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H-145: The Book in Ming China: History & Analysis  
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*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.
2. Yes, all the readings are useful. They helped me better understand the East Asian collections at Princeton and gave me a general overview of the history of books in China.
3. Yes, they were all good and all useful.
4. I think they were very useful. There are a lot, but I figured out that they helped me digest the lecture materials.
5. The readings were really useful and eye-opening.
6. Yes, very helpful, and I appreciate that the program shared the full texts in addition to the reading lists.
7. Yes. They were very helpful.
8. The pre-course reading assignments were extremely useful. I would not change anything. I really appreciated the inclusion of the extensive bibliography of non-required readings.
9. They are awesome. It helped me grasp the instructed content more easily. I guess if the instructors would be willing to share their teaching materials/workbook and the slides in the PDF format, that would be also very helpful.
10. I think the recommended readings are great!
11. {private response}
12. Yes! The pre-course readings were useful. I would have liked to receive the PDFs and updated list earlier so I could have spent more time with the texts the instructors actually wanted us to read. I think the reading list would benefit from sharing some newer articles, but I found those myself by browsing the journals that were listed in the reading list.
13. USEFUL.
14. Very useful.
15. Yes. Generally, the pre-course reading assignments had provided me useful information about contents that we went through the next day.

*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. Very helpful.
2. The workbook is helpful, including the lists of terms, and captions of slides. I will continue to use it for my future research and teaching.

3. Workbook was excellent. It has all kinds of book terminology that I can refer to later, plus PowerPoint slide descriptions with references. I can match these to photos. Very useful.
4. I think so. I like the English terms in the coursebook. I will use them in the future.
5. The content was fantastic! There was so much to learn.
6. The workbook is so informative and helpful that I will keep it as a reference for the rest of my research career.
7. It would be useful if the items in the PowerPoint presentations all come with a bibliography.
8. The course workbook was very useful. I will also continue to use it as reference material in the future.
9. They are really helpful in that we have something to refer to. It will definitely be used after the course and I hope it will be published sometime.
10. Yes. It will be still helpful after the course, especially the terminology part.
11. {private response}
12. The course workbook was very useful!! I especially appreciated having all of the vocabulary and bibliographic information prepared for me. I appreciated that I could just take notes on a prepared document. I will continue to use it and keep it as a reference going forward.
13. USEFUL.
14. Very useful and interesting, and also clearly arranged. Yes, I hope to integrate such material into my own classes.
15. Yes. I found the course workbook really useful as it contains more than sufficient information about contents we went through in class, especially SE's section/PowerPoint notes.

*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. The realia.
2. Everything—lectures, on-hand handling of the books, and mini research and discussions. Indeed, as I have a better understanding of the history of Ming books, the course gave me a lot to think about related to my own research and teaching.
3. Getting to see many kinds of books from the Ming was eye opening. I have seen mostly books in my subfield. I came away with a much better overall picture of Ming books.
4. Yes. Princeton has the rare book version that I was not aware of. I will integrate them into my revision of the book.
5. The hands-on study of many books and the linking of specialized terminology to each aspect that we studied was invaluable. This was the kind of training one rarely gets in graduate student courses, most especially if one is an intellectual historian looking at content. It is also really hard to know how all these aspects link to scholarly projects and these instructors did an excellent job of making these connections.

6. Every single session is packed with intriguing and relevant information. I'm amazed to see how much this one-week training has broadened my vision of research. Yes, I'm definitely taking away new approaches to and materials for my current research and fresh ideas to explore new areas, topics, and periods.
7. I have a clearer research direction for my dissertation after this course. This course brings in exactly the specialists that I wanted to talk with, including instructors and the students. They have taught me so much. They introduced me to materials and methods that never occurred to me before. It was an eye-opening experience.
8. The most intriguing aspect was learning about the complexities of book production and printing for the period I study. Being able to examine so many rare books in person to experience how the physical object affects the ways in which I understand a text was critical and will be essential to my research. I have too many new insights to list here!
9. I got to talk to the instructors and fellow participants about my research and their findings and experiences. These conversations were great. Also, the funding opportunity and the instructions for future using the Princeton library are significant.
10. The rare books from your collection and terminology.
11. I found the discussion among instructors very revealing as those showed issues of debate within the field. It was very valuable to understand better the technical aspects of book production and how these impact the finished product.
12. Yes! I walked away with a potential new approach to my dissertation. I also \*will\* use the sources I saw here.
13. Reading the rare books.
14. Learning about the differences in paper, binding, and character styles across different periods and places was extremely fascinating to me.
15. Yes. This course provides an incredible opportunity for me to socialize with other scholars working in a similar field. During breaks, I had the chance to discuss my ongoing projects with my classmates and the course instructors, all of them provided me really useful suggestions. In sum, even for students who do not find materials that are DIRECTLY relevant to their interests/ongoing projects, the RBS course offers great opportunity for their future 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.
2. Yes. They are great. I've learned a lot.
3. Yes, they were all experts and taught well.
4. Yes. Acquiring knowledge of rare books is a built-up skill that needs time, so this time was a good start for me so that I can continue learning by myself or other rare book courses in the future.
5. I learned what I had hoped to learn and a whole lot more.

