

Sarah Werner

G-15v: A Bibliographical Introduction to the Hand-Press Period

19 October–14 December, 2025, 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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. The readings were useful.
7. {no response}
8. Yes, the readings were useful. I am a visual learner as well, so the videos helped a great deal when trying to understand some of the processes behind book creation.
9. Useful.
10. All the advanced readings for this course were very helpful before each one of the classes.
11. Very useful. There are so many relevant books/essays on this topic (and much of it I haven't read yet or am not aware of). Adam Smyth's *Material Texts in Early Modern England* was a good introduction for me. And Tanselle's *Bibliographical Analysis: A Historical Introduction*. I found the readings selected for the weekly reading excellent and was able to add many items from their notes to my reading list.
12. {no response}

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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. I found the materials to be useful and will continue to use them when I teach courses that relate to the material history of the books in our collections.
6. I especially loved the folding exercises. I also really enjoyed the bindings class.
7. {no response}
8. All the content was useful. But like I noted above, I am a visual and auditory learner—so the videos helped me a great deal in understanding how books were bound, how paper was made, &c.
9. Content applicable.
10. SW sent each one of us physical materials through the mail that were very helpful during class.

11. The folding exercise materials were very useful and helpful for my understanding of how sheets are assembled, and I appreciate being given access to the files so I can print more of these off in the future.
12. {no response}

*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. {no response}
2. I loved the structure, with each week focusing on a new aspect of books.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. I found the weeks spent on bindings and images most interesting! It helped me understand new ways of approaching the topics that I could bring to my work.
6. Bindings and format.
7. I really enjoyed the focus on materiality.
8. This being my first course, I walked away with plenty of new knowledge about bibliography.
9. Yes, new ways of looking at aspects of the printed book.
10. I enjoyed every example that SW provided, I liked seeing her choices of rare books for teaching. Her books were not necessarily fancy like the ones you find at rare book libraries, but they were better because they allowed me to learn about the structure of books.
11. Yes—many new thoughts on areas to research. Certainly good directions for reading. It was a great opportunity to ask questions and have conversations about a broad selection of aspects of early printing. It was relevant to my academic interests as well as my interest in libraries.
12. {no response}

*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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. Yes, to both!
6. Yes.
7. {no response}
8. Yes, and yes.
9. Yes, instruction helpful.
10. I learned more than what I hoped for.
11. Yes.
12. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. I will use what I learned in the course in my cataloging practice.
7. {no response}
8. I plan to use them in my current job, more specifically teaching students to think critically about books.
9. Ideas for new ways of teaching about bibliographic information.
10. I would like to work for a rare book library in the future.
11. This will help me in my library studies and has helped confirm some of my interests in aspects of library work.
12. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Librarians and educators dealing with materiality of the book.
7. {no response}
8. Archivists, special collections librarians, those who deal in rare books, printers, papermakers, or anyone with a history in books.
9. Librarians, book historians and teachers of book history.
10. Anyone interested in rare books might benefit from this course.
11. It would be helpful for anyone wanting an overview of early European/American printing —M.A. students and librarians working in research libraries.
12. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. I found learning about bindings very helpful! I think my favorite moments were when SW would lecture about all the different manifestations of a certain subject.
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}

6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. Books are objects of culture and people.
9. Differentiation of wood plate vs. copper plate images. How to acquire early hand-press books cheaply.
10. I loved when we got to see a book that was falling apart.
11. Collational formulas were completely new to me and I'm glad I have that understanding.
12. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. A three-hour course is very long. I think two hours is sufficient.
9. The 22-hour session length was adequate.
10. Not really.
11. This course is good as an overview; RBS offers courses that go deeper into specifics which also interests me.
12. {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. {no response}
2. 7
3. 10
4. 10
5. 10
6. 8
7. 10
8. 10
9. 8
10. 8
11. 9
12. {no response}

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. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. N/A.
9. Not applicable but might be a good addition.
10. N/A.
11. The videos in the syllabus were very helpful. The encouragement to consult books led me to visit the university library closest to me which I wouldn't have otherwise visited.
12. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. I think with any course, but in particular online courses, you get out of it what you put into it.
9. Useful course to take as a foundation for more intense courses on bibliographic description.
10. Ask as many questions as you want.
11. {no response}
12. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. {no response}
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Thought-provoking.
7. {no response}
8. Amazing, 10/10 would recommend.
9. Books are a universe unto themselves.

10. RBS—Ink remembers careful hands.
11. Very much worthwhile! I feel I've improved my understanding.
12. {no response}