

Julie Nelson Davis
I-85: Japanese Prints and Illustrated Books in Context
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. Excellent readings made available via Dropbox. Had I known that they would be accessible to the class a little sooner, I would not have purchased a few articles.
 2. Super useful, and I plan to go back and read through many of them again.
 3. Absolutely! Please keep them as is (and our teacher generously added more suggestions day by day).
 4. Yes, reading assignments were excellent—well organized by background (day one/day two . . .) and reference material. Professor broke up reading by two groups so assignments were not onerous.
 5. Yes, the readings were very useful and provided excellent context and background for the course.
 6. Useful, though I wish I had time to read all the optional ones as well!
 7. {No response}
 8. Yes. One group got a lot on “bijin-ga” and shunga, the other got a lot on more modern art or changes in style/technique. I found the sections I wasn’t assigned to more interesting but was happy to have them all available.
 9. Very useful, especially background readings.
 10. {No response}
 11. I think some more art-historical or cultural background would have been nice/eras in Japan before the Edo, and their art/book traditions.
 12. Absolutely useful; I particularly liked to read in-depth about a print and then see it up close.
 13. Yes, the pre-course readings were helpful.
 14. No.
 15. No.
- 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. Well organized, and the list of books and prints in class made discussion easier and helpful for later reference.
 2. So useful, and will continue to be for the future.
 3. This class surpasses any expectations. Because of the fine teaching style and well organized calligrams. Perfect. It was impressive!
 4. Very happy to have the notebook full of useful reference material; will definitely be reusing in my work.
 5. The course workbook was such a great resource! I will be referring to it again when I research and teach future material.
 6. Very useful materials. I especially appreciated the list of all materials we consulted

- in class so I can follow up on these later and match with my own photos.
7. {No response}
 8. Workbook looks like it will be useful for years to come.
 9. The materials are incredibly useful. I will continue to refer to them personally and as a teacher.
 10. Very useful for class and future.
 11. It was informative and a resource I will keep with me.
 12. I didn't expect to receive it, and it was an essential reference. I will look back at the lists of prints we viewed when doing future research work.
 13. Yes, the photocopies of seals, names, technical terms are useful and I plan to use/refer to them after the course. I also appreciated having the PowerPoints from the lecture portion.
 14. No.
 15. Great. Yes, it will (continue to be useful).
- 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. I have a more far-reaching grasp of the historical book field in Japan and learned much technical detail and research guidelines, most useful for future study.
 2. So many "aha" moments. I am in a state of bliss, and feel like my eye is so much smarter than a week ago! I am seeing in a whole new way!
 3. Try to use every bit of it.
 4. Will look at our Japanese materials with new eyes. Came away with a broader cultural context and vocabulary with which to describe the prints and books; this knowledge will definitely enhance catalog records as a result.
 5. I look forward to developing a course that engages with the illustrated books and print content as well as pursuing research related to the history of the book in Japan.
 6. I already came up with this idea when I applied to the course, but I am going to work in two sessions of my modern Japan class to deal with prints and take students to our special collections on campus. This course will really allow me to contextualize these materials.
 7. {No response}
 8. Many "aha" moments. Got to see wonderful books/prints and learned to look much more deeply. Have a better idea of what is common/exceptional, good/poor, &c.
 9. So many aha! moments I can't list them. Being able to speak fluently about ukiyo-e and the printing technologies will help me teach book history.
 10. {No response}
 11. {private response}
 12. I feel I am growing closer to my goal of East Asian librarianship and hope to bring my knowledge back to work and become a valued source of expertise.
 13. I plan to incorporate some of the materials into my own courses, the course introduced me to collection materials, and to primary and secondary sources I can use in my teaching.
 14. Saturated!
 15. At work in identification and description.

