

Sarah Werner

G-15v: Introduction to Bibliographical Research Methods for the Hand-Press Period

21 October – 4 December 2024, Online

*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. Reading SW's *Studying Early Printed Books* before class provided the perfect foundation to dive deeper in class.
2. Yes, all the readings were relevant and discussed or mentioned in class.
3. Very useful, incredible amount of resources were provided, with a lot of background provided for that session's lecture.
4. The reading was certainly useful. I don't know enough about the field to make recommendations or suggestions for the reading list at this time.

*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. SW was extremely generous with providing many additional resources to help us explore whatever topics interested us most. The folding exercises we were sent in the mail were also very useful, and I will continue to use them to understand formats.
2. Yes, all the readings were relevant and discussed or mentioned in class. I look forward to saving copies of the readings for future use and further reading.
3. The coursework was enhanced by physical papers sent by mail.
4. I will certainly continue to use the material.

*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. This course was extremely beneficial as I was writing graduate school applications at the same time, and our conversations in class helped me feel more confident in my project proposals.
2. I have a better understanding of how to look at books from a researcher's perspective. I also now understand the process in which early books were printed and distributed, and why that information matters.
3. Sharing experiences with other classmates online was fantastic, sharing things that are common in our field.
4. I have a better idea for ways to incorporate the study of books into my hobbies and book collecting.

*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, and yes!
2. Yes, the instructor was very knowledgeable, very open to answering questions, and encouraged us to be curious and inquisitive.
3. The level of knowledge from our instructor was phenomenal, learned so much.
4. The instructor was delightful. I certainly learned what I wanted to learn.

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

1. I hope to use what I learned in this class to support further research and study into book history.
2. I hope to incorporate what I've learned into how I catalog and describe early printed materials at my workplace. [OBJ]
3. This will be used every day, as I assist users of our rare book items.
4. Unclear at this time, though I have some ideas.

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

1. Librarians and students working with early printed books, and anyone else interested in the hand-press period.
2. Anyone interested in studying or describing early printed books and performing bibliographical research.
3. Anyone who works with rare books, library staff, archivists, collectors.
4. {no response}

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. I finally understand how a 12mo works!
2. I loved looking at the "weird" books and trying to determine what might have been going on during the time of their creation or when they changed ownership.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. N/A
3. {no response}
4. {no response}

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. 9
4. 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. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. {no response}

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

1. Be prepared to jump in with questions, comments, observations, meandering thoughts—this is not a lecture course, but is best when conversation leads the way.
2. Take your time with the readings and ask questions!
3. {no response}
4. {no response}

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

1. Get ready for bibliographical rabbit holes!
2. I look forward to utilizing the knowledge I've gained from this RBS course as I move forward in my profession.
3. There was ink, there were pages, printing blocks were all the rage, mistakes were made, presses may have stopped, because errors popped, some not so much. Good to see the pages, through the ages, one needs to know though, so one is not fazed. I learned so much.
4. {no response}