

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 readings were informative, but slightly repetitive—could be further curated to be more concise/manageable—but very useful and good reads.
2. Yes, Yes, No, No.
3. Yes, useful—great list actually.
4. The pre-course reading was appropriate and helpful.
5. Perhaps the Germano Celant reading (*Books by Artists*) could be recommended instead of required. Readings were useful but hard to find if not at an institution, so digitizing more would be helpful.
6. The pre-course readings were useful for laying a foundation, but the list was extensive and information was a bit redundant. A little more history (one book), pre-1950, for context may have been nice.
7. Readings were good.
8. Reading assignments were very useful and a good resource for the future, in a professional sense.
9. Excessive reading, often redundant. Very good reads, just overwhelming.
10. {private response}
11. Very extensive reading list, maybe a little too much. But I prefer that to not having enough material.
12. I learned a lot from the readings and would recommend you start early since the list is so long. {private 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. Object list/materials we looked at didn't often match the bibliography in the workbook which was slightly frustrating—citations were often incomplete.
2. Yes, Yes.
3. {no response}
4. The course workbook was useful enough; time will tell if it has staying power.
5. Materials were roughly shown in order, but some were either not shown or added late which resulted in a lot of scrambling to locate titles. My own notes will be of more use than the workbook.
6. The workbook was essentially a list of titles, some of which were covered, some were not. It would potentially be useful for buyers, but otherwise didn't have broad use.
7. I wish the reading list was in the course workbook, too, not just online. The workbook will be useful beyond the class.

8. The list of works we looked at was very helpful, except some items were not on it or hard to find (because there were so many!).
9. Would have been better if the handbook had an up-to-date list of books.
10. TW was great at showing online resources, but I wish there was a comprehensive listing of all the dealers, shops, fairs, and journals that we discussed.
11. Fine.
12. The workbook with its extensive title listings will be a helpful resource. {private response}

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

1. N/A
2. Favorably.
3. N/A
4. A bit wonky at the start; the institutional security staff seemed unable to figure us out. TW was magnificent.
5. By far the most engaging.
6. N/A
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. Difficult to compare as they were totally different in many respects. That said, I enjoyed both courses.
12. It was another amazing experience with an outstanding instructor, who is clearly one of the foremost experts in his field.

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. Saw a lot of contemporary artists' books.
2. {no response}
3. Yes—feeling inspired, especially with the new knowledge of resources available in the city and community press spaces.
4. A new appreciation for things I deal with daily.
5. I most enjoyed seeing the original books, not slides of facsimiles. There are even a few I want to add to my collection.
6. Seeing the many beautiful books was fun and interesting, but sometimes overwhelming. Less breadth and more depth may have allowed for a better experience, especially because most books were viewed from a distance. The sheer number of books also precluded conversation among students.
7. Most interesting were the details about buying strategies and cataloging workflows.
8. I loved seeing the books, handling them when allowed, being introduced to key figures and artists. The class gave me new ideas, especially from an acquisition point of view.
9. I enjoyed my discussions with other attendees and the opportunity to see books I have read about in person. I walk away with a long wish list for my collection.
10. The most interesting thing for me was discussing the material with my classmates.

11. Much of this material was totally new to me, so nearly everything was a revelation.
 12. Since this is a new area for me, all parts were important and interesting. It was a good mix of lecture, topic-related activities, demonstrations of books, and hands-on exploration of books!
- 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. TW is incredibly knowledgeable, but unfortunately I'm not walking away with much more knowledge/insight into the historiography of artists' books nor instruction ideas or collection development ideas.
 2. Yes, No, Yes.
 3. Yes.
 4. Yes, no, yes.
 5. 1) Yes. 2) History of the development of the genre could have been more comprehensive. A glossary of terms (though included in readings) could have been reviewed in class as well. 3) See numbers 1 & 2.
 6. TW knows a lot about the field, but there was hardly any discussion or conversation about essential ideas (e.g., definitions of the artists' books). The repetitive class format didn't leave room for issues to be discussed, so most of my knowledge about history/context/terms only came from readings until the last two days.
 7. The instructor has impressive, comprehensive knowledge of the topic.
 8. Yes—more theoretical discussion may have helped at times.
 9. {private response} Collection development info was useful.
 10. Fit the description.
 11. I certainly learned everything I hoped to learn (and more). Since I'm less familiar with this area than others in the class, it's difficult to say if anything was left out.
 12. Yes! I can highly recommend this class!
- 6) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*
1. To further pursue my own definitions of artists' books to use in publications and teaching.
 2. In appraising/pricing.
 3. Personal and professional growth.
 4. In my work and cataloging.
 5. Reference material/info for my work in publishing.
 6. To help with a future book project.
 7. In seeking new acquisitions, and working with cataloging and conservation staff.
 8. Acquisitions, teaching, and exhibitions.
 9. I plan to work with library colleagues to expand our collection of moveable books.
 10. Making new connections with other institutions, storing artists' books differently, and going to book fairs.
 11. I feel I have a much better grasp of the subject and can be a more intelligent, informed buyer.
 12. Collection development, instruction seminar, and enhancing of bibliographic descriptions.

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

1. Beginner.
2. {no response}
3. Graduate level and above.
4. It was very good; art librarians.
5. Dealers/appraisers/curators/catalogers would all benefit from this course.
6. Someone interested in seeing a lot of books, but not “studying” the tradition, per se. Librarians and booksellers may benefit most.
7. People wanting to see a wide variety of types of artists’ books out there and the context they were made in.
8. I think those from a more academic background might have wanted to engage more with the concepts and philosophies underlying the history, but I was actually happy with LOOKING.
9. Ideal for librarians.
10. College level or above. It helps to have knowledge of art history.
11. It was fine. Useful and comprehensible for anyone with an interest in artists’ books.
12. Any librarian/archivist in a related field, dealers, and graduate students.

