

Erica Titkemeyer & Steve Weiss
L-120: Introduction to Audiovisual Archives Management
11–16 June, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

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, very useful and attainable readings before the course. I appreciated that we were not overloaded with a lot of required reading beforehand.
2. Yes, the readings were helpful.
3. {private response}
4. Yes, they were great as a nice primer. It helped with understanding what would be covered in the course. Thanks to the notes added to them, I didn't feel pressured to read all of it before attending. I read what stood out and what seemed relevant to my current situation at my institution.
5. Pre-course readings were very helpful for me as they ranged from overviews to very technically detailed. I appreciated how a few were assigned as pre-reading with the majority intended for us to read according to our own interests and needs.
6. Yes, the pre-course readings were useful and it's helpful to have access to them to review again after the course.
7. I found the pre-course readings highly useful, they set the scene and instilled learning for all that was to come in the course. Nothing to add.

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. Yes, the course workbook was useful, as well as the other teaching materials. I am going to save all the slides and recommended sources for my future projects.
2. I appreciated that all of the presentation materials and activities were shared with the class. All of the content is appropriate and useful. I will refer to all of the materials but especially the presentation slides to help identify AV materials.
3. All of the contents distributed during class are useful. Again, these are great tools and references for succeeding in media preservation.
4. Everything that was shown in the class was on topic and seemed useful. I feel that there will be a couple things presented that I will be referring back to within my day to day work.
5. I thought the teaching materials were clear and informative. This was my first time

encountering some of these materials and the PowerPoint visuals and videos, as well as hands-on assignments, were incredibly helpful for me.

6. The teaching worksheets were a useful exercise to test your knowledge during the course. The course slides contained great information and will be very useful after the course to review information at a later date.
7. YES. There is no workbook. The teachers' notes were all available through Google Drive. However, I took my own notes throughout. Overall, the content was useful and appropriate and reinforced the learning substantially.

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. The grant section and the two preservation guides geared to prioritizing AV formats to preserve based on obsolescence was incredibly useful.
2. I really enjoyed the assessment and copyright presentations. I walked away with a better sense of my next steps and which formats to prioritize as my institution continues our backlog processing work.
3. I came into this course being familiar with most AV Media, but had some weak points. The course and instructors answered a lot of those questions. I came away with greater insights regarding my approach to working with colleagues at my institution. They provided several great documents to reference when assessing our collections.
4. The most intriguing part was to learn about handling materials and learning preservation techniques, especially with the film reels, and what to look for in regards to degradation.
5. {private response}
6. It was helpful for me to learn the history of media while having hands-on experiences working with professional tools and media. The class also touched on topics I'm currently exploring to develop and care for AV collections at my institution.
7. I was intrigued as much by the North American content that could be gleaned from the course content (American history, AV industry, innovation and development) as I was by the format and media identification, description and physical embodiment of the form. Brim full of new insights and ideas.

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 course met all my expectations and more!
2. Yes and yes.
3. I learned everything I hoped I would learn, but think it would be great to see a more advanced course in the future. No pressure, obviously, but I just think the course is that valuable.

4. I believe so, yes. I came into this program hoping to learn the basics of preserving audio and visual materials and I feel that was accomplished.
5. Yes. Both instructors covered the skills and information I expected and more. I liked the way that days were broken up into historical and technical content and then more hands-on issues and practices of restoration and preservation. I appreciate how many resources the instructors gave us for the many topics that we covered, as well as their generous and impressive ability to answer an enormous range of questions, drawing on their expertise and experience. I learned so much from listening to instructors and colleagues in discussion; I can't emphasize this enough.
6. Yes, I learned all the skills and information promised in this course and more.
7. Yes, most certainly—all that was promised and more. All that we hoped and more than could be expected. Highly impressed.

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

1. I feel much more confident about the steps I need to take next for my digitization projects.
2. I will be better prepared to implement preservation plans for materials in my collections.
3. I am going to take some of these tools and resources acquired in this class and incorporate them into my workflows and also pass off useful information to my colleagues.
4. {private response}
5. {private response}
6. I plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired in this course to evaluate incoming analog AV acquisitions and develop/manage AV collections & transcription projects.
7. In my substantive role as Team Leader of Archival Collection Development; but also in potential collaborations across teams, within the organization and without. I will also incorporate this into my post-graduation teaching.

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

1. Heritage professionals with little AV experience.
2. Librarians, archivists and curators that oversee or work with AV collections. Professionals hoping to work with AV collections.
3. People new to preservation would find this quite useful. Professional archivists and librarians with lack of AV knowhow would benefit greatly from participating in this program.
4. Definitely individuals whose jobs require them to be in constant contact with audio and visual materials of yesteryears and don't have much experience with maintaining them.

5. {no response}
6. Anyone interested in learning more about analog AV formats and management.
7. Students, professionals and anyone with a serious interest in AV archives.

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

1. Finding out that most media could be obsolete by 2030. That was a sobering thought!
2. Really enjoyed the copyright lecture! Clarified some questions I've had.
3. Project Planning Day gave me some great ideas. I was also quite confident in my skill set before arriving, and I felt that the instructors not only validated that, but also gave me more insight when I asked questions and helped fill out some of my blind spots. The most helpful part of the class was hearing my classmates discuss their goals and roadblocks in their work, as well as sharing my own and receiving supportive feedback from the instructors as well as classmates. This is a completely necessary part of the class.
4. Learning the difference between nitrate, acetate, and polyester film. The different smells they give off and the markings that tell the base of the film.
5. I really liked touring different parts of Wilson each day and talking to staff working on preservation projects and seeing up close what we had been studying. The copyright discussions were a bit stressful but incredibly helpful—I will definitely be thinking about copyright in a much more nuanced way.
6. I had many “aha!” moments during this course, but learning about grants, copyright and project management was the most helpful for me.
7. “Aha!”—AV technology and the state of the art is/was driven by commercial enterprise.

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. N/A
4. Not that I can think of. Though the all-day class can be draining, it’s needed to cover everything.
5. {no response}
6. I would like to know more about caring and managing born digital AV files and formats.
7. N/A

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. 10
3. 10
4. 10
5. 10
6. 10
7. 9

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

1. Yes.
2. {no response}
3. Both the AV Geeks field trip and the guest speaker provided useful context and resources and enhanced the scope of the course.
4. Yes, wholeheartedly. One guest touched on copyright, which is something that is always appearing within my work. And the field trip to AV Geeks was very insightful in seeing the digitization process close at hand.
5. {private response}
6. Yes, absolutely!
7. Absolutely—the field trip (AV Geek) and the guest speaker (Anne Gilliard) were highly knowledgeable, engaging experts in their field—certainly enhanced the experience.

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

1. Take this course if you'd like more education on the daunting task of preserving your organization's AV backlog.
2. {no response}
3. N/A
4. Just come ready to learn.
5. Bring a water bottle.
6. This course is definitely useful for anyone who is interested in learning more about AV management.
7. Immerse yourself in the experience—you will not be disappointed.

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

1. The course was magnetic / The tape, topic, the conversations / Though the tape may become ephemeral / May the content be ethereal.
2. Geek out with other nerds in this class!
3. Worth my time.
4. Film and audio / Much history collected / Preserve and protect.
5. {no response}
6. Amazing experience with great instructors and colleagues!
7. Memorable, rewarding, so grateful for the opportunity. Thank you.