

## **Narrative Evaluations**

- 1) *Do you have any practical suggestions for improvements to RBS's online logistics?*
  1. Pre-recorded videos for practical demonstrations were very helpful, though I also enjoyed the tours and live video demonstrations.
  2. N/A I loved it!
  3. No, they were very good!
  4. I think my instructors were very flexible and made adjustments as necessary based on any feedback we provided. I do not have any suggestions for improvements.
  5. No, I don't have any suggestions. I enjoyed this online class. It worked very well.
  6. Everything worked seamlessly
  7. Really, I don't. Everything in my course went so smoothly the entire time. Even after a year and half of Zoom fatigue, I enjoyed being in my RBS course from start to finish. It was probably my best virtual experience yet. And the Gather.town platform actually made mingling and meeting people possible!
  8. Gather.town was perhaps not as effective as a few rounds of zoom break-out rooms?
  9. I think the RBS does a fine job of alerting students of upcoming events, classes, meetings, etc. I would not change this. I appreciate the use of other platforms as well (such as Gather.town) for getting to know other individuals associated with the RBS.
  10. It would be helpful to give instructors some guidelines about how to film materials - a shaky handheld camera over a book is much less helpful than, say, an overhead tripod in good lighting.
  
- 2) *How would you describe your encounters with RBS staff?*
  1. Helpful, professional, warm. Everyone was incredible and made this a very positive experience!
  2. Excellent!
  3. Great!
  4. Absolutely wonderful. I felt everyone was very inclusive and made me feel welcome. Everyone went above and beyond to make this a meaningful learning experience regardless of the students' level of knowledge or expertise or lack thereof. The instruction was accessible and inclusive.
  5. Fabulous. The staff always finds ways to accommodate student's needs no matter how unusual.
  6. Kristen was outstanding, as were all other RBS staff
  7. As always, the RBS staff were cordial, helpful, and caring.
  8. Extremely positive
  9. The RBS staff has been pleasant, attentive, and very helpful.

10. RBS staff were, as always, uniformly excellent and helpful. A+++++

3) *If you attended any of our optional evening events, do you feel that they were a good use of your time? Were there any that were particularly important to your RBS experience?*

1. I enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Tuesday night lecture.
2. Yes!
3. n/a
4. I enjoyed the opening reception and found Michael Suarez's opening remarks inspiring. The opening Gather.town was fun also.
5. I did look at the Tuesday night lecture. It is very important for RBS to offer them. I always enjoy them.
6. Yes, I had many meaningful conversations with fellow students
7. Yes, I attended the lecture by Noelani Arista, which was fascinating. Definitely a good use of my time!
8. Yes, loved the lecture, the opening talk and initial Gather.town
9. {no response}
10. I attended the lecture by Dr. Arista - wonderful and meaningful, we have been in touch since about my getting involved as a volunteer on her project. Definitely a good use of my time.

4) *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 readings were very helpful.
2. Yes, loved it all. Would maybe like to see some suggestions for teaching this material.
3. No, I thought they were spot on
4. I found the pre-course readings useful for a foundational understanding of the topics of the course. They were greatly enhanced when the instructors demonstrated the topics both through their presentations and demonstrations throughout the week.
5. Yes, the pre-course assignments were useful, and I will reference them again after the class.
6. Very useful
7. The pre-course readings are certainly useful, especially for anyone new to the subject of scientific analysis. They include introductory descriptions of the scientific processes, as well as examples of real-world applications. There are a lot of readings, but don't feel the need to read them all cover-to-cover, the instructors do a wonderful job covering everything in their lectures.
8. Very useful, but I think a few more newspaper-level articles about some of the projects we discussed would have been helpful so that people had a shared group of touchstone projects to refer to for different methods
9. The pre-course reading assignments were especially useful because I had not had access to them prior to the class and I was not able to find some of them online. While I did not understand some of the articles due to the complexity of the

scientific material, by the time the instructors taught on the subject in class, I was able to return to the articles and things made more sense.

