

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. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A. At first I thought it odd not to have any pre-course assignments, but after taking the class I understand why.
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. {private response}
7. No pre-course readings for this class!
8. There were not any. I wouldn't mind a suggested, optional reading list before attending.
9. This course didn't have any.
10. Yes, the reading was useful. Perhaps more current articles (from, say, the past five years) could be included?
11. N/A
12. N/A
13. There were no pre-course reading assignments.
14. {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. Very useful short guide and resource lists.
2. Useful handouts.
3. The handouts helped reinforce the information being discussed and will help after the course.
4. Handouts will be very helpful. Thanks.
5. Yes, especially *Beyond Carter's ABC* and the "modern office formats" handout.
6. I'm certain they will be useful.
7. Materials handed out during the course are well-organized and will be useful in the future.
8. I found the handouts very useful and wouldn't mind even more if possible.
9. The materials that were provided were helpful and will come in handy. They also provided several online resources that will be beneficial.
10. Excellent. I will continue to consult these materials, and hope to incorporate the exercises into the classroom at my home institution.
11. The handouts shared will be very helpful, and I will share them with my colleagues.

12. We were provided with reference resources that will help us continue to learn about concepts, ethics, professional groups, &c., and we received an illustrated glossary of alternative prints.
13. The course materials seem as if they will be helpful in the future.
14. {no response}

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

1. Very different in tone, but so blessedly modern and less formal (while still rigorous).
2. Fav!
3. It was a different type of class, and would be like comparing apples and oranges. Each was great.
4. This was outstanding, likely due to my interests in the content as much as to the faculty. Faculty were very engaging and open.
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. This is my first course.
9. N/A
10. One of the best!
11. N/A
12. N/A
13. N/A
14. {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. Understanding rationale behind material selection, pricing, and placement.
2. Really useful insights into considerations around collecting and building collections. Great frameworks for my future work.
3. Helped confirm some of my thoughts on topics discussed, as well as a few new ways to approach work related issues.
4. Guests were very informative. Exercises were exceedingly enlightening. Content gave me, truly, a whole new category to think about.
5. Speaking with mid-career librarians who have a wide breadth of knowledge (especially the guest lecturer, Molly Schwarzberg) was great. Being able to speak frankly with KR was also great.
6. Visits to potential donors. Emerging collecting forums.
7. I feel that I am more creative in coming up with ideas for collections. I am also very interested in 'zines now, and I might even make my own.
8. Variety of speakers and presenters each providing a different perspective. Much better understanding of the book and archive trade ecosystem.
9. Having the dealers come, and learning how they priced certain objects and how they deal with institutions was insightful. And also learning how to deal with donors under difficult situations as well.
10. Discussion on how to build a significant collection based on the current market. How to communicate and negotiate with booksellers.

11. I have learned to think outside the box when it comes to collection development.
12. I came in with limited familiarity with the nature and influence of counter-culture self-published literature, so considering how to extend collections by inclusion of this material was a key takeaway.
13. The most relevant and interesting aspects of the course were learning about the interaction between booksellers and librarians. Also, learning how to think about personal and institutional collecting.
14. {no response}

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. Yep!
2. Yes, learned what I hoped to.
3. The course lived up to the course description, and I came away with more information.
4. Faculty was very generous in sharing their intellectual capital.
5. The instructors were great at allowing time for questions and returning to points we didn't have time to cover immediately. I didn't know what I didn't know on this topic, so I learned a lot.
6. Yes. No. Yes.
7. Maybe more specifics on negotiations would be helpful, or on 3D artifacts.
8. Yes, instructors were very helpful and open to answering any questions. Maybe more discussion of digital material in the future when libraries and sellers become more involved with this type of collection.
9. For the most part yes, but I wish there would have been more information on accessing pre-nineteenth-century materials.
10. I learned what I hoped to learn—and so much more. Rarely have I had course instructors so knowledgeable and generous as our triumvirate.
11. I have learned what I hoped I would learn about working with dealers and donors.
12. I believe they cultivated awareness of all the aspects mentioned, and gave us resources to use as we work to develop skills.
13. I think that the course description doesn't really describe all that one can learn in the course, but I think that it's difficult to describe.
14. {no response}