6. The instructors have given me significant amount of guidance on the material culture concerning books. I'm taking away a lot of things to digest and apply, to further hone my skills and interests.
7. Yes, all instructors are very engaging and encouraging. I learned how to locate the source I need from a vast array of books.
8. The instructors totally delivered on what was promised in the course description. Indeed, they exceeded expectations. I learned more than I hoped to learn.
9. They definitely did. I learned what I had hoped to learn and much more than that.
10. Yes. SE's lectures are great and three instructors are excellent.
11. Yes, the instruction was very comprehensive and touched on many important aspects of Chinese book history.
12. Yes.
13. YES.
14. Yes! Maybe I would have hoped to learn more about the page layout and how (if relevant) it changed over time, regions, or genre.
15. YES. SE's lectures are extremely informative and enjoyable. His knowledge of East Asian books/printing is incredible.

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

1. {no response}
2. I will pay more attention to the material aspects of the books. I have a particular project that is related to printing, reading, and book culture, so I will apply what I learned to my future research.
3. I teach a course on the Ming and will incorporate much of what I learned into my course. I also was able to discuss one of my research projects with the instructors and got valuable feedback.
4. In my future research and writing.
5. What I learned here will make it easier for me to use the Princeton rare book collection and other collections and made me more aware of issues that will be useful for my other projects. Knowing about paper, ink, illustrations, the construction of books, how many fakes, what booksellers were up to and how and why these texts still exist was invaluable information and will make me a more sophisticated researcher.
6. In my research and in classroom teaching, as well as in my personal hobby of hunting good books. :-)
7. I will use the bibliographical knowledge and research methods in the future.
8. I plan to follow up the comparison of different editions of key texts in my research with visits to other collections and a return visit to Princeton. I also feel more confident that I have a better sense of knowing what I am looking at when I examine rare books of the Ming dynasty and how factors like printing quality, edition, and physical condition are or are not relevant to how I am using the text.
9. I will use it immediately in my comprehensive exam and dissertation prospectus. These skills and knowledge are necessary for my future research.
10. I will use them in my future research.

11. I will use the skills and knowledge acquired in this course for personal research and in my work as a librarian.
12. I plan to incorporate more attention to book history, both materially and socially, in my further scholarly study.
13. For my further research, I will use the rare books as examples in my thesis.
14. 1) I will integrate all the information about material aspects of Ming book into my dissertation. 2) I will use them in the class I will be giving next semester back in my home institution. 3) I hope to be able to adopt the terminology learned to be more specific in my research-cataloguing work
15. I would argue that no historian would doubt that even for scholars who do not work on book history, it is absolutely necessary to be able to discuss books/book culture/print culture with correct terminology.

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

1. Anyone who wants to start research about book history/book culture.
2. People who specialize in late imperial China (history, literature, religion, etc.), and those who are interested in the special collections at Princeton (e.g. Gest Collection).
3. Doctoral students and young faculty. Museum and library people who do research on books, or public exhibitions of books.
4. Those whose research is related to Ming books in general.
5. This course is invaluable for scholars of the Ming dynasty and should be used to educate both emerging scholars and established scholars and connect these two groups through a shared study experience. The ability to connect with other scholars when most of us are so isolated and to do it, not over coffee and a big conference, but over a shared interest in rare books with the actual text sitting there right before us as we collectively worked through ten different issues and thought about research projects, this is what made the course so beneficial and special.
6. Anyone who enjoys holding a book in their hand.
7. Researchers in Ming history and literature.
8. Doctoral students, anyone whose research intersects with book, manuscript and printing history, special collections professionals who need to add new areas of knowledge.
9. I think Ph.D. students or new grads might benefit the most. But at the same time, we learned a lot from the established scholars as participants.
10. Ph.D. students and young scholars majored in Asian literature and history studies.
11. Scholars or students of any aspect of pre-modern Chinese humanities, especially late imperial China; librarians or curators with responsibility for Chinese rare books.
12. I think people who are interested in print history and the social history of books would benefit the most from this course. People who want to know about the materiality of Ming books will also benefit a lot from this course. I think having a vested interest in the Ming is really important to taking this course.

