Bring more clothes and your own blanket.
7. {no response}
8. You will learn so much! If you're considering, go ahead and do it!
9. No.
10. {no response}
11. Do the readings.

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

1. There is no substitute for direct, materially rich learning.
2. It was a delight to submerge in a topic for a week, taught by a master scholar in the field.
3. I took so many notes I wore out my hand and my pencil!
4. EPIC.
5. Great teacher and great classmates! And great food.
6. What an amazing experience! I will never forget! Thank you, RBS!
7. {no response}
8. Read 10,000 books and walk 10,000 miles.
9. Super.
10. Insightful, inspiring, and intellectually stimulating!
11. A lot of fun.

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: 3 (27.27%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 2 (18.18%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 4 (36.36%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (18.18%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (54.54%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (9.09%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 2 (18.18%)
I exchanged goods or services in lieu of tuition: 1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 7 (63.63%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (9.09%)
I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 2 (18.18%)
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 part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 2 (18.18%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (9.09%)

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

Library disciplines:

Curator: 1 (9.09%)

Student working toward a/n:

B.A./B.S.: 1 (9.09%)

M.A./M.S.: 2 (18.18%)

Professional educator:

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (9.09%)

Assistant professor: 3 (27.27%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Independent scholar: 1 (9.09%)

Post-doctoral fellow/researcher/scholar: 1 (9.09%)

Retired: 1 (9.09%)