

Kinohi Nishikawa
G-85: Why Black Bibliography Matters
26 June – 1 July 2022

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. All of the pre-course assignments were useful because they allowed us to get a feel for the course and come in with something to discuss with the instructor and classmates.
 2. The pre-reading for this course was engaging and prepared me for the course ahead.
{private response}
 3. {private response}
 4. {private response}
 5. I really enjoyed all of the readings and appreciated that they were all a manageable length that really allowed me to digest the valuable information they offered.
 6. Yes! They provided an important entry point to the themes of Day 1, and were very manageable in length.
 7. The pre-course readings did a great job of preparing me for the course.
 8. Yes. I think *Telephone* should be officially included. All the readings were great, but I wish they were all pre-course readings (not distributed over the week).
 9. Yes, the pre-readings were very helpful and thorough.
 10. Yes, very; the readings were on point.
 11. The readings were perfect. Not too much but full of important information.
 12. Yes, wonderful.
 13. Yes, they were useful! {private response}
 14. Yes—but they could have been “released” earlier so we’d have more time to read them.

- 2) *What were 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. I was amazed at the teaching materials used for the class because it helped us learn interactively what the class was all about, and it was appropriate to better explain the outline of the course for us.
 2. The content of this course deepened my knowledge of Black bibliography, and I will definitely continue to use this knowledge in the future.
 3. {private response}
 4. The teaching materials were helpful and appropriate.

5. I really got a lot out of the teaching materials, and I will be returning to them. {private response}
6. Absolutely—readings were very thoughtfully assigned.
7. Each of the assigned readings did well to situate the lecture topic and prepare me for discussion.
8. Again, all were great. I just would've liked to have received the reading list much earlier.
9. There was no workbook for this course, but the materials were so impactful. It has completely changed my understanding of bibliography, which will be useful for me in the future.
10. All the course materials were perfectly paired and tied to what we did in class.
11. They were fine.
12. Wonderful and insightful and short enough and accessible to read the evening before class (N.B., readings were posted night before each day).
13. Great teaching and reading materials. Not too much daily reading; very helpful for framing the class. Practicums were great, but I wish we'd gotten a bit more information in the lecture format!
14. Yes, absolutely. I'm leaving with ideas for teaching exercises next year.

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'm going to apply the skills and knowledge of this RBS course for a book recovery project at my institution. I definitely had a few "aha!" moments when it came to the practicums the professor assigned to us.
2. I am excited to explore how I can introduce bibliographical study and workshops into the community archive spaces I occupy.
3. Absolutely! This class will make me look at my institution's collections from a completely new and fresh perspective. I'm really looking forward to teaching with all of that I've learned this week.
4. I plan on adapting many exercises from throughout the week in my own teaching.
5. I'm invigorated and will bring a new energy to my academic work, and my future career goals.
6. I learned a new way of looking at texts as objects and am attuned now to the politics and poetics of the processes of bibliographical description. I also walked away with friends and community.
7. I hope to use the skills and knowledge I gained in class to begin new collecting initiatives.
8. I plan to use materials and knowledge from the course in my teaching and research. The workshops with *Telephone*, *Native Son*, and *for colored girls* were particularly wonderful.
9. Too many to count! I think this course will help me better understand the importance of first-order questions when it comes to Black bibliography and question the assumptions of "traditional" antiquarian bibliography.

10. This will change what I teach and, more importantly, how I teach/handle materials.
11. Yes! I figured out how to mold my knowledge of literature and rhetoric. I have new research ideas already and useful new tools: methods for conducting that research!
12. I'll be talking to folks at my institution about developing bibliographies that highlight Black authorship and presses in our collections. Lots of strong examples for how to incorporate and teach using print books as primary sources.
13. Great new materials and strategies for designing syllabi.
14. For teaching and research.

