

Detailed Course Evaluation

- 1) *How useful were the pre-course readings? Did you do any additional preparations in advance of the course?*
 1. Somewhat useful, mainly for getting a sense of the terminology and general scope of the course. But it was very technical and not always comprehensible until DW explained, illustrated, and clarified the various complexities.
 2. Reading Gaskell in advance was extremely useful. I'd suggest also to consult Fredson Bowers, *Principles of Bibliographical Description*.
 3. Very useful. I just wish there had been more time to do the suggested readings. Actually, folding gatherings from the DVD was helpful.
 4. The pre-course readings were very good; I did need to read them a few times over.
 5. The pre-course readings for G-20 were great and really did stand me in good stead for the course.
 6. Quite helpful, and I wish I had been able to do more.
 7. Extremely useful. In comparison to other courses I've taken, I was grateful for the amount of time I had to read the materials.
 8. The pre-course readings were an excellent primer to the class, and provided a solid foundation to the classwork.
 9. The course readings were useful, but greatly improved by the explanations that DW was able to highlight with examples in class. Perhaps a breakdown of the relevant pages per day of course would be helpful for review during RBS week.
 10. Very useful. No other additional prep.
 11. The course readings were helpful, if at times a little dense and difficult. But Gaskell came to life with DW's guidance. I will be rereading most of these readings.
 12. Essential. Must read the Gaskell in advance.

- 2) *Were the course workbook and other materials distributed in class appropriate and useful (or will they be so in the future, after you return home)?*
 1. Very; the workbook will likely sit in my desk to be very regularly consulted, and the future-readings bibliography and other source suggestions promise to be very useful as well.
 2. The workbook was very well structured and incredibly useful.
 3. See above. Yes. The DVD seems dated from a feminist viewpoint, but it is useful. The course workbook is thoughtfully arranged, thorough, helpful, and must have taken time to compile. Thank you!
 4. Yes. They will help take back and reinforce what I learned here.
 5. This is the most comprehensive and helpful workbook I've ever used! You've outdone yourself. It will remain a treasured reference source.
 6. Yes! They will be quite useful when I return home. This is an in-depth workbook, logically arranged, and full of helpful info for class and beyond.
 7. Yes, all of it was and will be very useful.

8. The workbook was—and will be—a very good reference tool.
9. Yes.
10. Yes. Videos were very useful, workbook well organized. I will continue to consult the workbook.
11. Workbook was useful. I will be reading it over more carefully when I get back to work.
12. Essential. The workbook allowed one to take bare-bones notes, and to focus on examples described and shown in class.

3) *Have you taken one or more RBS courses before? If so, how did this course compare with your previous coursework?*

1. No.
2. This is my first course at RBS.
3. This is a wonderful course. From the standpoint of teaching, it is clearly the best. The professor has a real gift for putting students at ease, creating a pleasurable learning environment, and making what could be dense information, lively and memorable.
4. Yes. Much harder, mainly because I've never collated or foliated. I'm not a trained bibliographer.
5. This has been my favorite course to date. This room was the nicest, and DW is not only passionate about his subject, but genuinely interested in getting others to become so.
6. No.
7. No.
8. No.
9. No.
10. No. First course.
11. Yes. I have enjoyed all of the RBS classes I have taken. This one is one of my favorites.
12. This was my first course.

4) *What aspects of the course content were of the greatest interest or relevance for your purposes?*

1. All of them were of great interest, and all are relevant to my day-to-day.
2. The whole course was very relevant for my purpose. I enjoyed especially the discussion of provenance and the visit to SC.
3. Format, collation; signing statement, pagination; and foliation. Provenance. Cross comparisons of editions/issues/states in copies of the same title.
4. Everything. I really enjoyed learning about the "book" in parts, working toward understanding the whole book. Then being able to deconstruct the "book" to be able to describe what I'm seeing.
5. For my immediate purposes (cataloging), the collation content is the most valuable. For my ongoing interests in book arts, the paper, type, and binding content was hugely enjoyable.
6. Ah! Well, the paper making and paper printing were of the most interest. The most relevant was the formula—the descriptive information. I am *not* a cataloger,

but this assists me in evaluating our records and being able to talk with knowledge on our description practices.