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

1. Someday, I'm gonna be a curator. Gotta start somewhere.
2. Will be building collections with this knowledge and connecting to the trade in ways I wouldn't have otherwise.
3. Mostly for future work.
4. As my favorite professor once said to me, "Focus, focus, focus."
5. Being more proactive towards collection development in my home institution.
6. {no response}
7. I'm hoping to apply these skills and knowledge to my future career, and to my graduate coursework.
8. Better understanding of dynamics between donors, libraries, and booksellers will

- help me navigate future professional relationships, with empathy for their various positions, challenges, and motivations.
9. I plan to research particular dealers in my subject area and reach out to them. I will also attend local book fairs.
 10. Build a bad-ass collection. Navigate the marketplace with much more confidence than I had before this class.
 11. I gained knowledge in unconventional collection management ideas, which I will share with my department. I will also use the information about working with dealers and donors when I get home.
 12. I plan to research and pursue several new collecting areas.
 13. I will be putting this knowledge to use in new acquisitions of rare books.
 14. {no response}
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. Folks new to the acquisitions world.
 2. I think this is not for super green folks, but useful for early career curators and up.
 3. I think it would benefit someone at the beginning of their career.
 4. Because the examples are so unique, I believe almost anyone interested in the book world would benefit from this class.
 5. Early career librarians who find themselves with buying power, but don't have a ton of knowledge on the book trade.
 6. {no response}
 7. Someone who is responsible for acquisitions at a museum or library, or someone who sells to museums and libraries.
 8. Helpful to have had some experience in acquisitions, selling, and/or valuing more modern materials.
 9. People who are interested in creating new collections and have more freedom to purchase materials that aren't as popular now, but that will be a couple decades from now.
 10. The intellectual level in the room was extremely high. We had a variety of skill sets and personalities, and everyone participated in the success of the experience.
 11. Anyone who works with collection development, even in traditional institutions, would benefit from the class, especially those new to the field.
 12. Hard to say. It was well-presented and stimulating to me.
 13. {no response}
 14. It was valuable to have classmates who are new to collecting, but who are able to collect. Mixing with appraisers was amazing!
- 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. {no response}
 2. {no response}
 3. The course was more like a crescendo in a musical performance.
 4. Subculture, counterculture, and real-time collecting. It's out there to be developed.
 5. I had a lot of instances of thinking about small things I could start at my

- institution that could snowball into bigger projects and results.
6. {no response}
 7. Hands-on activities with the materials, most notably the research project, were the most useful. Also, guest speakers were excellent.
 8. Have clear title to material. There is a food chain among sellers. Collect with consideration of local interest and contemporary material that future generations would benefit from.
 9. Being able to meet like-minded people and also have teachers and guest speakers who were very open about their line of work.
 10. Conversations between our instructors and guest speakers were particularly illuminating.
 11. Be forward-thinking, and start locally when building new collections.
 12. Tracing the origins of mainstream phenomena to their roots in subcultures.
 13. Learning the difference between collections of older materials and modern materials.
 14. I found the creator of my mystery collection at the last moment before presenting. Finding that name—so fun! Didn't expect to learn so much about bookselling.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. A little more from library/archives business side; a tick-tock breakdown of how acquisitions are processed.
 2. Little bit of a drag to have so much time on research in class; would have liked content in sessions and research in after hours, perhaps?
 3. Could not see any way to improve....
 4. I honestly can't think of anything to change or improve upon.
 5. A little less on the building of specific collections—I think it would be useful to think of these examples as case studies rather than exhaustive explanations.
 6. {no response}
 7. I don't think I have any suggestions, as I came in with very little knowledge. Maybe a few pre-course articles could be helpful, if I had to suggest any changes at all.
 8. Perhaps more visuals/slides with lectures.
 9. I think the course could have been improved by not limiting it to more modern materials being on display.
 10. I believe a bit more discussion among students would be of benefit. Librarians are shy and sometimes need to be nudged to talk!
 11. {no response}
 12. I think perhaps two of the periods devoted to our final project might be given to one-to-one, small group, or whole class feedback on ideas we generate for new collecting areas or approaches for each of our libraries.
 13. {no response}
 14. A little bit more from KR on the first day.
- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes, and yes.
 2. Yes.

