

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 readings were useful. Maybe include a note with the hard to find ones to make the search a little easier?
2. The pre-course readings were very useful and provided a great base for the course.
3. I was not able to access a majority of the reading assignments due to financial constraints, but I look forward to referencing them as resources in the future.
4. Very useful and not too much reading (I read 2/3 of the list). Could be useful to include some of the websites we discussed in class so folks can peruse ahead of time; the Andrea Krupp book on cloth, too.
5. I wish I had read more of the secondary recommendations. This course was one of the best paced I've participated in. The secondary readings would have added to my understanding.
6. Yes, very useful, especially as someone without a lot of background in this area.
7. I unfortunately did not have enough time to complete, but what I did read was helpful. I will be going back to complete the readings.
8. Yes. Some background on binding techniques.
9. Extremely. The pre-course readings helped inform my current understanding of the subject matter and allowed for more participation in the course.
10. Pre-course readings were very useful. The reading was the only additional preparation.
11. The readings were all very relevant and complemented the course well. I did not have trouble locating them, though I am at a major research university and made a few ILL requests.

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. I LOVED the workbook! What an excellent resource!
2. The course workbook is excellent. I have no doubt that I will consult it again while surveying my collection.
3. The workbook is terrific! It is incredibly thorough and the illustrations and samples of materials within were thoughtful additions.
4. The workbook content will be most useful after the course as a reference. The bibliography is comprehensive and a great resource. Not intended as a "workbook" that we march through each day, so allowed us to focus on the lecture slides and actual books!
5. The workbook will be a permanent addition to my office. It will be useful for years to come. It represents decades of resources and research that I will benefit from.

6. Yes, I think the workbook will be very useful and I like that it comes with an extensive bibliography for further study.
7. We didn't get much of a chance to use it during class. Browsing through it, it seems really useful.
8. Excellent. Yes. Definitely. I teach undergrad and M.A. students, and will use it.
9. It was not often consulted but it was mostly not necessary as TP was a living course workbook.
10. Hands-on experience was wonderful and necessary. The workbook is a very useful resource.
11. The workbook is invaluable for its many summaries of course content and extensive bibliography. The cloth samples were an unexpected surprise. I will definitely consult and treasure it.

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

1. N/A
2. This course was slightly better than other courses I have taken. The previous courses were more survey courses, so the deeper dive into a narrower timeline was very informative.
3. N/A
4. Tip top for slide presentations and lectures and use of RBS collection. Tip top for enjoying the material, teacher, and the classmates.
5. Truly, truly, truly great. See Q5.
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. It's hard to compare them because of different teaching styles. This was the most collegial, relaxed, and enjoyable of the ones I have taken.
9. N/A
10. TP's class is the most important and useful class I have taken thus far.
11. I handled more primary sources in this class than in any other I have taken at RBS. {private 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. I loved watching the evolution of the binding style. I am walking away with a better understanding of that—in addition to some very awesome stylistic inspiration.
2. I've come away from the course with a new appreciation of the publisher's binding. I am excited to get back and look at my library's collection with new eyes.
3. Yes! I really appreciated the greater context of these bindings that TP familiarized us with—what outside pressures drove production.
4. I am most interested in the last quarter of the century, and that part was like eating chocolates. Many new insights on manufacture and design, and new insights for collecting. I learned so much about cloth book construction in the earlier quarters, which was my main objective in taking the course.
5. This course brought me back to the physical aspect of the book. This is a part of my love of books that needs more fertilizer!
6. The McGregor Room visits were really great because it was a chance to put the

