

Albert A. Palacios
H-175v: The Printing Press in Spanish America, 1500–1830
28 July–1 August, 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. Yes! I read all the pre-course assignments, and they were contextualized during class.
3. A lot of reading, but it was valuable.
4. I found the pre-course reading assignments really useful, in particular the articles on the advanced reading list. Some of the few books on that list were very difficult to find, so I might remove them or have the instructor copy a relevant chapter to send to us instead.
5. The pre-course readings were extremely useful and the robust additional bibliographies, generously organized and provided by the instructor, will serve my future work for years to come.
6. I think the readings were useful in preparing me for the course.
7. Excellent list, but I didn't have time to read prior to class. I'll be referencing the reading list after the fact as time permits. I was too busy with work, family, and another RBS class to read the recommended texts.
8. Extremely useful. No changes required, but it is a field where scholarship is always being produced...kind of makes me want to take the class again in a few years.
9. They were helpful, though I didn't get to read all of them. I intend to read the remaining material in the future.
10. Yes, the readings were helpful. It would be interesting to have readings about the materiality of paper, inks, &c.
11. Yes, I felt that these were very useful. I read them with a lot of enjoyment, and I felt that they prepared me well for the course.
12. Yes, the pre-course reading assignments were very helpful.
13. Yes, these were useful, but I only browsed them in preparation.

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. Useful during class and I will continue to use it afterwards.
3. AP's course documents were super organized and meshed together well.
4. The content of the course and the slides provided were incredibly useful and I plan to go back to them repeatedly in the months to come.
5. {no response}
6. I thought the way the Google Drive was set up was excellent. It was very organized, and it was easy to find materials.

7. Excellent materials and bibliography, tailored and well arranged. I will definitely be referencing these materials in the future. I especially appreciate the notes document AP prepared to help us follow along with his lectures. It included a slide for visual reference and the broad strokes of information for each section, with space to add one's own notes. Not only was this an effective tool to learn with, it also shows meticulous preparation and care on AP's part. He isn't just an expert in the content knowledge; he is putting very real time, effort, and thought into how he is presenting this content. The case study model was also a hugely successful way to break up lectures and allow students to engage with the material at hand—applying themes from lessons to objects, rather than passive absorption. It was also an opportunity for students to get to know each other and share their own areas of interest and expertise, which only added to the experience.
8. Yes. To all of the above.
9. The materials used for teaching were great and I intend to keep copies as reference.
10. Yes, very helpful.
11. Yes! I think I will be referring back to these slides and notes for a long time.
12. The content was very appropriate and very useful! It will definitely help me as I continue my research and learning!
13. The lectures/slides were enormously useful. I'll build on this information for years.

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 greatly enjoyed the readings and lectures.
3. Everything. This was definitely the best course I have taken at RBS.
4. I really appreciated the lectures and the ability to work on activities with my fellow students, getting to know them and how they interpret case studies by being in small groups with them. I do have plans for how I can incorporate lessons from this week into my courses and research, both from the content and from the fantastic model given to us by AP's approach to teaching.
5. {no response}
6. I really liked the case studies, because they allowed us to develop a deeper understanding of the materials being presented in the lectures. I also liked having the opportunity to get to know my classmates, which can be difficult in an online class.
7. Not only was the content of the class fascinating, both personally and professionally, but the structure of the course and the pedagogical design were refreshing and will inform how I approach future teaching of my own. Now that I have a better foundation for understanding printed material from Spanish America, I have more confidence in developing collections and instruction/outreach around these materials. We don't really have anything like this in our special collections, so I'm hoping I may be able to fill this gap in a modest way.