7. All of the course was excellent and more or less what I expected. My favorite were the sessions on paper and bookbinding.
 8. I took this course primarily for an introduction to formal bibliographical description to ensure that written documentation for treatment reports would be as accurate as possible.
 9. Loved the hands-on demonstrations with the type and press. Great to see so much of what was described in Gaskell be explained with hands-on practice and examples.
 10. Bookbinding demonstration. Section on illustration.
 11. I will never look at a pre-1800 book the same way again. Everything that we covered was interesting and will be useful in my work.
 12. All components were relevant for my purposes. I especially appreciated the optional evening collation workshops.
- 5) *Did the instructor successfully help you to acquire the information, knowledge, and skills that the course was intended to convey? Was the intellectual level of the course appropriate?*
1. Very much so. I never thought I would understand, much less create, collation formulas, but DW somehow made it possible.
 2. The instructor is extremely knowledgeable, very humble, engaging, and with an excellent sense of humor!
 3. Absolutely. The course lived up to its billing and then some. Very intellectually engaging subject matter and presentation.
 4. *Yes, and yes!* DW makes what seems impossible to understand very digestible.... I never thought that I would be able to begin to comprehend the formula, but through his teaching I enjoyed the formula, and can better appreciate the work of Gaskell and Bowers.
 5. Yes. Challenging, and therefore entirely appropriate.
 6. Yes. Yes.
 7. Yes! DW is an amazing teacher—his pace was excellent, his humble disposition and his patience to make sure everyone understood complex concepts are unmatched. RBS is fortunate to have such a talented and intelligent professor.
 8. Yes.
 9. Yes. Yes.
 10. Yes, and yes. Very much so.
 11. DW was excellent. He is engaging with a wry and dry sense of humor. He is also very smart and knows this material.
 12. Yes, to all of these.
- 6) *What did you like best about the course?*
1. The fact that RBS has examples for almost everything discussed. The hands-on, very practical approach is what I need to learn.
 2. For my work, I constantly use rare books. Nonetheless, the course changed the way I look at books, and taught me how to examine them from a proper bibliographical point of view.

3. The gifted teaching.
4. DW.
5. DW.
6. I liked the instructor—DW made the info more palatable, based on his knowledge, clear arrangement of material, and easygoing manner. I also liked the size and ability to network.
7. DW.
8. This course was an excellent first foray into bibliographical description and analysis; it made the subject approachable and manageable without shying away from complexity.
9. So many excellent real-life examples of materials to demonstrate what was being discussed.
10. All of the examples we were able to look at.
11. It is difficult to select one thing; I like how all the sessions worked together to illuminate the topic.
12. Seeing the multiple examples of paper, books, &c., and working through the case studies.

7) *How could the course have been improved?*

1. I think it's great as is. Perhaps a bit more time in special collections.
2. Not sure, it was excellent.
3. Hard to say, but I regretted not being able to attend *both* evening workshops. Perhaps knowing about them well ahead of time would help—then I would have made time for both.
4. I'm not sure. I would like to suggest more time or a longer period, but that would be too much. It's hard to improve perfection.
5. {No response—RBS staff}
6. I'm not sure. My doing more reading would have improved my experience.
7. No idea—the course was excellent.
8. {No response—RBS staff}
9. {No response—RBS staff}
10. It was difficult, at times, to look at materials while the topic of discussion progressed. I had to divide my attention. Not sure how to improve this. Perhaps have numerous examples of a topic and split class into groups to look at books collectively.
11. The course was excellent as is.
12. This is a meticulously planned course, which was executed expertly—so no real improvements to suggest—perhaps a bit more time on variant states, different editions, &c.

8) *Did you learn what the course description/advertisement indicated you would learn?*

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. Yes. The workshop was fantastic and very generous of DW.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.

7. Yes.
8. Yes.
9. Yes.
10. Yes.
11. Yes.
12. Yes.

9) *How do you intend to use or apply the knowledge or skills learned in this course?*

1. In all aspects of my job as a librarian responsible for rare books. What I learned will help me manage, study, and promote the collection, as well as add to it.
2. I will use it for my research and teaching
3. All the information lets me bring more knowledge and understanding to the special projects in rare book cataloging that I get assigned to do.
4. Hopefully, I will be better able to speak to, or at least have the courage and knowledge to talk with, the cataloger about the collection records.
5. Better cataloging records.
6. I will be able to talk with our technical services staff and assess current practices. I will be able to assess our holdings with more knowledge, along with purchasing materials. The reading list at the end will allow me to educate myself further in this area.
7. I will be working with Arabic printed books in the coming months (or years), and will be transferring the knowledge acquired during this week to better understand those books and their processes.
8. I will now be more able to use textual evidence to discern peculiarities in the structure of a book, which will help inform conservation treatments.
9. As promised, this course taught me to look at books in a whole new way. My academic background taught me to look at text and text alone, not at the way books were created. I will ask so many different questions each time I look at a book in the future.
10. Will be exploring working for a rare book seller.
11. I will now be able to look at materials in my library in an informal manner that will help me select examples for my instruction.
12. I plan to use the knowledge acquired in my own teaching in special collections as a faculty member; this course helped to shore up my knowledge of bibliography; the course also was a model of how to pace and how to organize teaching with rare books.

10) *If your course left its classroom, was the time devoted to this purpose well spent?*

1. N/A.
2. Yes.
3. Visit to SC dovetailed nicely with course.
4. Yes. DW is an excellent teacher and presenter. He gave the class an impromptu curator tour that was superb! He could give a class in exhibit design.
5. Yes, our work with the common press and typesetting was very helpful.
6. Yes—our visit to SC was great—GOOD info! Well organized.

