

Peter Stallybrass (Asst. By Lynne Farrington)  
H-105: The Bible and Histories of Reading  
23–28 June 2019

**Narrative Course Evaluations**

- 1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Are there any readings that you would like to see added or removed in future years?*
  1. The Book was very helpful, as were the additional readings.
  2. I'd read the de Hamel before and really enjoyed coming back to it again. Everything was both useful and reasonable.
  3. Yes! It might have been good to have a few more of the readings in the workbooks available early. The Dropbox articles didn't match those listed on the reading list (which I would still like to find).
  4. Yes, very useful, and I am going back to reread them.
  5. All helpful, but I would not want more than we were given.
  6. Yes!
  7. Excellent pre-course readings. Packet readings will be phenomenal resource as I prepare to teach in future semesters.
  8. {private response}
  9. Yes—the readings were helpful. I would suggest adding PS's, "Books & Scrolls".
  10. They were useful.
  11. They were useful, although I would agree with the previous students that it might be better to list them as "highly recommended" rather than required.
  
- 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 content was great. I hope I can compile the digital material and store it for the future.
  2. Yes. I hope that our Dropbox folder continues to be updated.
  3. The workbooks are a gold mine that I look forward to having time to read more of. Really appreciated PS's PowerPoint files distributed.
  4. Yes, the content was useful.
  5. Very good, and good for reference and teaching beyond this week.
  6. I'm grateful to have so much material that I couldn't get through during this week. I can continue to think/learn after the course's conclusion.
  7. See 4.1.
  8. The workbooks are incredibly helpful, and I so appreciated getting copies of all the PowerPoints!
  9. Terrific. I look forward to making full use of them.
  10. Yes, it was a wonderful miscellany.
  11. I am grateful for all the materials, and although I might not refer back to all of them, I'm happy to have all of them compiled in one place.
  
- 3) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your RBS course? Did*

*you walk away with any “aha!” moments, new ideas, or project plans?*

1. It will help in future study and teaching in the parish setting. The beehive gathering will inform my teaching & study.
  2. I had any number of these, including thoughts for a new class & new ideas for research.
  3. For my personal intellectual stimulation only. But, excited about PS's references to tartans in 14<sup>th</sup>-century Siennese paintings!
  4. Yes, many. I hope to one day teach a course about many of the topics we discussed.
  5. A few insights that applied directly to my research. More significant was the conceptual approach that I think I can apply to other areas of interest.
  6. I've been so inspired by all of our discussions/interactions this week. I have at least three new paper topics and areas of exploration in mind, and I can't wait to begin researching.
  7. I can definitely use some of our close readings of the Nuremberg Chronicle in upcoming fall class. I will draw upon this knowledge as I reach out to faculty at our Divinity School. AHA moment: G-d the Father/G-d the Son Slideshow reveal.
  8. I hope to teach Literature of the Bible soon and will use much of the course material in my own classroom.
  9. Yes.
  10. I will adapt many materials and assignments for my teaching, especially for my Reformation course.
  11. Working with the library's collection offered a lot of opportunities for creative reading/viewing, which PS and Lynne enthusiastically indulged!
- 4) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*
1. Yes. Yes.
  2. Yes.
  3. I don't know what I hoped for, but the instructors were great.
  4. Yes and the instructors were always willing to answer any questions left open.
  5. Yes, and more.
  6. I learned more than I thought would be possible in a week's time.
  7. Yes. And much more.
  8. This course absolutely helped me understand the historical context for reading practices that I need for my dissertation.
  9. Yes.
  10. I learned more than I imagined I would learn.
  11. Yes, and with an incredible level of stamina and excitement.
- 5) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*
1. No.
  2. No. I mean, I'd love another week—or a whole semester—of this, but that's probably too much to ask.
  3. Clone Peter. Beatify Lynne.

4. I think this course was a little too heavily based on art history. I would like to see a session devoted a little more on translation (problems), history of the English Bible, printing politics, &c.
5. Can't think of anything specifically to improve on.
6. {No response.}
7. Some fruit at break times & protein (nuts?).
8. N/A.
9. I can't think of any.
10. No.
11. The advanced reading list on the RBS website seems to be out of date.

6) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*

1. Clergy, curators, art historians, historians, anthropologists.
2. People from a variety of fields who are particularly interested in learning outside of their own field.
3. Anyone interested in the Western intellectual tradition in any form!
4. Medieval & Early Modern Art Historians, students of Book History generally, future Bible or Religious History scholars.
5. Anyone, but especially people researching Western Christian history/culture.
6. PhD students in almost any humanities discipline with an interest in reading, religion, or devotional practices over time.
7. Librarians, graduate students, faculty, book dealers, archivists.
8. Really anyone with an interest in Christianity, the history of the book/Bible/printing, or collecting.
9. Anyone who thinks seriously about books and reading.
10. I think you catered to a diverse group admirably—we all got very much out of the experience.
11. Anyone who is interested in the topic—it is intense but in a supportive environment that would be of value to someone from any background.

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

1. Yes. Yes.
2. Absolutely.
3. Absolutely to both.
4. Yes to both.
5. Yes, I would definitely recommend it to others. It does seem quite expensive, but I can also say it is worth the expense.
6. Yes and yes.
7. Yes, definitely. Absolutely.
8. Apart from my living accommodations, I absolutely got my money's worth.
9. Yes—though it wasn't cheap.
10. Absolutely! I would and I will.
11. Most definitely!

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

*well spent?*

1. Yes.
  2. Yes.
  3. Yes. The museum visit was a great complement to in-class iconography studies.
  4. The trip to the Philadelphia Museum was fantastic; however, the trip to the Common Press was a dud. The person leading the tour didn't do a true demonstration. It would have been nicer if it were hands-on. Since Philadelphia has so many libraries and museums having to do with printing and book history, I might suggest an excursion built in for students in the future.
  5. Yes, the museum trip was particularly beneficial, but all activities were well worth the time!
  6. Yes.
  7. Yes.
  8. Yes! I loved visiting the Philadelphia Art Museum.
  9. Yes—the museum trip was terrific.
  10. Yes.
  11. Yes!
- 9) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. No.
  2. Pace yourself—it's an exhilarating but exhausting ride. Also coming in with a good handle of the chronology of the period covered would help you to better follow some of the (fabulous!) moves around in time.
  3. Enjoy!
  4. No.
  5. {No response.}
  6. {No response.}
  7. PS is an extraordinary teacher, and each participant will come away with new understandings and new approaches that s/he can take to her/his home institution.
  8. The building is definitely not as cold as everyone said it would be. Don't layer up too much!
  9. Take it.
  10. Do it!
  11. Don't be concerned if you feel you are lacking particular background or experience. You will be put immediately at ease.
- 10) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*
1. Delightful.
  2. May you read like a bee, whose promiscuous proboscis nourishes body and feeds his sole with tempting nectar from his haphazard flight through the garden.
  3. The Bible is more appreciated thanks to Peter Stallybrass.

4. Lovely. Thank you!!
5. I have a new appreciation for the lived, material experience of people from a very long period of history.
6. Absolutely mind-boggling, in the best way.
7. Jovial & Joyous Learning!
8. "I've had the time of my life and I owe it all to you."
9. Humor and learning can be one.
10. Our course was a profoundly enlightening and inspiring experience; it conveyed the absolute joy of book history. Thank you Lynne and Professor Stallybrass!
11. Intellectually, creatively, and socially invigorating.

## **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: 1 (9.09%)

I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (9.09%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 5 (45.45%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (9.09%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

I paid 100% myself: 3 (36.36%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (45.45%)

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

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

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest: 1 (9.09%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 4 (36.36%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (45.45%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest: 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%: 5 (45.45%)

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

**Library disciplines:**

Archivist: 1 (9.09%)

Public services librarian: 1 (9.09%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (9.09%)

**Student working toward a/n:**

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

**Professional educator:**

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (9.09%)

Assistant professor: 2 (18.18%)

**Other occupations/vocations:**

Retired: 1 (9.09%)

Other: 1 (9.09%)