- 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. I was sponge-like, soaking in information so described by the RBS advanced materials.
 2. Yes, and yes.
 3. Absolutely!
 4. Yes.
 5. JND was fantastic! One of the most professional and expert scholars and teachers I have had the pleasure to work with and learn from. Her expertise and knowledge of the field is incredible.
 6. Yes and more—I feel able to judge visual material much more effectively.
 7. I came without a lot of specific expectations, so no complaints! JND is so energetic, knowledgeable, and fun that every bit of the course was learning-packed. Other students also shared lots of great information.
 8. Yes! JND is amazing. Knows so much and utilized the expertise of classmates well too. Many questions I have had for a while were answered.
 9. Yes and much more.
 10. {No response}
 11. Yes, and more. It was incredibly comprehensive, and I am shocked by how much I accomplished in a week.
 12. Absolutely!
 13. Yes.
 14. Yes.
 15. Yes.
- 5) *Are there other ways in which the course could have been improved?*
1. It was an excellent course. Should the Tress collection expand, it would be good to learn more about twentieth- to twenty-first-century book production and trade.
 2. More days!
 3. No. But, if I could be greedy . . . more books to view if possible.
 4. {No response}
 5. Please continue to offer this course. It was fantastic. I learned so much and the opportunity to work with the Tress Collection was incredible.
 6. Overall the balance was great. Perhaps a smidge more lecture time would be nice, but having to look at materials ourselves was a great idea.
 7. Perhaps a small amount of Japanese language instruction would be helpful, but I'm not sure how that would work...
 8. More time! Was sometimes hard to show books safely to the class.
 9. {No response}
 10. {No response}
 11. I would have liked to learn about the methodology of cataloging Japanese books (even an overview).
 12. N/A
 13. {No response}
 14. No.
 15. No.

- 6) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*
1. Rare book librarians, historians, collectors, booksellers, and dealers.
 2. Anyone interested in printing processes, fine art, non-Western books.
 3. Every element, level of book enthusiast and Japanophile!
 4. Art historians, print/book dealers, catalogers of Japanese prints and books.
 5. Everyone would benefit from learning about book, print, and visual culture/history of Japan. Especially scholars working in Euro-America.
 6. This class was very diverse in professional background, which was great. Printers, librarians, collectors, and academics should all take it.
 7. {No response}
 8. Those with some background in Japanese books already will get a lot out of the little details that are covered. Can't think of anyone who wouldn't benefit.
 9. Everyone, but particularly if you are a non-Japanese scholar. This radically shifted how I think about print.
 10. Anyone wishing to learn more about Japanese art of the period, but especially those in museums, libraries, archives, and book collecting/selling.
 11. Researchers and people who work in collections with Japanese materials.
 12. Art historians, librarians, anyone hoping to expand their knowledge of ukiyo-e and Japanese prints.
 13. {No response}
 14. Who wouldn't?
 15. Anyone with interest in Japanese letters, materials.
- 7) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Absolutely! The special, unexpected benefit was the quality and knowledge of fellow students. Everyone selected for the course made a great contribution to each class discussion.
 2. Yes! Yes!
 3. Yes! What a wonderful way to acquire new knowledge.
 4. Yes, definitely.
 5. Yes, and yes!
 6. The cost would have been too steep for me without the internal grant I received from my institution. But it is well worth the cost. Definitely recommend.
 7. Yes and yes.
 8. Yes and yes.
 9. Absolutely on both accounts.
 10. {No response}
 11. Yes!!
 12. Yes—I loved the workshops, which I hadn't expected.
 13. Yes. Yes.
 14. Yes and yes.
 15. Yes. Yes.
- 8) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. Trips to PMA (two) were enjoyable and useful. Wish we had more time to visit the Yoshitoshi Exhibition together.
 2. Very much so. Amazing trips to the print room at the PMA.
 3. Yes! Visiting the PMA and viewing the cream of the crop, fine, near perfect prints was a heavenly moment. Thank you.
 4. Really enjoyed the two sessions in the PMA—seeing selections of prints laid out in the Print Room was wonderful and inspiring.
 5. Yes, the trips to the PMA Print Room and exhibitions/galleries were a great extension to the content of the course. The bookbinding workshop was great, as was our visit to the materials lab!
 6. Yes, definitely.
 7. Yes, the PMA trips were absolutely on point.
 8. Yes, PMA is a great resource.
 9. The PMA materials were exceptional—thanks for taking us.
 10. The field trips were especially useful, to put further context to what we learned in class and to see what excellent resources UPenn and Philadelphia have.
 11. Yes.
 12. Absolutely—visiting the PMA and viewing the prints at the Perelman building was essential to the course’s content and highly enriched and supplemented Kislak’s collections.
 13. To the PMA Print Study room. Yes.
 14. Definitely—our time at the PMA, especially in the Perelman Building, was invaluable.
 15. Yes.
- 9) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. A rare opportunity for anyone curious to learn in this special field of study.
 2. It is useful to have a little Japanese, but not essential. Read (or at least skim) Peter Kornicki’s book, *The Book in Japan*.
 3. It was perfect. Continue on.
 4. Maybe learn at least some Japanese characters beforehand—for figuring out dates or places of publication. At a disadvantage next to classmates fluent in Japanese.
 5. This is a course that should be offered every year. What an amazing learning experience! JND has such a depth of knowledge and was able to teach to such a range of different experiences and backgrounds. Very inclusive.
 6. This course looks at prints/books both as art to be admired and analyzed, craft to be understood physically, objects to be situated into market economics and their social/political/cultural histories. I never realized the depth of study one can have on Edo-period printing.
 7. {No response}
 8. The readings help a lot. The focus is very much on illustration, although books do get a lot of attention and not just print. Lots on bijinga especially, though that changes in the late week.
 9. I have taken two other courses at RBS. They don’t come close to matching the breadth of expertise JND displayed in this course. It was accessible to newbies and specialists. Her passion and knowledge are palpable. Take this class.
 10. {No response}