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 professor was extremely insightful and knowledgeable so it prepared me to apply these skills and information to my own job. I learned everything I hoped and more.
2. Yes, I learned so much more than expected. The use of practicums with special collections holdings was a great teaching tool. KN is an incredible teacher, he has a wonderful way of drawing every voice of his students into the conversation.
3. KN is a brilliant and thoughtful instructor. The course, [Why Black Bibliography Matters](#), went above and beyond my expectations.
4. I did learn skills and information throughout and was productively challenged in my thinking and in both Black literature and bibliography.
5. Yes, absolutely! Outstanding instructor, I learned so much, he was such a great teacher and a warm presence too. He welcomed everyone into discussion and created {illegible?} a great classroom dynamic.
6. Yes, KN is a phenomenal instructor and modeled wonderful pedagogy where everyone could learn and listen from one another.
7. Yes. I knew nothing about the topic before beginning this course but feel that I have more than a basic understanding of Black publishing.
8. Yes! KN is an excellent instructor—thoughtful, brilliant, adaptable, and warm.
9. Yes. I learned more than I even imagined would be possible in a week-long course.
10. Yes, and much more.
11. Yes, and more! KN was so knowledgeable and used class time well. He is a master teacher.
12. Yes!
13. Yes, and yes.
14. KN was a wonderful instructor—brilliant and amazing at facilitating discussion; very open and inclusive.

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

1. The instructor could incorporate more audiovisual resources to accompany the books and ephemera.

2. N/A
3. {private response}
4. {private response}
5. {no response}
6. No.
7. I was very impressed by the course content and set up. I do not have any suggestions for improvement.
8. No.
9. No.
10. Not a one.
11. No.
12. {no response}
13. {private response}
14. {no response}

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

1. {missing response} The interactive discussions and reflections about the teaching materials.
2. Archivists, community writers/artists, and special collections librarians.
3. Archivists, librarians, curators, book historians, and literary scholars.
4. Everyone should take this course!
5. Would love to see even more students and young professionals in the course, especially Black students and young professionals.
6. People who want to engage their community (academic or not) in the praxis of Black bibliography.
7. Anyone with an interest in Black publishing and book history.
8. Everyone.
9. Everyone would benefit, but especially bibliographers who haven't worked on Black texts or with enumerative and descriptive bibliography practices.
10. Everyone instructed in/practicing bibliography as well as any students/faculty working in Black/Ethnic studies and many other fields.
11. Anybody interested in modern (nineteenth century on) literature; people who love Black literature; people interested in cataloging and printing histories and practices.
12. Folks in the field (archives, publishing, libraries).
13. ANYONE who needs to handle print materials as a significant component of their job.
14. People who are interested in bibliography and African American studies, or people new to both.

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

1. Definitely, it was my money's worth. I would recommend the course to others.

2. I received a fellowship so yes! I would recommend this course to others.
3. Absolutely!
4. I would strongly recommend this course to others. It is less focused on technical knowledge than asking important fundamental questions about the field and about the representation of Black experience.
5. I would absolutely recommend this course to others and plan to do so! {private response}
6. Absolutely.
7. Yes. Yes.
8. Yes, and yes.
9. Yes, and yes!
10. This course is worth much more than we invested. Yes, will highly recommend.
11. Absolutely! This is THE BEST course I've ever taken.
12. \$1,400 + expenses is a heavy price, especially without institutional support. The class delivered and I'm glad I gave this gift to myself.
13. Yes, and yes.
14. Yes absolutely.

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

1. No trips outside the classroom related to the course.
2. N/A. It would be really cool to incorporate a trip.
3. N/A
4. {no response}
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. None.
9. N/A
10. Yes.
11. Yes.
12. {no response}
13. N/A
14. {no response}

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

1. Yes, do the pre-readings and buy the books with time.
2. {no response}
3. N/A
4. Sign up early--this course will fill? fast!

5. {no response}
6. No.
7. Please keep this as a course offering. It is extremely important.
8. None. It's a great course with a brilliant instructor. RBS needs more courses like this.
9. This course is for everyone interested in bibliography and indeed it should be encouraged that bibliographers, professors, librarians, &c. all take this course.
10. Take this class. Discoveries of what texts are and who is behind them are made here.
11. Come ready to learn and have your mind blown with all of the intricacies of Black literature and bibliography.
12. In the future I'll try for a scholarship. Knowing timelines early so you can apply is key.
13. Nope!
14. {no response}

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

1. Incredible.
2. {no response}
3. Simply fantastic! Thank you KN and thank you RBS!
4. Black bibliography matters.
5. Phenomenal instructor and phenomenal librarian made incredible use of special collections materials to facilitate dynamic, transformative learning experiences!
6. Everyday cracked my head open.
7. Intense but worth it.
8. Energizing.
9. Overwhelming, impactful and an incredible learning experience.
10. {illegible}
11. It doesn't get better than this!
12. This was a meaningful learning opportunity to think about the importance of Black authorship and publishing—a topic not even skimmed in my M.L.I.S. program.
13. This was an excellent course and I highly recommend it!
14. Enlightening.