



HISTORY 543.01E
COLLOQUIUM: GRADUATE READINGS IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2013

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 105
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-5:00, or by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the wide range of research questions and historiographer debates which occupy historians of Europe from approximately 1500 to 1789. Readings will concentrate on the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, urbanization and economic change, European expansion and the world economy, the witch craze, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution.

This course is intended as an introduction to the study of early modern European history, roughly 1450-1800. This period saw major transitions in European culture and society, and in Europe's connections to the rest of the world. This period includes what have been called the Age of Expansion, the Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, the Age of Absolutism, the Enlightenment, and so on. Many of these different "ages" included times of great turbulence and turmoil, and all involved efforts by Europeans to better understand their own societies, their place in the world, and their place in God's universe as they understood it. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of how and why European society, politics, and culture developed as they did and how those developments affected Europe's relations with other parts of the world. We will consider five major themes over the course of the semester: Women and Gender, European Expansion, Religion and Popular Belief, Science and Authority, and War. Geographically, our readings will cover the entire expanse of Europe, including Eastern Europe (and Russia), Germany, Spain, Italy, France, and Britain. Readings may overlap geographically and thematically. These overlaps will allow us to draw connections and identify similarities and differences over the broad geographical and temporal scope of the course. The readings cover a broad range of methodological approaches, as well as conceptual and historiographic trends. Students will complete two book reviews and a historiographical essay on a topic of their choosing related to the course material.

At the end of this course, students will have:

- Developed their knowledge and understanding of key historical events, processes, and themes in Early Modern Europe from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century.
- Developed their ability to frame historical questions and think critically about the significance of and connections among historical events and developments.
- Developed their ability to express their historical analyses and syntheses in writing and orally more clearly, concisely, coherently, and effectively.

Course Materials:

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Steven Ozment, *When Fathers Ruled: Family Life in Reformation Europe* (Harvard University Press, 1985), 248pp, ISBN 978-0674951211, \$28.00.
- Anna Kuxhausen, *From the Womb to the Body Politic: Raising the Nation in Enlightenment Russia* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2012), 184pp, ISBN 978-0299289942, \$29.95.
- Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany* (Yale University Press, 2006), 376pp, ISBN 978-0300119831, \$23.00.
- Benjamin Kaplan, *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe* (Belknap Press, 2010), 432 pp, ISBN 978-0674034730, \$21.00.
- Jay Smith, *Monsters of the Gevaudan: The Making of a Beast* (Harvard University Press, 2011), 392pp, ISBN 978-0674047167, \$35.00.
- Chester Dunning, *A Short History of Russia's First Civil War: The Time of Troubles to the Founding of the Romanov Dynasty* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), 342pp, ISBN 978-0271024653, \$25.95.
- C. V. Wedgwood, *The Thirty Years War* (NYRB Classics, 2005), 536pp, ISBN 978-1590171462, \$19.95.
- Mario Biagioli, *Galileo, Courtier: The Practice of Science in the Culture of Absolutism* (University of Chicago Press, 1994), 416pp, ISBN 978-0226045603, \$25.00.
- Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Cornell University Press, 2010), 352pp, ISBN 978-0801476327, \$24.95.
- Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II, Vol. 1* (University of California Press, 1996), 642pp, ISBN 978-0300059908, \$37.55.
- Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 208pp, ISBN 978-0801843877, \$22.00.

Any additional materials will be distributed in class by the professor or made available to students through eCollege.

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary over the course of the semester.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials, and to understand different historians' interpretations of events. By the end of the semester, students should be able to: *identify and compare different authors' interpretations of specific historical events, topics, or trends in early modern Europe.*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments*Attendance and Participation*

For all discussions, students are expected to come prepared to engage with the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material to class. I expect all students to participate actively in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual

environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own.

Students will be responsible for leading class discussion at least once, possible twice (depending on enrollment). Discussion leaders will be responsible for developing a list of questions and issues raised by the book under consideration, as well as researching, identifying, and explaining the historiographical significance of the book and its critical reception.

Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

Written Assignments

This semester's major written work will be a historiographical essay on a topic of the student's choice related to the readings and topics covered in the course. Students will also complete two book reviews over the course of the semester, due the Monday after the relevant topic is discussed. Details of the written assignments are available on the eCollege site.

Grading

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Historiography Essay	40%
Book Reviews	20%
Participation	40%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

eCollege:

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamuc-commerce.edu. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

Turnitin:

All written work must be submitted to Turnitin.com. Submissions to Turnitin are made through the dropbox on eCollege. All written work for this course will be turned in through the drop box in eCollege. Please do not include personal information on eCollege submissions. Please let me know if you have any problems.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

Librarian:

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Sarah Northam. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Sarah Northam, Reference Librarian
Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu
903-886-5714

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on

with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

Late Papers

All written assignments are due as indicated in the Course Schedule below or on eCollege. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

Academic Honesty

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

August 28: Introduction

September 4: no class

September 11: Braudel, *Mediterranean*

September 18: Roper, *Witch Craze*

September 25: Ozment, *When Fathers Ruled*

October 2: No class

October 9: Wedgwood, *The Thirty Years War*

October 16: Dunning, *Russia's First Civil War*

October 23: Kaplan, *Divided by Faith*

October 30: Ginzburg, *Cheese and the Worms*

November 6: Biagioli, *Galileo, Courtier*

November 13: Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures*

November 20: Smith, *Monsters of the Gevaudan*

November 27: No class, Thanksgiving

December 4: Kuxhausen, *From the Womb to the Body Politic*

December 11: Historiography Essay Due