

Martin Antonetti
H-30: The Printed Book in the West to 1800
2-7 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. Yes, useful.
 2. Yes.
 3. Yes.
 4. I enjoyed the course readings very much.
 5. Yes.
 6. I thought the readings were most useful and just the right amount.
 7. Frankly, the non-Carter book was only minorly useful. The Carter book was important.
 8. The pre-course reading was helpful in terms of jump-starting the learning process. The Chappell book was very dry—you have to push yourself to get through it.
 9. The pre-reading course assignments were all very useful.
 10. Both books provided a useful overview and were appropriate to my level of expertise (minimal) at the beginning of class.
 11. Yes, readings were great. I have actually already actively used one for work.
 12. Some recent books on the subject which I like are Margaret Smith's *The Title-Page* and Sarah Werner's *Studying Early Printed Books 1450-1800*.

- 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 information in the student guide is very helpful, and I can see myself referring to it later.
 2. Yes.
 3. Helpful—though we spent a lot of time “off-piste,” which made the experience broader and more interesting.
 4. MA's workbook was highly useful. This, coupled with my notes, will be something I revisit again and again.
 5. Content was appropriate and useful. We skipped quite a few of the people or books indicated in various sessions.
 6. I always love visiting the UVA SC, and the teaching materials from MA will be useful to me.
 7. N/A, I think.
 8. The course workbook was definitely helpful in terms of note-taking and following a class outline. I will certainly refer to it in the future.
 9. The course workbook provided an excellent outline and framework. It was much appreciated, and I plan to refer to it for follow-up reading.
 10. I took a lot of notes, which I will read again, and I can re-read the text and use the bibliography for further reading.

11. Yes, definitely. Source guides are always great, and again I have already made use of the material at work.
 12. Materials were more sparse than I expected, but I took lots of notes. The Advance Reading references were excellent preparation.
- 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. Criteria for collecting.
 3. The course provided an exceptionally broad and diverse introduction to the History of the Printed Book, from the practical techniques of printing and binding, typography, to social and political context. The practical demonstrations in SC were at times astonishing.
 4. I will use course knowledge in preparing an upcoming outreach program—a series of small lectures on rare books in my library’s collections. Additionally, I will rely upon it in providing reference services to patrons at my library.
 5. Yes, new insights into development of type, appreciation of bindings and in general an enhancement of my sense of the importance of the book as object, as in theories of what we’re reading. This course is a nice complement to MFS’s Advanced Seminar in Critical Bibliography, which I took previously.
 6. I intend to share this information with staff and student assistants. My “aha!” moment came when considering the social impacts of books and collecting with the introduction of printing.
 7. The course provided exactly what I wanted, which was a robust foundation for my continued education in the field.
 8. I think there are quite a number of new concepts and topics that I will further research and incorporate into my ongoing work: the Annales School vs. analytical bibliography, and the axioms of modern textual criticism, for example.
 9. I knew I’d enjoy the class, but I didn’t begin to imagine how much. It’s been twenty-six years since I was last in school, and I’d like to go back to school now and pursue additional formal studies. And of course, I hope to return next year to RBS!
 10. Yes, I want to look at our rare book collections more closely when I go back to work and think of ways I can use my new knowledge to teach with them.
 11. I now have a much better understanding of the physical, cultural, historical context of the resources I handle every single day. This course and professor MA are great.
 12. The distinction between the French school (Annales) of bibliographic study and the American helps me broaden my perspective.
- 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. There’s just too much to absorb in one week. As an introductory course, it certainly served the purpose of whetting an appetite for more in-depth study.
 2. Yes and more!
 3. More than might have been reasonably expected.
 4. MA was a fabulous instructor. I learned more even than I had hoped to, and I had

- high expectations!
5. Yes, MA did a great job with appropriate distribution of time for various subjects of focus.
 6. Yes!
 7. Absolutely.
 8. Definitely! The instructor was terrifically responsive to the tenor/energy of the class/participants. He skillfully conveyed the content. We covered everything I had hoped—and more.
 9. YES, and then some! MA is a gifted and very thoughtful teacher.
 10. Book arts instructor Amanda was also wonderful. Yes, MA covered a lot of ground in a short amount of time. Provided practical hands-on lessons and show-and-tell, as well as lecture. Perfect balance.
 11. Yes. My expectations were exceeded.
 12. Yes—material was covered well.

