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H-170: Spanish American Textualities to c.1820
12 – 17 June in New Orleans, LA

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. No.
2. The readings were very useful and prepared us for a rich week.
3. Yes, readings were very appropriate and relatable to the course.
4. All readings were excellent. They provided a window into the wealth of knowledge this course promised to deliver.
5. Very useful and on-point.
6. Yes, readings helped me prepare in advance and were an important part of my learning and understanding. Yes, I would like to see more recent bibliography on print culture, maybe something about Sor Juana Inés.
7. The optional readings folder can be filled up with more readings!
8. Yes they were all really useful.
9. Yes, very useful. I will be going back to look at the more extensive reading list to keep learning.
10. Very useful, though sometimes difficult to understand fully prior to the lecture.
11. Yes. Very useful. More readings in Spanish, where the scholarship is deeper, would have helped.
12. I think a more clear sense of the goals with the readings would have been helpful.
13. {no response}

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. They were helpful guides to help analyze the text. Yes. Yes, to model my own teaching activities.
2. I enjoyed the handbook very much, but I would have liked to have a printout of the PowerPoint slides.
3. Very creative and thoughtful activities. Really felt engaged and enthused with the materials and the topics discussed.
4. Excellent organization and communication amongst instructors; all materials were delivered to students in a fashionably timely manner.
5. I thought that the daily activities and reading could've been matched with each day's schedule. As it was, sometimes it was a little confusing flipping through many pages at the end of the binder to find the right readings/activities.

6. Very useful. The workbook was excellent to have. It shows the amount of preparation it took and I will continue consulting it in the future.
7. I appreciate that every minute of class and every activity in the workbook was planned and mattered. Every moment was useful and important.
8. Yes, I will use many of the included activities in my courses.
9. Workbook was great because it contains activities I may want to modify for my own teaching. The bibliography of each day's materials was appreciated.
10. The teaching and activities were fantastic - I'm definitely stealing some of their ideas for my own classes.
11. Yes. Wonderful.
12. I think there were too many questions for the amount of time and the goals of each assignment weren't clear.
13. {no response}

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. To facilitate similar bibliographical discussions about cross-cultural histories in my collections. Yes, in the layout of themes, readings, and organizing of materials.
2. I plan to do research on one of the documents I saw. I plan to use the teaching-with-primary-sources methodology used in the course in my own teaching.
3. I want to share the knowledge with my colleagues and implement it in collection development efforts and outreach activities.
4. This course has fortified my education and commitment to advocating for the visibility of Latin American collections in Western centered/focused institutions.
5. I hope to bring all that I learned back to my library and make a case with my boss and our curators to let me have expanded responsibilities! That is, more input with collection development and teaching.
6. Yes. I got so many research paths I would like to follow. As I am preparing my thesis, it was very important for me to get to know the collections.
7. I plan on giving talks and workshops at my home institution.
8. A lot of new ideas about collections development and instruction.
9. I plan to evaluate strengths of my library's collections in this area (for both rare books and general circulating collection) and see how I can modify the teaching I do for Latin American history courses based on my new knowledge.
10. Absolutely. I'm going to totally revamp several of my lesson plans around what I learned in this course.
11. The course solidified much of what I already knew. I really appreciated all of the "deep dives": learning to calculate Mayan dates; tracking paratexts; Sor Juana.
12. Book ideas! Teaching ideas! Article ideas!
13. {no response}

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, the modeling of teaching was excellent. I did want to see more information on the Philippines' connection to the Spanish American empire because it was managed from Mexico, but I understand that the Philippines wasn't the speciality of the teachers.
2. Much more. The three faculty had different complementary skills and knowledge. The course was interdisciplinary. By approaching the topic as "textualities" and not just print, it was mind-blowing.
3. Absolutely, instructors went above and beyond with the teaching. I thought I knew about Spanish American materials; now I find myself with lots of ideas for potential classes and projects.
4. Yes! They allowed us to touch, with clean hands, the codices and primary materials being used for the class.
5. As a relative newbie to the field, I had very few preconceptions, but what I expected has been far, far exceeded. I have to say, this class has been one of the high points of my professional life.
6. Yes. Although some of the lectures could have been more in-depth. In a few I felt the instructor stayed on the surface.
7. Yes. Yes. Yes. There are no words ever inscribed, printed, performed, or embodied that can express how grateful I am to our faculty for having shared all this knowledge and joy with us. It has been a true privilege.
8. I learned a lot more than what was promised in the course description. I did not expect to learn so much about indigenous textualities.
9. Yes, while I would have loved a week on each topic, I feel I can now approach things with more confidence to continue learning on my own, especially in regards to the Maya and Mexican syllabographs.
10. Yes, and more!
11. Yes.
12. Yes!
13. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. My only suggestion would be to share the PowerPoint slides.
3. This is a difficult question. Perhaps by including more histories from South America and the Spanish Caribbean in another class.
4. Sending the PowerPoint slides beforehand to take notes more efficiently.
5. Maybe shorten the pre-conquest Mesoamerican section to half a day and include something on the Southern Cone and/or the Caribbean? But that's a quibble.
6. More engagement with readings to start discussions, and references to bibliography.
7. I cannot imagine this course being any better/more rich and fruitful and useful and amazing.
8. Make the pre-contact content longer.