10. {no response}

5) *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 resources were very helpful and I will certainly return to them.
2. Excellent, no issues at all!
3. Yes, it was great
4. Absolutely, especially the list of links compiled by our course admin Kristen Herdman. Kristen was kind enough to keep track of all the links to websites, articles, projects and distributed them to us. Also, the instructors uploading their PDFs greatly helped.
5. Yes, the teaching materials are helpful and will continue to be helpful.
6. Teaching materials were great if a little difficult—may be better post-course readings
7. I've got all of the shared readings saved, and I'm sure I will reference them in the future when conceiving future research projects.
8. Yes it was very useful
9. I found Hark's PowerPoint slides extremely valuable as it gave straightforward and simple explanations of the scientific material. I also appreciated hearing the application of the scientific processes to real projects that have been completed or are currently being worked on by both of the instructors. They have different approaches to their work and both approaches can be appreciated equally.
10. {no response}

6) *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 information presented was incredibly practical and will help me in future professional endeavors and during my personal academic studies.
2. Several! I had great ideas for research, teaching, and collaboration.
3. I plan to hopefully initiate a few analysis projects with equipment we already have, plus help guide the purchase of an MSI/HSI setup and possibly a handheld XRF.
4. I hope to reach out to other university departments for potential future collaborations, as well as my cohort colleagues. My aha moment(s) highlighted we all are experiencing many of the same challenges and having a community like my new RBS community is invaluable.
5. I walked away with many aha moments. There are too many to count! I gained many new ideas on how to approach analytical testing using cost-effective methods. My department head will be very pleased.
6. Planning on implementing some skills immediately
7. Yes, I did walk away with a couple of "aha" moments! This course was a fantastic overview of the kind of information you can pull from books using a variety of

analytical methods. It will absolutely inform my future research, and maybe even a collaboration.

8. It really helped me conceive of what is now possible!
9. Currently, I am not affiliated with any institution as I am in between programs, however, I do have some ideas regarding testing pigment testing that I would like to carry out on a group of manuscripts I have been working on for some time. There are two other ideas I have floating in my head regarding upcoming projects that need more research first, but I definitely have a better understanding of the limitations of the scientific processes now to know how valuable any upcoming research could be to my field.
10. {no response}

7) *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.
2. Yes, they were wonderful and it was fantastic team-teaching. A-plus!
3. Yes!
4. Yes, I found that the instructors provided everything the course promised. At the end I felt as if the week had flown by and I didn't want it to end.
5. Yes, the instructors went beyond what was promised in the course description. This course exceeded my expectations. Bravo to the very seasoned instructors!
6. Absolutely
7. Yes, and yes. Of course, you won't come out of this course a full-fledged scientist, but you will absolutely have a deeper understanding of scientific methods, possibilities, and (importantly) limitations.
8. Yes. I think at its core this class was really about dating and imaging books/maps/other objects.
9. I am pleased with the material presented. I am beyond satisfied with the class and what I have learned in it. I loved the lab portions particularly because they were able to set up multiple cameras in the lab so we could see exactly what the machines were doing. While on one hand, not seeing the machines in person could be a downside of the class, I am sure that we would not be able to be so close to the machines as the cameras were, nor would the class fit in some of the rooms where the machines were, and thus we got better views of the process as a whole.
10. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. nope
3. Maybe having a list of suppliers handy, at least for some of the equipment.
4. {no response}
5. None.
6. No

7. That's a toughie. This was a fantastic course. Anything I would hope to add would mean removing something else. I guess a nice idea would be to give the students the option of bringing their research questions to the instructors for advice on how to proceed, but that might also take too much time.
8. I wish we'd taken 20 minutes at the start of the class to introduce ourselves, it would have given me a better sense of people's projects than the (incomplete) student bios, and put a name and face to those projects/interests. I would also have loved a discussion at the end about what kinds of techniques or research questions could be imagined going forward.
9. On the last day of class, there was a portion of the lab that was pre-recorded. I think one way to maximize the time in class, a recording of the lecture could be used. Particularly in the moments when they are just arriving to the lab and need time to set up, &c., a recording of what to expect/what they are working on that day could help fill that void, but it is not entirely necessary.
10. {no response}