- knowledge you gained to practical use, and a good way to see how much you've learned.
7. I thought the evolution of the binding structure was interesting, as well as the artist-designer segment. I would like to research other designers.
 8. Earlier nineteenth-century binding techniques. I like the focus on construction techniques and on more commonplace bindings and less on fine art/collectible aesthetics. Yes. LOTS OF IDEAS and possible new projects and ways to expand current projects.
 9. The discussions surrounding machinery and industrial advancements were of particular interest to me personally. Professionally what makes these materials rare/suitable for spec. coll. was invaluable.
 10. I now look at the book within the historical period of specialty in a new, more informed way.
 11. The class was led by a professional binder, and I walked away with new vocabulary and perspective on books from this period. I am especially eager to take a closer look at damaged books for clues about their construction. The instructor helped me start to see these objects like a binder would.
- 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. A+++++! I learned everything I hoped to and more.
 2. The instructor was an excellent guide to the subject and was especially clear in his lectures.
 3. Yes, no, yes! TP was incredible, and a great introduction to the school in general. He's very approachable if you have any questions, generous with his time, and passionate about the subject in a most infectious way.
 4. Yes, I learned so much about structure, materials, design, manufacturing economy. Would like to have a segment on paper.
 5. For my experience, TP delivered two critical benefits. He recognized the appropriate pacing for material. He demonstrated a true desire for collegial feedback. He was a superb instructor.
 6. Yes, TP was a great instructor. He does focus more on structure and early periods than style and end of the century, but it's definitely worthwhile and parts that are often ignored by others.
 7. It was very informative. I came into the class with an open mind, so I wasn't expecting anything in particular. I would have liked to learn more about the later designers, though.
 8. I learned more. The instructor was very accommodating of student interests and not dismissive at all of tastes or disciplinary biases.
 9. All that AND way beyond more. TP helped me vastly develop my notion of what constitutes a publishers' binding and refine my investigative skills of materials from this time period.
 10. The course has been developed in such a way that skills are tested and reinforced. Very good teaching technique.
 11. The course met all expectations early in the week, and far exceeded them by the end. The instructor was thorough and supportive of all feedback/commentary/discussion generated by students.

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

1. Research for my own interest in addition to just making bindings inspired from this era (for fun).
2. I will use the knowledge I have gained in this course to develop exhibitions at my library. I will also make use of the information while instructing my users.
3. I plan to pass on as much information as possible on the hallmarks of these bindings to the bookstore employees.
4. In collecting and conserving nineteenth-century cloth books.
5. I'm embarking on creating my first inventory of my books. TP just gave me a lot more work to do. I am grateful for this new understanding.
6. Outreach and serving users of the library. Would like to develop some program around it. I think I will start with taking a good look and evaluating the publishers' bindings at my institution.
7. I plan to use this when cataloging books, but it has also given me some ideas for artistic projects.
8. College teaching. Apply to my book history and bibliography research. Further research/classes/new projects on cloth binding and end papers.
9. I will be using these skills in my conservation practice, as well as helping our curator/head of SC make decisions on what to move from general to SC.
10. I've already started developing a paper for publication.
11. I plan to incorporate what I learned into my research, as I plan to write about this period in the history of the book. As a librarian, I work with classes on the literature and history of this period, which will also allow me to exercise this new knowledge.

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

1. Honestly anyone; we ran the spectrum from bookbinders to academics and it seems like TP did a good job reaching all of us.
2. Book lovers of all ages would get something useful out of this course.
3. I think anyone eager to listen and simply be observant would learn as much as they needed to.
4. High—people interested in structure, design, and history will love this class.
5. The student mix was excellent.
6. It is rigorous but not difficult. It's more tiring than stressful just because there's a lot of information to cover in a short amount of time, but the regular breaks help with that (and supply coffee!) Some background on the subject would be useful, even if mainly through the readings because not every term will be defined when discussed.
7. I think it is accessible to a large demographic. I think book historians and binders/conservators might get the most out of it.
8. Well suited to anyone already even moderately knowledgeable about book construction. Little prior knowledge of aesthetics needed. Anyone studying transatlantic nineteenth century material culture would benefit.
9. Quite literally anyone who has an interest in publishers' bindings. Our class was professionally diverse and it seems we all are walking away with a highly

augmented understanding of the subject.

10. Anyone interested in books and American History will benefit from TP's course.
11. Intermediate. It helps to know a little about binding and a little about the nineteenth century, but the instructor has created very stimulating and provocative lectures that will appeal to those with a little prior knowledge and a lot of curiosity.

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. The DAGUERREOTYPES! That was a brilliant way to get us into the time period.
2. Understanding the industrial and design changes that occurred during the period.
3. The case studies of Bradley, &c., were really helpful in understanding the practical concerns of these people at the time.
4. That there are no hard and fast delineations in the timing of changes that take place in the century. Dust jackets in the 1860's—who knew?!
5. McGregor Room. Community learning—the best.
6. I think TP does a great job of convincing you that pre-1830s bindings are important, too, and conveying an appreciation for the earlier, less flashy covers.
7. Too many to count.
8. Course made me realize how much I have already observed on these bindings. It gave me a better framework to discuss details and apply other knowledge about nineteenth-century culture.
9. When we noted at the onset of class what we understood a publishers' binding to be and when we revisited our definitions later on. This class was littered with "aha!" moments. Seal skin!
10. Too many to list. Very comprehensive survey of the field.
11. The visits to the McGregor Room were helpful in applying the lectures in a practical way. Seeing these things, or having them put in front of you is one thing, but this class is the first in which I felt the chance to apply what was learned and engage the instructor and class with what I learned.