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

1. {no response}
2. Covered all of the ground of which I am aware.
3. Only if it were expanded in length—one month would not suffice—a year might be enough.
4. I think the selection of students is a way in which this course could have been improved. I would have liked to see a few more working professionals in the class.
5. Just squeeze in more hours in the day!
6. Cannot think of anything that would be improved.
7. Dimming the lights for lectures proved a challenge after lunch.
8. No answer. (Maybe having more time...)
9. I can't imagine how.
10. The instructor was very encouraging to students in letting them share knowledge and comments, but a few people were a little too talkative. But I would hate to see discussion squandered.
11. {private response}
12. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. Anyone with a serious interest.
3. Anyone interested in books, literature, typography, social history of the book.
4. Working librarians engaged in teaching and rare book acquisitions, archivists, book sellers, and collectors.
5. Not only “newbies” but people like me with a strong background in some but not all areas covered.
6. Anyone and everyone interested in books or printing.
7. As a general overview I can't think of anyone interested or working with books that would not benefit.
8. Anyone interested in an introduction to the history of the book and printing.
9. Librarians, collectors, educators: the profile of people who took the class this time.
10. Anyone who works around rare books and wants to develop a more in-depth

- knowledge of how they were constructed and the many important elements that comprise a book physically.
11. Anyone interested in understanding the history/physical presence of antiquarian materials.
 12. {no response}
- 7) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Yes and yes.
 2. Absolutely!
 3. Yes.
 4. Absolutely, on both counts!
 5. Yes. Yes.
 6. Yes and yes!
 7. Again, absolutely.
 8. Certainly worth the cost of tuition. I would (and will!) be recommending this course (and instructor).
 9. YES and YES!
 10. Yes—wonderful overview. But much of it was because of our instructor. The next instructor will have huge shoes to fill!! Thank you, MA.
 11. Most definitely.
 12. Definitely—particularly because of the access to onsite rare books and interaction with other students with similar interests.
- 8) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*
1. All trips to SC were essential to the course.
 2. Yes!
 3. The time in SC was fascinating. The time in the print room, amusing and illuminating.
 4. Yes, very much. I particularly enjoyed the visit to the common press and intaglio press in the SC building.
 5. Yes, lots of time in SC—all very worthwhile.
 6. Very much so.
 7. SC FTW!
 8. All time spent in SC was stellar and valuable.
 9. YES!
 10. The trips to SC were amazing. They helped bring concepts to life and taught us how to properly handle rare books in a classroom setting.
 11. Yes definitely.
 12. {no response}
- 9) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. {no response}
 2. Get a good night's sleep.

3. {no response}
 4. Understand that an RBS course, with 30 instructional hours, is equivalent to a semester-length graduate seminar. Take notes! You will be fatigued, but it is worthwhile.
 5. Do the advanced reading! (A surprising number of students seemed unaware of basic principles set out in Carter's ABCs of Book Collecting and Chappell's A Short History of the Printed Word.
 6. Nothing additional.
 7. Sleep well; it's a long, worthwhile day.
 8. Be prepared to drink from a fire hose in terms of intake of information. It's okay to be afraid; you are here to learn.
 9. {no response}
 10. Make sure you do the readings!! Perhaps do extra readings on format.
 11. No. I am not sure how the course will change with a new instructor. Our professor was amazing and the course amazingly organized.
 12. {no response}
- 10) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*
1. {no response}
 2. Answered most of my questions.
 3. Book heaven. The only danger is a plunge into obsession.
 4. Magical!
 5. A feast for the eye and the mind, and a superb instructor. MA is really a national treasure—how lucky to have taken this course. 90% of the material covered topics of which I had some knowledge, but this course consolidated what I knew very nicely. Could not be happier!
 6. A haiku:
Martin knows it all,
His class so thought-provoking,
Hoping not his last.
 7. I'm sorry I waited this long to attend.
 8. An unforgettable experience—the opportunity to learn and engage with a community of book lovers that shouldn't be missed.
 9. Be prepared for your world to open up in ways you can't begin to imagine.
 10. The history of the book is the history of civilization.
 11. Amazing; I am thankful to have been allowed to be here.
 12. I'm sure it will be a mile-marker experience that I will remember.

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: 6 (50%)

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: 3 (25%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (16.67%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (41.67%)

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

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (33.33%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (8.33%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (33.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; my institution/employer paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

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%)

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Conservator/binder/preservation librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Public services librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Other: 1 (8.33%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Book collector: 1 (8.33%)

Retired: 1 (8.33%)

Other: 3 (25%)