

Al Carver-Kubik  
I-35: The Identification of Photographic Print Processes  
2–7 June 2019

**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. {private response}
  2. {private response}
  3. Yes, the pre-course readings were helpful and provided necessary background information.
  4. Yes—very interesting.
  5. The readings helped provide a baseline chronology and vocabulary for the week—they were useful!
  6. Yes. No.
  7. The pre-course reading assignments were useful, but it wasn't necessary to read them cover to cover in detail. They were good for familiarizing us with the course material and for reference, though we went over the majority of the material in class.
  8. Yes! The readings were incredibly useful. I plan to use them as reference sources as I continue working with photographic materials.
  9. Yes, but mostly for reviewing in the evenings and/or for later.
  10. Yes, they were quite useful. I need to re-read them.
  11. Mostly helpful to read the pre-course assignments.
  12. The readings were useful; I will likely go back and re-read them now with a better understanding of the material.
  
- 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. A very good text and full of essential material. {private response}
  2. {private response}
  3. Yes. The class booklet contains fundamental information and I will be using it all the time as a reference.
  4. Very thorough—could an index be added?
  5. This was a very useful booklet I will continue to consult!
  6. Workbook and study collection were great. Content of workbook/PowerPoint was both appropriate and informative and worked well alongside the collection.
  7. Everything was incredibly useful. I will definitely continue using the binder as a reference in the future.
  8. The course workbook was so helpful. I think I will reference this workbook frequently in my work.
  9. The course workbook is extremely helpful. You do have to flip around a lot to find the information when you are looking for specifics or at the guides in the back. But it's all there!

10. Yes it was very helpful. I think the articles were a nice addition as well. I also really enjoyed the visit to SC.
11. Workbook will be used often in conjunction with the online resources our instructor recommended.
12. The content was very useful, and I will continue to use it after this course.

3) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your RBS course? Did you walk away with any "aha!" moments, new ideas, or project plans?*

1. I collect nineteenth century images and have bins of family albums and photos to sort. I now know not to throw things away, but to organize and identify them—now that I have a method. I will also look at my collection with new eyes and skills.
2. {private response}
3. I intend to use my skills this summer during a fellowship at the Morgan Library in the department of photography. I will also use these new skills and knowledge of photography during my dissertation research and writing.
4. Plan to supplement my research with this new knowledge. And yes, definitely a few "aha" moments.
5. I plan to use the information from this course to aid item-level description.
6. My position requires that I correctly identify nineteenth- and twentieth-century photographic processes. Some "aha!" moments—mostly pertaining to my understanding of my institution's collection.
7. I hope to use these skills in my career, but even if I don't need to identify processes in the future. I have a much better understanding of them now.
8. I am working on a project with photographically illustrated books, published between the mid nineteenth century and the 1920s. The knowledge and new skills will be of great support of the fellowship project, as I continue to identify prints and perform preservation surveys.
9. To better care for and preserve photographs in our collection. I have a much better sense of the wide variety of processes.
10. I will be using the skills I learned at RBS a lot in my job.
11. Train my cataloger.
12. I will be able to directly apply these skills and knowledge to my daily work. I process photo collections and will feel way more confident moving forward now that I will be able to more correctly identify the material. My Aha! moment was finding out how inevitable the deterioration of chromogenic photos is and thinking about how to care for the large amount we have in our collection.

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. I learned much more than I hoped to learn. The instructor was helpful, kind, and patient and has a great sense of humor.
2. {private response}
3. Yes, I did. I wished that we had had a third text before starting with color photography and another one just on color photography as well.
4. Yes—might have been interested in learning a bit more about the interaction of photography with text or digital images on screens.

5. Yes—I was stunned by how many processes we thoroughly covered.
6. Yes. Yes.
7. Yes, although we could have spent more time discussing vintage prints.
8. Absolutely! Al is so passionate about the course material and is a wonderful instructor. Her teaching style is both clear and creative. She has a great way of making denser course material, such as chemistry, accessible for students.
9. Yes! Al was amazing, even better than I expected. Yes! I learned more than I anticipated.
10. Yes, I did. Although it needs some practice, I really learned a lot.
11. Yes and yes.
12. Yes, absolutely. I learned a lot more about the chemistry and science of photography than I thought I would, and it was super useful and helpful to broaden my general understanding of photography.

