

Erica Titkemeyer & Steve Weiss
L-120: Introduction to Audiovisual Archives Management
20–25 July, 2025, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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. Very useful!
2. The reading list was an incredibly helpful resource!
3. I didn't do much of the pre-course reading but I will be purchasing them to build my own personal library. Many of the books were free to download, which I did take advantage of. I think they will be useful as you progress into your field.
4. All pre-course readings were optional and there are many useful resources depending on the nature of one's AV collection. It is not required to review the materials ahead of time, but I found perusing them beforehand to enrich my experience in the course, particularly Mark Katz's book *Capturing Sound* and Greg Milner's book *Perfecting Sound Forever*. I am going to cherish *Moving Image and Sound Collections for Archivists* by Anthony Cocciolo — this is the perfect text for my skillset and AV needs.
5. I appreciated having a list of resources prior to the class. I read or browsed many of the suggested reference tools and that helped me follow discussions.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. Yes. No.
9. Yes.
10. Very helpful

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. Everything was very useful. I'll be using them for the foreseeable future.
2. The slideshows were incredibly informative, and the teaching materials were great for hands-on experiences.
3. The class used a variety of teaching mediums from the usual traditional lecture style. I appreciated the opportunity to tour the special collections department both on campus and at Duke. The breakout sessions gave me an opportunity to use some technical applications to the theories we learned. I would say this is the most engaging course I've taken in my academic learning which is extremely challenging to access.
4. The materials in our shared Google Drive folder are invaluable, particularly the massive "Resources" document that includes links to relevant vendors, professional associations, and reference materials. The free PDFs included in the course reading list are also a wonderful resource for AV professional standards and AV identification.

5. This course was very thoughtfully constructed. The lectures and slides were helpful and delivered at just the right pitch and length (not too technical, not too abstract). The instructors were constantly open to questions and queries and provided extensive notes and reference lists. The materials provided will absolutely be useful to me as I move forward in my career.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. NA
9. Excellent.
10. Informative, insightful. 100% will continue to use.

3) *Which aspects of the course were most intriguing and relevant for you as an individual? Did you walk away with any new insights, ideas, or project plans?*

1. Hands-on time with the equipment, visiting the labs, and having time to talk w/ the instructors and their peers.
2. I felt that I got really good hands-on experience in this class, especially in an area that I'm interested in but don't normally have access to. I feel like I will have knowledge for this next chapter in my professional career.
3. I am an audiophile, so I greatly appreciated the section dedicated to audio. However, the section about copyright and fair use was a topic I was looking forward to as well. The course in its entirety is great for those interested in AV collections.
4. There were multiple great components of this course. 1). We had the opportunity to see/touch AV materials as well as playback equipment. 2). We had the chance to tour UNC and Duke's audiovisual digitization labs. 3). We enjoyed excellent guest lectures from other UNC faculty/librarians and Duke's Audiovisual Archivist. 4). We had the rare chance to connect with other colleagues in the same field (but different types of institutions) and discuss niche issues and interests related to AV. 5). Last but not least — ET, SW, and Mari were kind, welcoming, and engaged throughout the (long) week. I walked away with greater confidence in identifying AV material in my own collection and in making informed decisions with how best to conserve/preserve/share our materials. I also walked away with a list of helpful reference resources and folks in my institution that I'd like to reach out to.
5. From what I learned in this course I will be able to much more accurately identify AV formats, build preservation plans, make decisions about prioritization for digitization, and write grants. I can now take many collections that have been held in purgatory and make them available! History thanks SW and ET.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. I feel ready to ID film and access for problem.
9. Tours, hands-on.
10. Hands-on activities were the most useful, I learn by doing. I have the beginning of a project plan.

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. That and so much more. I feel like I can genuinely turn to them for guidance and advice. They're both incredible instructors.
2. I felt that the instructors were very thorough in what they taught us. I feel that all the instruction that was promised, and there were some extra things that were added for the enjoyment of the class.
3. Yes, we had an opportunity to learn some conservation, and preservation skills on obsolete medias. For example, we learned how to splice film, add leader tape and check for shrinkage. This course is very physical. Inc conjunction with some of the preservation skills, we conducted an assessment. This course superseded my expectations.
4. Yes.
5. I learned what I hoped to learn and a lot more. Our instructors were excellent and patient with the diverse levels of experience in the class.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. Yes.
9. The course helped narrow down the scope of the field so while I did not learn new things, I realize those things are out of scope.
10. Yes, 100%

5) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*

1. In every aspect of the work I'm trying to do. There is more than enough learned here that I can apply, even without administrative support.
2. I hope to enter into the career field that I explored in this course, and I feel more prepared for that than before.
3. I am a graduate student and am currently in my practicum where I work with some moving media. I will be applying these skills in the projects I am working on, along with future employment opportunities.
4. First, I will eagerly share what I learned in this course with my colleagues in my special collections department. Then, I will apply the variety of skills learned here (AV identification, cataloging best practices, digitization best practices) to completing the work of processing our (thankfully small) AV collection.
5. My institution has recently acquired several film, video, and audio collections that are in need of preservation and access plans, and I feel empowered and highly motivated to work on them. In fact, I acquired a cassette tape oral history collection during lunch yesterday and have already written the vendor to start the process of digitizing it.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. To process and digitize my obsolete AV collection.
9. I plan on cataloguing and working with a tape collection @ U Mass Amherst.
10. Implement digitization projects w/ A/V materials.