8. Surprisingly, I think the discussions about the press in the Philippines were the most relevant to me and my work. I work mostly on Asian art. I have run into lithographs produced in the Philippines in the past. However, I usually look for early markers of print exchange between Europeans and Asians in India, Japan, and China, where European prints were exchanged and had an impact on existing print cultures. Although I was aware that the Philippine islands were a multi-ethnic region and a Spanish colony, it didn't occur to me that there would be a location where maps and books were produced.
9. I think most of everything was interesting and I really liked learning about books printed in the Philippines.
10. I plan to search my collection to document firebrands and labels, and investigate more thoroughly which books in my collection fit the parameters of the course.
11. I was particularly happy to learn about recent and ongoing scholarship in this area, and to be directed to several exciting digital projects that my library might be able to participate in.
12. The course left me with many ideas, with the knowledge that I really needed the course to round up my previous knowledge on the theme, and it left me with a desire to continue to study the materials. I would love to take the class again, as I feel that a second time around would be very beneficial.
13. The course gave me insights into our local collections and will help with reviewing our metadata and cataloging.

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. Yes.
3. Yes. AP was super enthusiastic and great about posting links to sources he mentioned throughout the course. He explained things people did not understand, was self-deprecating, and knew so much!
4. 100%
5. {no response}
6. Yes, AP is incredibly knowledgeable, and I enjoyed his lecture style.
7. YES.
8. I learned a lot more than I expected. The class answered most of my previous questions. It gave me the tools to answer others, and I've developed several more.
9. Yes, I learned a lot about printing in the Spanish Americas.
10. Yes—I was surprised by how much really intriguing information was presented—I walked away each day with my mind blown.
11. AP was extremely warm and kind. Not only did he do a beautiful job with all of his prepared materials, but he also tackled student questions with enthusiasm. If he knew of a helpful resource, he was always quick to share it.
12. Yes, absolutely.
13. Yes, and more.

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

1. {no response}
2. I plan to improve my institution's catalog records on Spanish American materials.
3. I am hosting a series of "rare book breaks" at my school to try to get graduate students more interested in our library's rare holdings.
4. In my courses on Indigenous literatures and American literatures and in my research.
5. {no response}
6. Yes—I think they will be extremely useful to my job.
7. I plan to use what I learned in this class, and refer back to its copious resources and bibliography, to inform collection development strategies at my library. I am hoping that we can expand our rare book collection to include more Spanish-language texts, especially those from the colonial period.
8. I occasionally work on book acquisitions, and this class will aid in the research that I sometimes do when given those duties.
9. I plan to use the knowledge acquired in my instruction and outreach by using printed materials produced during this era in Spanish America (specifically relating to colonialism).
10. I was thinking I might incorporate the material into class lectures as it applies to books in our own collection.
11. I plan to use these skills to better understand the materials at my library, and to place them in their proper historical context while teaching, preparing exhibitions, and making acquisitions decisions.
12. I plan to continue my research and write materials for publication.
13. Collection review, and a blog post about a local item I examined.

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

1. {no response}
2. My institution's patrons and Latin American community will benefit the most.
3. I wish everyone in Texas and the American Southwest would take this course.
{private response}
4. Spanish professors, literary researchers, librarians/archivists, conservators, and more.
5. {no response}
6. Anyone interested in print history or colonial history—anyone! This class was fascinating, and AP was fabulous.
7. We had such a fabulous variety of students in this course: historians, librarians, archivists, and conservators. Everyone had different interests and expertise, making for rich exchange and discussion. Any of these, plus collectors or booksellers, would enjoy and make use of this class, provided they have an interest in colonial Spanish America and the printed object.
8. Librarians and historians, but the class is useful for anyone with an interest in the Viceregal regions and period, and historical Pan-American or Pan-Asian print cultures.

9. Anyone interested in the topic.
10. Possibly the students I encounter going forward! But also, my university as a whole benefits if I have a deeper grasp on understanding the collection I care for.
11. I think this course would be the most useful for anyone who, like me, works at a library with many Spanish colonial materials who wishes to gain the proper context for these materials. I have already found ways to incorporate what I have learned in reference questions that have come in this week!
12. Anyone interested in printing history.
13. History subject specialists and special collections librarians.