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

1. I think it was very well thought-out and organized. It was challenging, but I would not have wanted it to be “cheaper, easier, faster” (well, maybe cheaper, but that, too, is fair and reasonable).
2. {no response}
3. I think that it was a really good class. I can’t think of any recommendations or improvements.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Greater emphasis on preservation, or at least preservation information in the booklet (given time constraints).
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. No.
10. I think having some more time to practice would have been useful. Although the course was quite in-depth.
11. A take-home study set of photos would be really nice.
12. I thought it was great.

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

1. I’m a collector and I found it very relevant to my needs. I was afraid the course would be too technical for me, but I discovered that I need to know all I was taught.
2. {no response}
3. Museum professionals and art historians. People working on conservation, collectors, and dealers.
4. This was a very interesting and helpful course. The instructor generated a very positive and comfortable atmosphere. I think it could benefit a broad range of students with diverse interests.
5. Anyone who has ever seen a photograph and is at risk of seeing another.
6. “GLAM” professionals working with photographic materials/art history students.
7. Anyone interested in photography, especially those who work with photos directly.
8. Anyone interested in learning more about the history of photography and photographic prints.

9. Anyone with a keen interest in photography.
10. People who work with photographic collections and have an interest in photography.
11. Anyone working within the area of photo acquisition, preservation, or cataloging.
12. Anyone who works with photographs.

7) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*

1. Yes and yes!
2. {private response}
3. Yes, for sure!
4. {no response}
5. Yes—I will speak highly of this course to my colleagues.
6. Yes. Yes.
7. Yes!
8. Yes, and yes.
9. Yes and yes.
10. Yes! I really enjoyed it!
11. Yes and yes.
12. Yes, absolutely.

8) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. I enjoyed the trip to SC.
2. {no response}
3. Yes, making contact print photographs was really fun and helpful to understand the photographic processes discussed in class.
4. {no response}
5. Our visit to see two photographic processes was a great visual aid. {private response}
6. Yes. Both the photo development session and SC session were informative.
7. Yes.
8. Yes! The SC visit and darkroom visit were enriching experiences.
9. The trip to the darkroom was a good hands-on break from the classroom. Our time with Heather Riser in SC was great!
10. Yes, I really enjoyed the trip to the SC.
11. Yes. We visited SC at UVA.
12. I thought it was important to see how a photograph is actually MADE. Watching the magic helped a lot of things click.

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

1. Choose your course carefully and be prepared to work hard, expand your thinking, and make new friends.
2. {no response}
3. Do the pre-course readings.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}

6. Complete the readings before class and plan to use them as reference copies after.
7. {no response}
8. N/A
9. Don't hesitate! Take it!
10. No.
11. {no response}
12. Get good sleep!

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

1. The cloud of learning  
So lovely, so demanding  
Suffused with sunlight.
2. {private response}
3. It was great: I learned a lot and had an amazing time.
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. Lived up to expectations. I will be back.
7. Incredibly informative!
8. Wonderful! An experience I'll treasure forever as I continue my career.
9. Overwhelming at times, but an incredible class!
10. The course was quite immersive and I feel like I have a better sense of the history of photographic and photo identification.
11. We froze our butts off  
But stayed awake the whole time  
Al's a kick-ass coach. {Redacted for the web—RBS staff.}
12. I am leaving way smarter than I arrived.

### **Student Data**

*Number of respondents: 12 (of 12)*

*How did you arrange for time off to attend this course?*

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 7 (58.33%)

I am self-employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (8.33%)

I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 2 (16.67%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (8.33%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

I paid 100% myself: 1 (8.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (41.67%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 5 (41.67%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 5 (41.67%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 2 (16.67%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

*Who paid your RBS travel expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 5 (41.67%)

My institution/employer paid 100%: 4 (33.33%)

I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover 100%: 2 (16.67%)

My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

*Which of the following **best** describes your current occupation?*

**Library disciplines:**

Archivist: 2 (16.67%)

Conservator/binder/preservation librarian: 2 (16.67%)

Curator: 1 (8.33%)

Library assistant/clerk: 1 (8.33%)

Other: 1 (8.33%)

**Student working toward a/n:**

Ph.D./D.Phil: 2 (16.67%)

**Professional educator:**

Assistant professor: 1 (8.33%)

Full professor: 1 (8.33%)

**Book trades:**

Antiquarian bookseller: 1 (8.33%)