3. Yes, certainly would recommend.
4. I've already recommended the class to folks.
5. Yes, and yes.
6. {no response}
7. Yes.
8. Yes, would recommend to anyone involved in special collections and/or archives.
9. Yes.
10. YES.
11. Yes, and yes.
12. Yes, definitely.
13. Yes.
14. Yes, and I already want to send my colleagues.

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

1. N/A
2. N/A—would have been great to do a field trip, but where in Charlottesville?
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. No trips, but appreciated optional tours during breaks.
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. N/A
12. N/A
13. We stopped by a local used/antiquarian bookstore, and I was able to ask the instructor questions in real-time.
14. N/A

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. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. The ice cream social would have been better attended had it followed another related event
6. Just the right amount.
7. The museums were lovely and a great experience.
8. Yes, pop-up exhibits were a great bonus.
9. N/A
10. A very good use of time.
11. N/A
12. The Carter Museum was a good idea, a little much by the end of the day.

13. {no response}
14. I think not having evening events was valuable. Dinner with classmates and time to rest were key. OH! The hands-on museum was so exceptionally valuable!

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

1. {no response}
2. I think you really want to be in the game of collection building to get a lot out of this class, and actually a range of experience is good, but as a student that's nice too, to have people really doing the work.
3. Sit back and enjoy.
4. It's unconventional enough to make one think in new ways. It was great.
5. It's surprisingly cold in Charlottesville in January! The mystery box activity was really super!!
6. It's valuable. Speak with other classmates, and exchange experiences.
7. JK, TC, and KR are extremely knowledgeable and generous. They are lovely teachers for this course, so if you have any need for instruction on developing collections, I would definitely recommend that you take this course.
8. Come with questions and be ready to participate in lively dialog.
9. {no response}
10. This class has revolutionized my thoughts about building collections and has given me the tools to work responsibly and successfully as a curator.
11. Bring a laptop or iPad.
12. Fantastic instructors!
13. This was a great course for someone like me who is new to developing new collections and analyzing existing collections.
14. Go!

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

1. Fellow students just as valuable as teachers. Don't be intimidated.
2. Do it; it's good.
3. Sit back and enjoy.
4. {no response}
5. "This is the weird stuff class."
6. {no response}
7. I can't wait to put my knowledge to work.
8. Collect with imagination and unconventional approaches.
9. Great place to deal with like-minded scholars.
10. {no response}
11. RBS people and books are great!
12. Thank you!
13. 100
14. I learned that I have good instincts, and I will return with new confidence.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 14 (of 14)

How did you arrange for time off to attend this course?

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 10 (71.42%)

I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 3 (21.42%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule:
1 (7.14%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 2 (14.28%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (64.28%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 3 (21.42%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (28.57%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 9 (64.28%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (7.14%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 4 (28.57%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (42.85%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (14.28%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest:
1 (7.14%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (7.14%)

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

Library disciplines:

Archivist: 1 (7.14%)

Curator: 2 (14.28%)

Special collections librarian: 4 (28.57%)

Subject specialist/bibliographer: 2 (14.28%)

Student working toward a/n:

B.A./B.S.: 1 (7.14%)

Book trades:

Appraiser: 2 (14.28%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Other: 1 (7.14%)

Book trades:

No response: 1 (7.14%)