11. {No response}
 12. You bring a unique perspective to the table, and don't worry if you're not already "in the know"—you will be soon.
 13. Perhaps for someone with no Japanese history background, some preparatory readings on the Edo period for historical context.
 14. No.
 15. JND is a superb teacher and I feel so fortunate to have had this opportunity.
- 10) *If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?*
1. A Tsunami of learning. Bravo, JND!
 2. {private response} JND is the BEST. TEACHER. EVER. This class was as good as it was because of JND, but also because of the other students, who were so knowledgeable about so many different things, from medieval Asian history to printing processes and paper conservation and twentieth-century art and, and, and . . . Thank You!
 3. The precious moment with a fine and experienced, sincerely kind teacher and an active participation by loving classmates with many expertise was one of the world dream! Thank you very much.
 4. A week of looking at beautiful art on paper, and understanding how they were made and how to love and appreciate them and add beauty to life.
 5. Incredible learning experience!
 6. This is how art should be taught to adults, in all its complexity.
 7. A whirlwind tour through a lot of amazing material.
 8. Satisfying.
 9. {No response}
 10. {No response}
 11. The push I needed to begin actively pursuing a career in Japanese objects. Perfectly timed for me, right after receiving my bachelor's. Life changing.
 12. I wore the wrong shoes.
 13. Rewarding.
 14. Many disciplines
come as one to engage in
a fruitful study.
 15. JND rocks. Don't miss her if you have the chance to have her as an instructor.

Student Data

Number of respondents: 15 (of 15)

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

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 4 (26.67%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 3 (20%)

I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 3 (20%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 3 (20%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 2 (13.33%)

Who paid your RBS tuition costs?

I paid 100% myself: 8 (53.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (20%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 4 (26.67%)

Who paid your RBS housing expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 10 (66.67%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (6.67%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 1 (6.67%)

I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 3 (20%)

Who paid your RBS travel expenses?

I paid 100% myself: 10 (66.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 2 (13.33%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (6.67%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 2 (13.33%)

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

Library disciplines:

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 2 (13.33%)

Other: 2 (13.33%)

Student working toward a/n:

M.F.A.: 1 (6.67%)

M.L.I.S./M.L.S.: 1 (6.67%)

Professional educator:

Lecturer/adjunct: 1 (6.67%)

Assistant professor: 3 (20%)

Book trades:

Antiquarian bookseller: 2 (13.33%)

Other: 2 (13.33%)

Other occupations/vocations:

Other: 1 (6.67%)