7. Yes, and yes. We had two trips, one for printing and another to SC. The printing I wish we'd had more time; perhaps an optional evening of printing could be offered in the future.
 8. Yes, the trip to SC was an excellent opportunity to see examples of printing and binding types not available in the RBS book collection.
 9. Absolutely.
 10. Yes. The trip to SC was very useful.
 11. Very well spent.
 12. N/A.
- 11) *If you attended the evening events (e.g., RBS Lecture, Video Night, RBS Forum, Booksellers' Night), were they worth attending?*
1. I appreciate the option, but an activity every night was a bit much for me, so I skipped some, plus the class has an evening workshop.
 2. Yes.
 3. Yes. The second lecture on Updike's use of computers is the only extra event I attended. It was worth it.
 4. Yes. I think time would be better spent if we had a field trip to Monticello instead of Video Night or Booksellers' Night. I would pay extra money for that option.
 5. Yes.
 6. Yes. Video Night was good, but I could only stay for one—showing both was too much of a commitment based on other things going on at the time. The film was good, as was Booksellers' Night!
 7. Yes. I did most of these and I was a little disappointed with the Booksellers' Night.
 8. No.
 9. {No response—RBS staff}
 10. Booksellers' Night. Two of the stores we visited were already closed at 7:30.
 11. Yes {circled RBS Lecture—RBS staff}.
 12. No.
- 12) *We are always concerned about the physical well-being both of the RBS teaching collections and of materials owned by UVA's Special Collections. If relevant, what suggestions do you have for the improved classroom handling of such materials used in your course this week?*
1. No.
 2. They were handled with extreme care.
 3. Hand sanitizers outside doors of all classrooms that have to be used as students enter.
 4. No.
 5. Please see response to Q7, above.
 6. Ours was heavy in use of materials, but I think it was handled well.
 7. N/A.
 8. {No response—RBS staff}
 9. {No response—RBS staff}
 10. No.
 11. {No response—RBS staff}
 12. Some of the Allen baskets had broken spindles (replace these). Put in the course

handbook that no chewing gum is permitted in the seminar rooms.

13) *Did you (or your institution) get your money's worth? Would you recommend this course to others?*

1. YES!
2. I will recommend it to students and colleagues.
3. Yes, and yes.
4. Yes, and yes. My institution will reap the rewards.
5. Yes, and yes.
6. Yes! Yes!
7. YES! And YES! I will recommend, but I also hope to return myself.
8. Yes.
9. Yes.
10. Yes.
11. Yes. And yes. I would highly recommend this class.
12. Yes. The stars of RBS are the faculty members and the teaching collection itself. These are unparalleled.

14) *Any final or summary thoughts, or advice for other persons considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {No response—RBS staff}
2. Dedicate enough time with the preliminary readings. In this way it will be easier to get the most out of the course.
3. P.S.—Just wish there was a refrigerator for bag lunches. Eating out so much is not fun for delicate tummies.
4. {No response—RBS staff}
5. {No response—RBS staff}
6. I think this was a well-organized group, and I thoroughly enjoyed my experience here. I appreciate the networking opportunities—these are helpful! I also liked the dinner sign-up on Sunday. The subject matter was useful, and everyone I talked to was enjoying the experience AND getting what they expected (and more) from their courses.
7. Do the readings ahead of time, be prepared to work hard, but also to meet and network with really great people. Enjoy yourself!
8. {No response—RBS staff}
9. {No response—RBS staff}
10. DW was a great and engaging instructor. The class was enjoyable and informative.
11. RBS rocks!
12. If you wish to acquire a foundation in early printed books, with some instruction in collation formulas, this is a perfect course.

Aggregate Statistics

Number of respondents: 12

Leave

Institution gave me leave: 8 (66.67%)

I took vacation time or unpaid leave: 2 (16.67%)

N/A: self-employed, retired, or had summers off: 1 (8.33%)

Other: 1 (8.33%)

Tuition

Institution paid tuition: 8 (66.67%)

I paid tuition: 2 (16.67%)

Scholarship paid: 1 (8.33%)

Fellowship paid: 1 (8.33%)

Housing

Institution paid housing: 8 (66.67%)

I paid for my own housing: 3 (25%)

Fellowship paid: 1 (8.33%)

Travel

Institution paid travel: 8 (66.67%)

I paid my own travel: 3 (25%)

Fellowship paid: 1 (8.33%)

Which one category most closely defines what you do for a living, or why you are at RBS?

Archivist: 2 (16.67%)

Conservator/binder/preservation librarian: 1 (8.33%)

Full-time student: M.L.I.S.: 1 (8.33%)

Librarian with some rare book duties: 2 (16.67%)

Rare book librarian: 3 (25%)

Retired: 1 (8.33%)

Teacher or professor: University: assistant professor: 1 (8.33%)

Teacher or professor: University: full or associate professor: 1 (8.33%)