9. I felt the course was balanced and gave us the best amount of time it could vis-à-vis lecture and exploration of the materials. No improvement necessary.
10. No, I just wish it had a second week.
11. Pretty well-rounded. I would have liked to hear more about church and state printing.
12. Maybe thinking about the goals a bit differently for faculty/scholars vs. librarians/archivists.
13. {no response}

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

1. Immigrant community members that descended from the cultures or places mentioned in these collections.
2. Every librarian or scholar who works with Latin America.
3. Would say anyone looking to expand or change their perspective about Latin America should take this course.
4. Spanish speakers.
5. Anyone whose work remotely touches on Spanish American culture/history.
6. Librarians.
7. Anyone interested.
8. {no response}
9. Professionals working with materials in these periods but that lack a formal education or course work in it.
10. People who study Latin America, colonialism, Spanish history, indigenous writing and cultures.
11. Anyone with an interest.
12. Faculty.
13. {no response}

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

1. Yes.
2. Definitely yes! I would love to come back every year!
3. Class was rather expensive even with my institution covering the tuition. This could prevent interested students from taking this class. But, definitely would recommend this course. It was fantastic!
4. Absolutely! This course filled a void in my education.
5. 110%!
6. Yes, definitely! I would recommend it to other Ph.D. students.
7. Yes. Yes.
8. Yes!!!
9. Yes, would recommend to others in my field who do not have a history background in the periods covered.
10. Yes.
11. Yes. Absolutely!

12. Yes!
13. {no response}

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

1. Yes. The trip was related and we were able to see more material examples. Also, we saw more researchers on the topic.
2. Yes. We went to the Middle American Research Institute. I really enjoyed that.
3. Absolutely, super relatable to the topic covered that day.
4. Yes.
5. {no response}
6. Yes. We visited the Middle American Research Institute to see Mayan objects and monuments and it was great.
7. The visit to the Middle American Research Institute was useful and the staff there were very knowledgeable. Thank you to them!
8. Yes, our visit to the Middle American Research Institute was very helpful to flesh out how to read glyphs.
9. Trip to the Middle American Research Institute was appreciated, if only to see the altar in 3-D.
10. Yes, our field trip was so interesting.
11. Yes.
12. The Middle American Research Institute exhibits were exciting. Great job with that.
13. {no response}

9) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. Make sure to read and get enough sleep, especially in the beginning of the week.
2. The Amistad Center, also at Tulane, is very renowned. I would have liked a field trip there. I would also have liked knowing about the intersections between the two collections.
3. Expand scholarships, fellowships; make courses more affordable.
4. Keep an open mind, take notes, and do the readings. This course is worth all the energy, time, and money.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. I truly cannot thank the folks at the Latin American Library enough for this dream come true. Thank you.
8. Doing the readings is very helpful preparation.
9. Highly recommended if you are looking for an efficient and engaging way to fill in a lacuna in your knowledge.
10. Do the readings. Forget your preconceptions. Take advantage of this incredible resource.
11. Have fun!
12. {no response}
13. {no response}

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

1. The teachers were organized and generous with their time and labor.
2. It was a mind-blowing experience in both format and content. The instructors' methodology made it into an interactive, fun class and I learned a lot.
3. Fue una experiencia fantástica, y quevira Latino américa!
4. OUTSTANDING & LIFE CHANGING!
5. Awesome!
6. I expanded my notion of what is textuality and how people have interacted with/developed their own textual technologies. Fascinating!
7. Haiku to RBS: / The class I always / wanted to take but never / was offered by you. /
Haiku to the Latin American Library: / Textualities / Inscribed, written, and performed /
Thank you LAL.
8. I wish this was a semester-long class! I definitely feel hungry for more.
9. ¡Valió la pena!
10. One of the most useful things I've done since I became a librarian.
11. Es cadaver, es polvo, es sombra, es nada.
12. Met wonderfully kind and intellectually exciting people! Became inspired to visit archives again! Want the conversations to continue!
13. {no response}