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. {no response}
2. I enjoyed the final capstone presentations and learning from my classmates.
3. The capstone presentations were great. Everyone found numerous rabbit holes they wanted to pursue after class.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. I loved the case studies and the capstone presentations. We got to see what people work on/are interested in, and nerd out!
7. So many...but the one worth mentioning is just how engaging and FUN an online class can be. I've taken a number of online courses; none have been this rigorous, enjoyable, and engaging—indeed, better than many in-person classes I've taken, too.
8. As I previously mentioned, the discussions about the press in the Philippines. It wasn't “aha,” but an added bonus was testing out ChatGPT as a source for translations. This was my first experience with directing questions to a chatbot—I'm currently using a search engine where I can disable AI. It's a tool that I'll keep in mind for judicious use in the future.
9. I really enjoyed all the content and the knowledge, that we're always learning, and there's always something new to discover.
10. There were so many moments that I am not sure that I can pick just one, but I will say that listening to everyone's capstone presentations was so fascinating, given the range of interests and ideas. It was all just such a great experience.
11. The instructor laid the groundwork beautifully for our capstone presentations on individual projects that were given on Friday. However, I'd say that hearing all the presentations today was my favorite part of the course, because I could clearly see how the things that we had learned were already manifesting themselves in different ways based on everyone's individual research.
12. {no response}
13. {no response}

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

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. I want to shout out AP for his excellent online pedagogy. We didn't just sit still on Zoom for eight hours/day.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. The slides prioritized visuals over text—which I generally appreciate! And AP provided note sheets to follow along with higher-level information—a fabulous feature. Still, there was so much content that I couldn't catch, it might be nice to see the lecturer's notes for names, dates, and locations.
8. {no response}
9. Maybe better timing. But the content is excellent!
10. Not that I can think of!
11. Since my only other RBS course was in person and this one was online, I think it might have been nice to have a brief online social hour. Of course, not everyone could attend, but I missed getting to know the other participants a little better.
12. I wish I had understood the capstone assignment earlier, in the weeks prior to the class.
13. More time for meeting fellow students and discussion among the group.

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. 10
3. 10
4. 9
5. {no response}
6. 10
7. 10
8. 10
9. 10
10. 10
11. 10
12. 10
13. 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. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. It was online.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. It wasn't a field trip, but I appreciated the images and video of convent libraries and living spaces.
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. {no response}
12. Yes, they did.
13. N/A

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

1. {no response}
2. Take time before class to read over the assignments, as they took much longer than anticipated.
3. AP is the best online teacher I have ever encountered. He broke up the lectures with case studies and break-out rooms, student participation, and capstone projects. I feel as if I got just as much from this course online as I would have in person. It did not ever feel "lesser than" an in-person course and far exceeded my expectations. Well done!
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. This course is so informative and thorough—you'll be glad you took it!
7. Take it. If not for the content, then for a meticulously planned and executed online course.
8. Taking a class with invested students makes a huge difference. I learned an enormous amount from the other participants, and the capstone presentations were fabulous.
9. I've taken two RBS classes and I was a little worried they might be a little beyond me, but everything was super accessible and interesting.
10. Do it!
11. I would stress the usefulness of reading the advance readings!
12. I would advise them to take it, for sure!
13. {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. Thankful that the course was offered online and that such a specific topic was covered; it would be hard to find resources like this elsewhere.
3. Superb!
4. This is one of the best online courses I've ever had the opportunity to take: it was thorough, wide-ranging, full of incredible depth and detail, and I even feel like I got to know my classmates through my computer screen.
5. {no response}
6. I really enjoyed taking an online RBS class. It was just as rigorous, but more relaxing. I do not really feel like I missed any experience from taking an online course vs. an in-person class. I look forward to taking more online courses in the future.
7. This is the first online class I've ever taken where I haven't wanted to check my email, Instagram, or texts.
8. The class ended much too soon for me.
9. Illuminating!
10. Intense, illuminating, and extremely satisfying!
11. Intense and gratifying.
12. Intense, inspiring, educational, and awesome!
13. {no response}