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. Risograph printing. Lecture at Book Arts Center!
2. {no response}
3. The Blackburn Press Risograph workshop and the evening event at the Center for Book Arts—it was great to hear actual artists speak.
4. So many.
5. This is such a rich genre that I didn’t know anything about. The Risograph workshop really allowed me to appreciate the complexity and skill required to achieve quality prints.
6. Doing the print field trip to make a ‘zine was a lot of fun and gave a lot of insight into the book process.
7. Risograph workshop was awesome!
8. Loved the panel on women book artists and the Risograph workshop. These were amazing!
9. The Risograph workshop put into perspective the amount of skills put into the books!
10. {private response}
11. Every day provided “aha!” moments. I especially enjoyed our visit to Blackburn Print Studio and creating a ‘zine.
12. Many “aha” moments as the instructor went to great lengths to bring out amazing examples and was able to speak to all of them.

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

1. Hands-on access to books and discussions. Clearly articulated learning objectives/goals.
2. {no response}
3. I liked it.
4. Not sure.
5. The way in which the materials were shown could have been better organized. Even if collection materials were added a day or two before, printing off a bibliography would have helped a lot.
6. More discussion and conversation among participants; fewer artists' books discussed in-depth and in context; vary the lesson plan more, and make it clearer.
7. More class discussion. Looking and listening could be exhausting.
8. I think a longer introduction, and making it clear that discussion and interruptions were welcome. We looked at SO MANY books it got overwhelming sometimes. From a pedagogical point of view, more variety during the long classroom sessions would have been welcome.
9. More active learning and allowing us to handle books. {private response}
10. It was a good course, but I would have liked to have been able to touch and handle the books. Most of them were held up by the instructor and we didn't get to experience the materials as they were meant to be experienced.
11. Maybe ditch the overhead projector. Difficult to see the works on the screen.
12. I thought it was great the way it was! {private response}

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

1. Unfortunately, I do not and would not. The pedagogy/lesson plans for this course need to be reevaluated.
2. Yes, Yes.
3. Yes. Yes!
4. Yes, and yes.
5. Yes, and yes!
6. I think if improvements were made in day-to-day structure, I would highly recommend. Otherwise, I'm not sure if it's worth it for those in an academic field.
7. Yes, and yes.
8. Yes. Yes.
9. Yes, and yes to certain people—librarians, art librarians.
10. I would have liked more discussion about the readings and to touch the books, but overall I would recommend the course.
11. This course was more than worth it. I strongly recommend the course and the instructor. TW's enthusiasm and knowledge are impressive.
12. Yes! And I totally will.

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

1. Yes! Absolutely!
2. Yes.
3. Absolutely.
4. Yes.

5. Trips to MoMA, Bard, and making our own 'zine were invaluable and integral parts of the course.
6. Yes, the trip to the Risograph shop was amazing! It may have been cool to do other trips to collectors' houses, shops, &c., given all the resources New York City has to offer.
7. Yes—MoMA visit was great as well as the Risograph workshop.
8. YES. Risograph workshop—YAY!
9. Yes!
10. The Risograph workshop was great, but the lecture was far away and the seats were really uncomfortable.
11. Yes, absolutely.
12. Absolutely. The MoMA field trip was good, and the Risograph printing and 'zine-making exercise was both a learning experience and lots of fun.

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! The “Women in a Golden Age of Artists’ Books” roundtable was awesome!
2. {no response}
3. Definitely.
4. Yes.
5. The MoMA visit was great but the reception wasn't necessary. The Bard visit was wonderful.
6. N/A
7. I attended one and it was great.
8. YES. Women book artist panel—YAY!
9. Printed Matter trip was great!
10. I didn't feel that any of the evening events were worthwhile.
11. They were fine. Tony did a great job moderating the panel discussion.
12. Yes! The evening panel on “Women in the Golden Age of Artists’ Books” was very special, as was the Bard reception and exhibition.

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. Enjoy!
4. No.
5. {no response}
6. If you want to see a ton of books with a knowledgeable instructor, take it. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. I have a solid understanding of twentieth-century art history and it will aid understanding of certain periods/movements.
10. New York City is expensive and there is a lot of walking.
11. Do as many of the readings as possible to get a good grounding in the material.

12. Read as much as you can before the class, as it helps to get the most out of it.

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

1. {no response}
2. Real cool time.
3. “Everything exists in the world in order to become a book.” —Stéphane Mallarme
4. A wonderful, well-rounded experience.
5. A rich introduction to the genre.
6. Incredible books.
7. I had a wonderful time. Too many artists’ books—time to make a wish list!
8. Overall, I loved this class, the instructor, and the group—and the books!
9. See beautiful books, enjoy lunch in Central Park, and meet super-cool colleagues!
10. {no response}
11. A fantastic, unforgettable week.
12. RBS classes are intense in the best of ways and they are an experience to fully immerse yourself into something you are passionate about. Transformational!

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: 8 (66.67%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (16.66%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:
2 (16.66%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (58.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 3 (25%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (50%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 3 (25%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 7 (58.33%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (8.33%)

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

Library disciplines:

Archivist: 2 (16.67%)

Curator: 1 (8.33%)

Special collections librarian: 2 (16.67%)

Subject specialist/bibliographer: 1 (8.33%)

Student working toward a/n:

B.A./B.S.: 1 (8.33%)

M.L.I.S./M.L.S.: 1 (8.33%)

Ph.D./D.Phil: 1 (8.33%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 3 (25%)