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

1. I think students and professionals can both benefit, though it seems more geared towards people working in institutions who can apply the lessons directly and immediately.
2. Anyone who has secret STEM nerd tendencies?
3. curators, conservators, librarians
4. Anyone with an interest in the history of books, scientific analysis, provenance research, and so much more.
5. Curators, educators, historians, rare book librarians, scientists, conservators, etc.
6. Any bibliographer or book historian, really. Conservators and curators as well.
7. Book historians, conservators, or anyone else wanting to know more about how material investigation is performed with books.
8. Most probably librarians, conservators, or other specialists who can make the decision to put items under the x-acto knife...
9. Everyone working with or researching manuscripts could benefit from taking this course. It is so important for those who work on manuscripts to be familiar with all aspects of how to study them as objects. Even if they are not highly experienced with scientific testing, knowing the limitations and benefits of each scientific process is important.
10. {no response}

10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth?*

1. Yes.
2. Yes!
3. yes
4. This RBS course was well worth the money. Top notch instructors who felt like lifelong friends by the end of the week. Experts in their fields and were so willing to bring others up and along, share, teach and collaborate.
5. I got double my money's worth!

6. 100%
7. I'm lucky to have my institution paying for this course, but yes!
8. Yes.
9. I absolutely feel I got my money's worth.
10. {no response}

11) *On a scale of 1–10 with 10 being most likely, how likely are you to recommend this course to others?*

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

12) *If your course had any virtual field trips or guest speakers, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. Yes, definitely.
2. Yes!
3. Yes
4. Yes, Marie-France Lemay was one of our guest speakers and she does amazing work.
5. NA
6. {no response}
7. Yes! We had a brief visit from conservator Marie-France Lemay, and it was great! Everyone in the class got really excited about what she presented.
8. Yes! Marie-France Lemay was stellar, I loved her walk through of RTI capture. And in general I really enjoyed our daily "trips" via zoom to the lab.
9. The lab portions were particularly useful to see the machines working in real time.
10. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. N/A
3. {no response}
4. Don't hesitate, you won't regret it.
5. If analytical testing is desired for collections, take this course!
6. {no response}

7. If you've got some background in scientific analysis, this course is still very useful, & you'll get a great refresher of what you already know, and you'll fill in lots of gaps in areas where you have less experience. If you don't have the scientific background, don't be scared off! The instructors did such a great job making the material accessible.
8. I think particularly as an in-person class this will work wonderfully well.
9. {no response}
10. {no response}

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

1. Such an enjoyable week!
2. It was a total pleasure!
3. I hope that online courses continue when appropriate, they make it easier for many of us logistically...
4. My RBS experience left me feeling like I'm a part of something bigger than myself, and the energy of learning from my instructors and classmates is something I won't forget.
5. There are not enough superlatives I could use to describe this outstanding course.
6. Rare Book School always delivers
7. virtual this year / nevertheless so so good / Gather.town was too cute
8. I think it can be summed up in a single weird object—the Vinland map!
9. An unforgettable experience
10. {no response}

## **Student Data**

*Number of Respondents:* 10 (of 11)

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

1. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
2. My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used vacation or unpaid leave days.
3. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
4. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
5. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
6. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
7. My institution/employer gave me professional leave time.
8. I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible schedule.
9. I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule.
10. My situation does not fit any of the options above.

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

1. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
2. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.

3. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
4. My institution/employer paid part of my tuition costs, and I paid the rest.
5. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
6. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
7. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.
8. I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive all of my tuition expenses.
9. I paid 100% of my tuition costs myself.
10. My institution/employer paid 100% of my tuition costs.

*Not including this year, how many RBS courses have you attended?*

1. This is my first course.
2. 1
3. This is my first course.
4. This is my first course.
5. 5
6. 1
7. 6
8. This is my first course.
9. This is my first course.
10. 1

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

1. Student working towards a/an: Other
2. Professional educator: Full professor
3. Library discipline: Conservator/binder/preservation librarian
4. Library discipline: Library administrator
5. Library discipline: Conservator/binder/preservation librarian
6. Much like Bartleby the Scrivener, I would prefer not to answer this question.
7. Library discipline: Conservator/binder/preservation librarian
8. Professional educator: Lecturer/adjunct
9. Other Occupations/Vocations: Other
10. Student working towards a/an: Ph.D./D.Phil.