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

1. Both people w/ no AV experience and people w/ some AV experience. I have some experience, but this was very practical and formal. A very nice balance.
2. I feel that people who are entry-level or early to mid-level in audiovisual archiving would benefit from this course. It covers a wide range of topics but also delves into some more technical aspects of the field.
3. Anyone interested in AV collections.
4. Archivists, librarians, collectors, business owners, and anyone who is charged with managing audiovisual collections of any size. Audiovisual materials of all sorts are covered in the course alongside a general history of the format: Audio (cylinder, reel, magnetic formats, digital), Video (reel, Betamax, VHS, digital), and Film. There is not a lot of emphasis on digital formats and digital preservation, though it is covered generally.
5. Archivists, preservation specialists, and any curatorial staff member who is frequently viewing and assessing collections. I imagine independent dealers and appraisers would benefit as well.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. Anyone who is curious about A/V archives.

7) *If applicable, what were the most original, powerful, or otherwise noteworthy educational moments in the course? Were there any "aha!" moments you'd like to share?*

1. Anne's talk about blame on institutions versus individuals, haha. In all seriousness, ET and SW's insights and stories validated a lot of what I have both experienced (lack of understanding around AV materials in the archives world) and clarified points I had vague ideas about (given the fragility of certain media, there is an urgency to just transfer it; don't be paralyzed).
2. I loved being able to handle audiovisual material and film physically. I felt that I got much more out of that part of the course as there were good hands-on learning moments.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. ET's AI/bot segment will give me nightmares and ulcers to come, but I was glad to hear about security threats and also how AI can be beneficial in libraries. I also loved hearing SW's historical overviews of AV formats. I felt the hands-on activities were helpful as well.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. I loved touring the Wilson Library and seeing their AV and still image labs.
9. {no response}
10. Hands-on activities (splicing) & tours.

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

1. {no response}
2. No, it was a great course.

3. No. This was a wonderful course.
4. I would have enjoyed a little more time to watch video examples of some of the AV equipment mentioned in the lectures. I also think a more formalized "presentation" component (with an optional slideshow) for each student would have helped streamline course discussion and ensure everyone had an opportunity to share the issues/treasures of their respective collections/AV materials.
5. Class was well-organized and executed and I am very, very glad to have been here. One suggestion: we seemed to have a lot of interest in copyright, so I might allow more time for that discussion.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. No.
9. I felt there could be less history of sound and more practical.
10. More hands-on activities such as digitizing an audio recording or the instructor goes through step by step.

9) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? How likely are you to recommend this course to others? On a 1-10 scale, 1 would indicate that you disagree that you got your money's worth, 5 would indicate a neutral response, and 10 would indicate that you agree that you got your money's worth.*

1. 10
2. 9
3. 10
4. 10
5. 10
6. 9
7. {no response}
8. 10
9. 8
10. 10

10) *If your course made any (virtual) field trips outside of the classroom or had guest speakers, do you feel that they enhanced the course experience?*

1. {no response}
2. Yes, I feel that our guest speakers were fantastic and had great insights into their fields, which were still relevant to the course. Also, all the field trips were fun and engaging!
3. The guest speakers enhanced the experience and gave us an opportunity to see how different departments and fields work in tandem with archives.
4. Yes. All field trips and guest speakers were extremely valuable to the course.
5. I loved visiting Duke and the lecture by the UNC expert on copyright was extremely illuminating.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. Yes, I liked seeing the offsite cold storage warehouse.

9. Very much — namely the discussion on copyright
10. Yes!

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

1. {no response}
2. I think anyone who is even remotely interested in taking this course should definitely take it! It was a great experience, and I really learned a lot from it.
3. TAKE IT!
4. Ask lots of questions, review the pre-course materials prior to starting the course.
5. Pack sunscreen.
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. {no response}
9. {no response}
10. Just Do It.

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

1. See? Audiovisual materials *do* need management.
2. Excellent education, excellent networking, excellent experience!
3. You will learn a lot.
4. From magic lantern | to Brewster's clay figurines | Intro to AV
5. {no response}
6. {private response}
7. {no response}
8. I came. I heard. I watched. I learned!
9. It was time well spent
10. Go RBS A/V Class! I learned a lot here. I'll use it in my career. :)