

John Buchtel & Mark Dimunation
H-10: The History of the Book, 200-2000
9–14 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. {No response}
 2. Yes. The class itself goes over things, but it's extremely useful to have a familiarity (in broad strokes) going in—you will retain much more.
 3. {No response}
 4. Warn people this takes a lot of pre-reading time. More guidance on how to source for non-academics.
 5. They were helpful.
 6. Yes. Let students know there is a longer version of Eisenstein so they can choose that if they wish.
 7. They were very good, but I was unable to acquire many of them to have available in time or throughout the course, so I'll have to visit upon return home.
 8. Excellent pre-course materials. Worth re-reading!
 9. Pre-course readings were helpful. I wasn't able to read all of them, but The British Library Guide to Printing was one of the best.
 10. I'm glad I read most of the books because the class content is easier to understand. It was helpful to start the readings in February and get all of the books through our local libraries or interlibrary loan.
 11. All reading materials were easy to obtain at a reasonable cost. Eisenstein was a difficult slog, and if there is a short synopsis of her thesis, reading that would be a better use of time. The de Hamel book on the bible should be a required text. It was the best of the bunch.
 12. The reading list was excellent. A solid foundation. One or two books was/were a bit expensive—possible to acquire and offer used copies?

- 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 helpful.
 2. They were useful—especially recommendations for further readings based on subject area.
 3. The course is a polished, well-oiled machine. All parts worked well together.
 4. Workbook is more a follow-up tool—not used so much in class.
 5. Yes, appropriate and useful. A couple of things needed updating to match the teaching content.
 6. Very helpful. Yes, I'm looking forward to using the bibliography provided to expand my knowledge.
 7. Incredibly useful, and I will use this notebook many times in the future, I am sure, and I intend to refer to it often.

8. Very good workbook which will be useful for future reference.
9. Course workbook was great and will be very useful to me after this course. It would be helpful to have more materials that the students can handle.
10. I loved all of the examples of printed materials and bookmaking tools. They were necessary for full comprehension.
11. Excellent material. I wish I had it before taking the course. It would have been helpful to use while completing the preparatory reading. I will certainly use it in the future.
12. The workbook served the daily topics quite well. In addition, it offered auxiliary readings on the subjects. And I look forward to pursuing the suggested reading list.

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. {No response}
2. As a base from which to take additional classes, to gain deeper knowledge about the history of the book. Also helpful for my academic research (PhD) in generating new ideas and ways to go about things.
3. To better support my staff and to more competently interact with donors. Also as a foundation to build more specialized knowledge.
4. Decide if I pursue a fuller degree with RBS.
5. I'll look at book illustrations much more carefully and critically now.
6. This will be useful in many ways when talking with my colleagues, including curators, subject experts, catalogers, &c.
7. So many ideas that inform all aspects of culture, history, creation, and context that have been further sharpened with tools here. I can't wait to begin planning exhibits, for example, when I return to my home institution.
8. Enhance my ability to appreciate and collect old/vintage books.
9. At my current position we have students who tour our facilities and learn about the history of the book. I plan to use my knowledge acquired here to help teach those students. Several “aha!” moments.
10. I will use them every workday as I catalog books, give tours of my collection, and create exhibits.
11. I will never look at a book the same way again. I am inspired to start a collection like the Jane Eyre collection we saw at the end.
12. I look forward to sitting down this weekend and designing two teaching modules based on the information I've just learned. I walk away with a foundation to pursue further studies, as well as appreciation and inspiration.

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.
2. Yes and yes.
3. Absolutely, yes.
4. Learned much more than expected. The access to seeing the real materials at UVA is great and the Library of Congress trip a fantastic, once-in-a-lifetime experience with MD.

5. Yes, yes, yes.
6. Yes. Not only did they cover the material, they taught it in such a way as to make it memorable.
7. I learned all I hoped I would and a million times more than I would have believed to be possible. The instructors could not have done a better job conveying their expertise.
8. I learned far more than anticipated.
9. Yes. Instructors are absolutely amazing. I learned more than I hoped.
10. I learned a lot. Of course, it takes a lot of study and practice to be an expert. But this class is a good start.
11. Yes, and more. The course is not just a whirlwind tour of the history of the book, it is an excellent survey of the history of Western Civilization. The instructors are world-class leaders in their fields who made it all accessible.
12. The instructors were fantastic. Intelligent, accessible, and a delight to be around. Their efforts exceeded expectation!

5) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*

1. I can't think of anything that could improve the course. MD and JB were phenomenal!!!
2. The only thing I'd work on is dealing with older male students who completely dominate the best space from which to see the materials. I know the instructors would say "make sure everyone gets to see" but it really did not improve. Similarly, men waxing eloquent on their ideas/pop theories takes up valuable class time.
3. {No response}
4. This teaching team is fantastic and so well coordinated; every day is a pleasure.
5. I loved, loved, loved this course and the instructors. I say with fondness that some of the banter was sometimes a bit much, and one could tell these were jokes repeated often. <3
6. I would have liked another week! Other than that, it was well-organized, informative, and fun.
7. Not particularly, although I would have liked to have circulating reference tools available in the evenings (to help process information learned).
8. No. Excellent instruction, fun, and very engaging.
9. More videos about different printing processes would be great.
10. More practice using various printing and typesetting methods would aid comprehension.
11. Students should prepare for the Library of Congress field trip by reviewing online web overview and be prepared to answer the question "any requests?"
12. Possible discussion group and dinner Thursday?

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

1. {No response}
2. Someone with an interest, generally, in the history of the book and publishing, as takes place in Europe and the US.
3. The most successful part of RBS—for me—is the diverse student demographic. New collectors, administration, new professionals across special collections, mid-career people. Wonderful!

4. {No response}
5. {No response}
6. It's good for anyone who needs a solid foundation in the history of the book. Also, anyone who just likes a fun learning experience.
7. Someone like myself who has experience with archives but could understand them in relationship to the development of printing and the book in clearer terms.
8. This is an excellent introductory class within the RBS course offerings.
9. Rare book librarians, MLIS students, preservation librarians.
10. Librarians, scholars in the field, booksellers, and collectors.
11. Anyone interested in culture, history, and intellectual stimulation. It has very broad appeal that goes beyond library professionals.
12. Educators.

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

1. Absolutely.
2. Yes!
3. Absolutely, yes.
4. More-than-expected value just to see rare items up close. Highly, highly recommend.
5. I would definitely recommend.
6. YES. I am already figuring out how to save money so I can attend next year.
7. Yes, definitely.
8. Very worthwhile. I definitely would recommend to others.
9. Absolutely!!
10. Yes. The instructors were extremely knowledgeable and engaging and funny.
11. Yes. Yes.
12. Highly and emphatically recommended!

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

1. Yes!!! Library of Congress trip was an amazing once-in-a-lifetime religious experience.
2. The trip to the Library of Congress was once-in-a-lifetime.
3. Yes, but for the love of God please get a bigger van next time.
4. Visiting the Library of Congress is phenomenal with access to the RBS staff at collections.
5. Absolutely!
6. Yes. We went to the LC. It was fabulous. (The van was too cramped, though. Get something roomier in the future).
7. Most definitely, yes. We went to the Library of Congress and it was amazing.
8. Yes. The day-long trip to the Library of Congress was fantastic.
9. The field trip was amazing! Very well-spent time.
10. Yes. We got an intimate view of LC books that most people don't get.
11. The LC trip was a spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime experience.
12. Thrilling once-in-a-lifetime field trip.

9) *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. Don't bring any pens. ☺
4. Be sure you are willing to fully participate and gain experience from the other professional participants.
5. {No response}
6. Do it. You will not regret a minute of it. Even when we were tired, the day after our trip, it was worth every second.
7. Highly recommended.
8. Read the recommended material or at least skim it!
9. Take the course! It is a great opportunity to get an intense (at the same time brief) overview of the history of the book.
10. Start the readings early and they are worth reading. Anyone who works with books will learn useful information.
11. Make time for the reading and also plan to brush up on European history of the covered period in order to efficiently digest it.
12. Highly recommend pre-course reading!

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

1. Fantastic!
2. Whirlwind of learning.
3. Goodie! It's a water-loving stone covered in fiddly bits only found by whoopsie.
4. Wildly exceeded expectations.
5. If hydrophilia is wrong, I don't want to be right! ☺ This course was wonderful!
6. This is the most fun I've had all year, and if Nietzsche had considered this week when talking about the "eternal recurrence of the same," he would have been a much happier guy. I could attend RBS forever.
7. "Best week of my year."
8. Awesome! Very knowledgeable and fun instructors.
9. Amazing ride of knowledge!
10. It was amazing to learn so much information related to my career which makes my work much more meaningful.
11. I laughed, I cried, I had a hell of a time!
12. Come young thirster, let us slake and delight your mind, History is here and it wants you to play.

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: 5 (41.67%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 1 (8.33%)
I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (16.67%)
I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 1 (8.33%)
I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (16.67%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (41.67%)
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 3 (25%)
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest: 4 (33.33%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (33.33%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 2 (16.67%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)
My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (33.33%)
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (8.33%)
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

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

Library disciplines:

Archivist: 1 (8.33%)
Library administrator: 1 (8.33%)
Special collections librarian: 2 (16.67%)
Other: 1 (8.33%)

Student working toward a/n:

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

Professional educator:

Assistant professor: 1 (8.33%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (8.33%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Book collector: 1 (8.33%)
Retired: 2 (16.67%)
Other: 1 (8.33%)