13. Students and teachers doing China studies and Librarians working for any library where there are ancient Chinese books.
14. All students interested in Chinese literati culture and book production in China (Ming and not actually, I think).
15. As states above, anyone, whether scholars with or without established projects, librarians, practitioners in the book/publishing industry, and so on, would all benefit from taking the RBS course.

*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. Learning from the experts that you hardly get to know outside of the class.
2. Comparing books that share similarities to learn about editions, authentication, printing, &c.
3. The instructors gave so many examples and stories about the production and collecting of Ming books that I felt I really came away with a better sense of Ming books, book collecting, and book history.
4. The rare book version at Princeton differed from the version I was aware of. It was a rare version!
5. There were just too many. There were moments every day when something new was presented or a new idea came to mind. Seeing how books were constructed versus how what they say, this was a real "aha!" moment, most especially when they could be linked.
6. When the instructors got engaged in little debates with each other or with the students, when they told anecdotes about surprising encounters of objects and people relevant to their research.
7. There are several "aha!" moments. I found very important information for my dissertation research, very coincidentally, from books that were selected by the instructors. Some other participants gave me feedback for my research. They are exactly the people with the kind of expertise that I lack. I discussed the materials I want to use for my dissertation with them. One instructor gave me new ideas about my dissertation. It was very enlightening.
8. Everything was great and the instructors did a stellar job of selecting materials to illustrate the course content. I would say that one of my favorite portions of the course was looking at random selections that the instructors made and then working in small groups to identify notable characteristics of them.
9. When other participants and I were reading the requested rare books and found us confused, we sought help from instructors and other participants. They respectively provided great answers.
10. There are a lot of "aha!" moments for me when I see those valuable rare books!
11. Looking at intriguing examples of how books have been modified or forged was very illuminating.
12. I was most struck by the moments when our instructors showed us features of books that might not be immediately obvious.
13. Many exciting moments. One of them was seeing the real "Yongle Dadian."

14. Realia!

15. All those impressive, high-quality illustrations and SE's personal stories related to the collection.

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

1. {no response}

2. N/A

3. No.

4. {no response}

5. {no response}

6. None. Everything was perfect.

7. {no response}

8. Maybe keep the lectures on time so we have a little more time with the rare books.

9. If the start time could be later... like start at 9 or 10.

10. No. Your course is great!

11. {no response}

12. I think this course would benefit from being a 2-part course.

13. If the trip fee could be granted, it would be better.

14. Longer time.

15. N/A. It is already more than satisfactory.

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. 10

4. 10

5. 10

6. 10

7. 10

8. 10

9. 10

10. 9

11. 10

12. 10

13. 9

14. 9

15. 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. Yes.
2. It's already been rich and great.
3. Yes, we toured the East Asian Library and learned more about its collections.
4. Yes. I got to know that I can come back to use Princeton library.
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. It is possible, but we have already too much to cover in the classroom.
10. Yes. We visited Gest Asian Library. It's a great experience.
11. {no response}
12. I think a guest speaker might enhance the experience, but because of how packed our schedule was, I think it might also contribute to a rushed feel.
13. Yes.
14. Yes!
15. {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. N/A
3. Take it!
4. Reading ahead is helpful. It is good to have a project in mind or the book you want to take a look at during the course during your stay at Princeton.
5. {no response}
6. Apply.
7. {no response}
8. Do all of the required reading and get plenty of sleep before you attend! It was intense but is one of the most rewarding professional development experiences that I have ever had.
9. Definitely read the required and recommended texts and prepare a clearer research project.
10. Come! You won't regret it!
11. {no response}
12. Have fun! There will be information overload, but it's worth it. Make friends :) Do the readings, don't panic about the readings.
13. If you are foreign students, you'd better improve your English.
14. Recharge phones every morning.
15. {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. 書海真深!
4. The history of the book opens up many possibilities for my future research!
5. This was a very energizing and intellectually stimulating experience.
6. "A week of pure, / absolute pleasure of learning / about books, places, plus ideas."

It is so far the best academic event I have ever been to.

7. Amazing and transformative. Also, like the best kind of scholars' camp.
8. Full enjoyment with exhaustion.
9. Fulfilling and unforgettable memories!
10. {no response}
11. RBS has expanded my book world.
12. Like a dream come true.
13. Fantastic!
14. Perhaps the most informative course on book/printing culture. Not only does Princeton possess a rich collection of East Asian rare books, SE and MH's rich experience in book collection and history also made this course an irreplaceable experience.