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

1. Maybe break up some of the longer slideshows on Thursday. Not too bad, but it's hard to focus for a long time in the dark on Thursday.
2. I see no obvious ways to improve the course.
3. It can't!
4. {no response}
5. Maybe—just maybe—fewer samples but more time with each. I don't know if I mean this.
6. Can't think of anything!
7. I would like access to the PowerPoint presentations.
8. {no response}
9. I really think this course will only get better by way of what has already been happening in that the individuals who have taken the course use their newfound knowledge to produce even more granular scholarship on the topic and give it back to TP.

10. Don't know.
11. {no response}

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

1. Yes, and Yes!
2. I would highly recommend this course to anyone with even a passing interest in the time period or the history of the book in general.
3. Absolutely!
4. Yes, and yes.
5. Yes, yes.
6. Yes, and yes!
7. I would definitely recommend. Totally worth it.
8. Absolutely. Yes.
9. ABSOLUTELY! (x2)
10. I will recommend the course to others.
11. Yes, and yes!

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

1. Yes!
2. The trips to SC was very useful.
3. Yes!
4. Yes, to SC where I learned so much about dust jackets!
5. Yes, yes.
6. We were lucky to have a great collection of early dustjackets to visit here at UVA and it was really great to learn about that type of cover as well.
7. We went to the McGregor Room twice to pick our own books to discuss. It was a great way to test out what we learned.
8. Yes. Although I also really liked that we could use and handle RBS collection books and tools, and spend less time in SC.
9. Very well spent and relative to what we were discussing.
10. The field trips to the McGregor Room and SC was a highlight of the course.
11. Absolutely! Nowhere else could we see what we saw on our one visit to SC.

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. Yes! I loved the comic exhibit—it was excellent.
2. All optional events were excellent.
3. {no response}
4. Lecture was great on a topic I knew nothing about, so good rounding experience.
5. N/A
6. Yes! The Rotunda exhibit was great! Maybe it would have been nice for group sign-up for Booksellers' Night?
7. I attended all of them. They were fun.

8. {no response}
9. They were great!
10. Social events are useful for making new friends.
11. The lectures are always so enjoyable. The RBS team has a knack for attracting experts that are also gifted presenters.

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

1. GET EXCITED!
2. N/A
3. {no response}
4. Take it!
5. {no response}
6. It's absolutely great, and a really interesting period of bookbinding/design that more people should value!
7. {no response}
8. Take it! Even though the topic sounds very specific and esoteric, it's really not!
9. If you think you know about publishers' bindings and haven't taken this course, you will be very pleased to find you don't know as much as you thought. Not even close.
10. This course is an important course for anyone who thinks they know a lot about books.
11. This is a focused, hands-on learning experience with a brilliant instructor. You will be glad you took this course!

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

1. This was the academic experience I have always dreamed about.
2. {no response}
3. It was a rewarding experience and I hope to repeat it someday.
4. I'll be back!
5. Every course I've taken here has dramatically increased my knowledge while in one of the most community-minded environments possible. Thanks.
6. I need to rest up this weekend, then can't wait to go through my library for publishers' bindings!
7. Fun!
8. One of the best intellectual experiences of my life—and the most fun!
9. Publishers' bindings
What could they possibly be?
Well, it depends on...
10. Your Life is a Book, write well!
11. {No response}

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: 5 (45.45%)
My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days:
2 (18.18%)
I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 3 (27.27%)
I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:
1 (9.09%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (36.36%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (18.18%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 5 (45.45%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (54.54%)
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%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (54.54%)
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 live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (9.09%)

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

Library disciplines:

Archivist: 2 (18.18%)
Conservator/binder/preservation librarian: 1 (9.09%)
Library administrator: 1 (9.09%)
Special collections librarian: 2 (18.18%)

Professional educator:

Full professor: 1 (9.09%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (9.09%)
Other: 1 (9.09%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Independent scholar: 1 (9.09%)
Other: 1 (9.09%)