

### **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 advance reading assignments were useful and very informative. Having completed the course, I look forward to going back over these readings to see how my thought have changed or how much more I get out of them.
  2. Reading assignments were useful. Links to JSTOR for the articles would be a time-saver, and potentially links to the publisher's website for books still in print.
  3. They were, although they were generally directed at one particular topic (accounts). It would have been great to have had some introductory readings to other aspects of publishing (contracts and rights, organizational structure . . .).
  4. Readings were good preparation for course content.
  5. Some were useful, but none prepared us for the detailed work needed for the subject.
  6. Pre-reading assignments were incredibly useful. Specifically, MW's book on mid-nineteenth-century literature, which provided a great preparatory foundation.
  
- 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 materials I got in class were extremely useful. I cannot express the joy I felt at successfully understanding how to journalize a day book and make that into a final ledger. I will most certainly return to these exercises and the handouts of resources after the course.
  2. Dropbox distribution and in gathering of materials was useful and efficient.
  3. Yes, they were and will continue to be useful—I will be consulting a number of these resources throughout my dissertation.
  4. Using online Dropbox works very well. The instructor added materials to it during the week that class members expressed interest in. Many items will be of use after the course.
  5. There were few handouts, but what we got was very useful.
  6. Unlike most RBS courses, materials were on Dropbox, which I appreciated for its accessibility/potential to be referenced after the course.
  
- 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. The skills and knowledge I acquired this week will not only inform my personal research in the book trade and publishing world but will benefit all the scholars of book history that I work with daily as a rare book librarian. This information opens up enormous new pathways of research and new resources to build off of.

- This course has renewed my energy to pursue some research projects of my own where I thought I had hit a dead end.
2. Like many/most other RBS courses, this course has sharpened my eyes and given me new insight into a whole class of materials that were puzzling and/or indecipherable before. I plan to return to materials I had previously bracketed and see if I can now make better sense of them, and explore related groups of material in search of new data.
  3. I was given fresh insight and confidence into my two main avenues of research.
  4. Learning how to distinguish types of account books and how to interpret contents. Learning terminology, abbreviations, and design of these records.
  5. I am trying to acquire a collection for the institution where, if we get it, this course will be vital for understanding the contents.
  6. This course will be foundational to my upcoming research on publishers' archives and will shape the strategies I use to approach those imprints' materials, specifically their early records.
- 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. Absolutely. I feel I am coming away with far more than I anticipated. I can not only recognize and understand these resources (and where to find them) but I can also see the larger system into which they fit, and turn their quantitative data into very rich qualitative deductions about books and their publishing history.
  2. Yes, MW both gave us a basic working knowledge of the major types of business records and the principles of record keeping—as well as many pointers for how to learn more on an as-needed basis.
  3. The instructor absolutely delivered on the course description. He has a more than encyclopedic knowledge of the subject and could answer seemingly any question, while also providing many enlightening digressions.
  4. Yes and yes. I much appreciated the instructor's deep and broad knowledge, and his generosity and curiosity in sharing with us.
  5. He gave us a foundation to expand upon.
  6. MW allowed opportunities for questions during each session. He always had thoughtful responses accompanied by useful resources. The bookkeeping exercise was especially helpful, and entertaining.
- 5) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*
1. No.
  2. Colored pencils for the accounting exercise (for ruling our ledgers!).
  3. I would have welcomed more emphasis on the legal and organizational structures of publishing as they developed into the twentieth century. I would have also liked to have spent some more time on the professional relationships across the business.
  4. Opportunity to handle original materials—so that we can look through them rather than just one opening.
  5. Not sure.
  6. Perhaps a glossary of bookkeeping terms for a clearer explanation of debits and credits.

- 6) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*
1. Scholars and reference librarians who are interested in book history and in learning more about the day-to-day reality of the literary world so they can gain a new perspective.
  2. Though the course focuses on American materials, the basic principles could apply to business records in other languages, so anyone studying publishers' records should consider this course.
  3. Scholars, archivists, budding publishers.
  4. People who do research in archives of publishers, printers, or authors. Archivists who process and describe these archives.
  5. Anyone dealing with archives of company records, not just publisher archives.
  6. Students who are interested in editorial practice may find content interesting but not directly applicable. This course focuses more on publishers' financial records.
- 7) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Absolutely, on both points!
  2. Yes, I would recommend this course to others.
  3. Yes and yes, although tuition is quite pricey.
  4. Yes and yes.
  5. Yes. Yes.
  6. Yes and yes! This course was less lecture-heavy than the other RBS courses I've taken. Students had more freedom to work collaboratively and hypothesize about materials.
- 8) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*
1. We only made two small trips outside the class, once to watch some printing which I really appreciated, and once to SC to see some truly fantastic examples of what we were discussing all week. Both were great.
  2. Yes, our visit to SC was helpful, as was the quick visit to Gaskell's printing demo.
  3. Our visits to SC and to a printing demonstration were excellent.
  4. Friday afternoon in SC, looking at original materials, was good. Would have been good to do more of this.
  5. Yes.
  6. {No response.}
- 9) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. Don't shy away from the math aspect of the course! The idea is not to become an accountant, but to simply understand the overall systems at work in book production. It is really fascinating!
  2. I wish I had brought more of my personal research materials to class for comparative study purposes.

3. Apply early enough to qualify for a scholarship!
4. Come with questions and examples from your work with publishers' archives, or other business or literary manuscripts.
5. If you are going to be involved with business records and archives, this course is money well spent.
6. Bring your laptop, and spend a bit of time thinking about how this course could directly apply to your research interests—it will allow for more focused learning and clearer takeaways.

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

1. Fear not the ledger, and remember: Debtor = to, Credited = by.
2. MW is a generous and kind instructor whose tremendous depth and breadth of knowledge made the subject of publishing records come to life.
3. Heat, paper, putting the pieces (of publishing) together.
4. Thank you to all-instructors, classmates, RBS staff, UVA!
5. Images on screen  
Numbers written in columns  
The mind is boggled.
6. Rewarding/entertaining/informative.

### **Student Data**

*Number of respondents: 6 (of 6)*

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 4 (66.67%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 2 (33.33%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (16.67%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 1 (16.67%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 2 (33.33%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 2 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (33.33%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 1 (16.67%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (16.67%)

*Who paid your RBS travel expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 3 (50%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (33.33%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 1 (16.67%)

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

**Library disciplines:**

Archivist: 1 (16.67%)

Curator: 1 (16.67%)

Special collections librarian: 1 (16.67%)

**Student working toward a/n:**

M.A./M.S.: 1 (16.67%)

Ph.D./D.Phil: 1 (16.67%)

**Other occupations/vocations:**

Book collector: 1 (16.67%)