

Sarah Werner

G-15v: Introduction to Bibliographical Research Methods for the Hand-Press Period  
21 September–16 November, Online Only

### **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, I really appreciated the additional recommended readings that I'll return to for curiosity and as the need arises.
2. SW's book and Gaskell's books were the perfect compendia for the course.
3. There were no pre-course reading assignments. The readings set for the class were very good, and greatly increased my understanding, not only of the topic, but of the available literature, which will be useful in my research.
4. {private response}
5. It would be helpful to have students read SW's text prior to the start of class in order to provide a solid background and allow for more in-depth discussion of the material during class.
6. {no response}
7. Yes. I use these all the time as refreshers as well as for preparing for the actual course.

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. Although more of a preference of learning style, I like to have the full syllabus information and reading materials at the very beginning of the course so I can work my way through when time allows.
2. Yes, I think all the articles and photos proved useful in class. I've already downloaded most of the articles and plan to read those I haven't read yet. I think I'll be going back to several, too.
3. Yes, I agree.
4. {private response}
5. The text and the links to additional materials in the syllabus were very helpful.
6. {no response}
7. Very useful. The organic nature of the course workbook was very useful. Yes, I will be accessing this content regularly.

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. I enjoyed looking at book examples together. I also really liked the folding paper activity—very helpful. I feel like I have a digital tool box of resources to use when something bookish peaks my research interest.
2. The practical experience of folding paper helped a lot. That, and the abundance of examples of printed books and pages to demonstrate various concepts were most helpful
3. The discussion of ideal copy was a particularly useful concept for me. Additionally, discussions of labour in early modern printing, papermaking, publishing and bookbinding were greatly expanded upon from my previous understanding. I also found my peers in the class were very engaged and class discussions with them and SW really contributed to my enjoyment of the class and what I got from the course.
4. {private response}
5. This is a very useful introductory course that has laid a strong foundation for future coursework in the materiality of the book.
6. {no response}
7. All of the sessions were useful and intriguing. The physical analysis of the book broken up with a week break to absorb and consider was particularly relevant.

*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, I definitely learned a lot more about researching hand-press era books. The instructor was very willing to help anyone who had special interest in a subject and provide additional information.
2. Absolutely, I did. This was a very good introduction to how hand-press books were constructed.
3. Yes, and more.
4. {private response}
5. Yes.
6. {no response}
7. Yes, and yes.

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

1. With my new digital skills, I now have many rabbit holes of research to jump into!
2. I am already pursuing a couple of research questions about books I've been studying that arose for me because of the course. I do hope to teach more aspects of material culture in my English courses as well. I also have been making quartos with my young daughters.

3. In my career (collection management) and research.
4. {private response}
5. I intend to use the skills and knowledge acquired in this course to build my understanding of book history and enable me to complete more advanced coursework.
6. {no response}
7. Improve cataloguing skills and undertake more challenging purchases.

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

1. Newbies to book-centric study wishing to learn from a material culture perspective.
2. A lot of undergrad and grad students studying early modern literature would really benefit from this course. I wish I'd had something like this sooner.
3. Early career special collections librarians.
4. {no response}
5. Anyone working with books.
6. {no response}
7. ILAB booksellers.

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. Collation finally made sense and was not scary!
2. With hands-on practice, I finally got to see how chain lines can help determine the format of a book. That was a big revelation. Somehow the printed diagrams just never worked for me. We had to do it in class.
3. Ideal copy concept.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}

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

1. Maybe a discussion warm-up could be looking at a quirky book at the beginning of each class that segues into the week's topic.
2. I mean, if it were face-to-face, it would be even better, but then I couldn't have taken it. That's a trade-off. Maybe it would help if each student could work with a particular book throughout the semester, but logistically that would be hard to arrange.
3. {no response}
4. {private response}
5. {no response}

6. {no response}
7. I would have happily paid for more, and gotten more content over a term allowing for deeper dives and specific projects/investigations.

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

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. {no response}
2. For this course I'm not sure either would have improved it.
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. {no response}
7. N/A

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

1. The more you put into reading, class discussion, and making, the more you will benefit from the course.
2. {no response}
3. There are lots of readings, but don't find that intimidating. Concepts are covered in the class, and the syllabus/reading list is excellent and very useful.
4. {no response}
5. No.
6. {no response}
7. Just do it!

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

1. I have come out of the course with more questions than answers but in a good way. SW would likely approve and encourage independent sleuthing.
2. {no response}
3. Very pleased with this course.
4. {no response}
5. This course is a great place to start your exploration of books in the hand-press period.
6. {no response}
7. {no response}