

Spring 2010

Thurs 2-4pm

Location: CGIS S450 (located at 1730 Cambridge St)

Course website: <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k16917>

**History 81a**  
**History in early modern Europe**  
Research seminar

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This course will examine the cultural significance of history as a discipline and as a practice in Europe from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. We will consider the nature and purposes of different kinds of historical writing and the ways in which histories were read and used. Histories were written to justify disciplines, states and religions; at the same time historical research prompted the development of new scholarly methods and subdisciplines. Students in the course will be guided through the stages of writing a major research paper.

**Requirements:**

-regular attendance; active and informed participation, including one or more brief presentations on the assigned reading and various written exercises (25%)

-short paper (4-6pp) due (Week V) (15%)

-oral presentation on the final paper in Week XIII (20%)

-final research paper (20-25pp) on a topic of student's choice (that meets with the instructors' approval) due at the end of reading period. (40%)

**Books available for purchase at the COOP** (prices listed here are from Amazon). All purchases are optional--these books are also on reserve at Lamont:

Lloyd Kramer and Sarah Maza ed., A Companion to Western Historical Thought (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006); 978-1405149617; \$46.95

(R)Anthony Grafton, What Was History? The Art of History in Early Modern Europe (CUP, 2007); 978-0521-697149; \$19.49

Guicciardini, Francesco. The History of Italy. (Princeton University Press, 1984); 978-0691008004; \$24.38

Valla, Lorenzo. The treatise of Lorenzo Valla on the donation of Constantine, tr. Glen Bowersock. Harvard University Press. I Tatti series. 978-0674030893; \$17.95

Jose de Acosta, Natural and Moral History of the Indies, tr. Frances López-Morillas (Duke University Press, 2002); 978-0822328452; \$26.95

Edward Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, abridged ed (Penguin, 2001); 978-0140437645; \$10.88

Starred items will be made available in class. "Further readings" are strictly optional, offered as suggestions for investigating a paper topic related to that week's reading.

## Syllabus

### Week I (Jan 28): introduction

course topics and goals; overview of the historiography in the field; in-class reading of examples

### Week II (Feb 4): Humanism I--history and philology

**Reading:** \*Rice, Foundations of Early Modern Europe (2<sup>nd</sup> ed 1994), ch. 3 (on humanism)

Peter Burke, "A survey of the popularity of ancient historians 1450-1700," History and Theory 5:2 (1966), 135-52 (skim; on-line through HOLLIS)

Lorenzo Valla, Treatise on the Donation of Constantine (from ms of 1451), entire

\*Carlo Ginzburg, "Lorenzo Valla on the 'Donation of Constantine,'" in History, Rhetoric and Proof (1999), pp. 54-69

\*Peter Burke, The Renaissance Sense of the Past, pp. 21-69

**For further reading:** special issue on Valla in Journal of the History of Ideas (1996); Anthony Grafton, Forgers and Critics (1990)

### Week III (Feb 11): HOUGHTON LIBRARY methods of doing history—material bibliography

\*\* meet in the lobby at 2pm. Please travel light: you'll be asked to put all your belongings in a locker\*\*

**Reading:** \*Michel de Certeau, The Writing of History (1988; in French 1975), ch. 2: "the historiographical operation"

Anthony Grafton, What Was History? (2007), ch. 1.

\*Eugene Rice, The Foundations of Early Modern Europe (1994), pp. 1-10 ("the invention of printing")

Lisa Jardine and Anthony Grafton, "How Gabriel Harvey Read his Livy," Past and Present (1990), pp. 30-78 (on-line through HOLLIS)

Ann Blair, "Reading Strategies for Coping with Information Overload, ca. 1550-1700," Journal of the History of Ideas 64 (2003), pp. 11-28. (on-line through HOLLIS)

### Week IV (Feb 18): library resources (with Hannah Callaway and Fred Burchsted)

**Assignment for class:** Hollis quiz

SHORT PAPER DUE FRIDAY FEB 19 AT 5PM (choice of topics to be circulated)

### Week V (Feb 25): Humanism II--history and rhetoric

**Assignment:** meet with one of your instructors this week about final paper topics

**Reading:** Guicciardini, History of Italy (composed 1537-40, left in ms; this translation in 1969), bk 1 to p. 43 (skim the rest), bk 4, pp. 140-51 (on church claims to secular power), bk 8 (speech of Trevisan), bk 18 (sack of Rome)

\*Leopold von Ranke, "Critique of Guicciardini" (originally written in 1824) in Ranke, The Secret of world history: selected writing on the art and science of history ed. Roger Wines (1981),

pp. 77-98.

Eric Cochrane, "The profession of historian in the Renaissance," Journal of Social History 15 (1981): 51-72 (skim--on-line through HOLLIS)

\*Peter Burke, The Renaissance Sense of the Past, pp. 105-30.

**For further reading:** Felix Gilbert, Guicciardini and Machiavelli; Mark Phillips, "Machiavelli, Guicciardini and the tradition of vernacular historiography," AHR 84 (1979), pp. 86-105; Mark Phillips, "Disenchanted witness: participation and alienation in Florentine historiography," JHI (1983), on Florentine chroniclers before Guicciardini

### **Week VI (March 4): exemplar history and imperial mythography**

**Assignment:** meet with the other of your instructors this week about final paper topics

**Reading:** \*Jean Bodin, Method for the easy comprehension of history (1566; this translation 1945), pp. 1-56 [skim ch. 2], 63-65 [Plutarch], 73-75 [Guicciardini], 85-105 (on method), 291-303 (refutation of four monarchies)

Grafton, What was History? ad indicem "Bodin"

\*Montaigne, "Defense of Seneca and Plutarch," Essays (written 1580-95) II, 32 and II:10, pp. 303-6 on historians.

George Nadel, "The Philosophy of History before Historicism," History and Theory (1964) (on-line through HOLLIS)

\*Marie Tanner, The Last Descendant of Aeneas: The Hapsburgs and the Mythic Image of the Emperor (1993), pp. 67-76, 82-85, 98-118.

\*Burke, The Renaissance Sense of the Past, pp. 77-104.

**For further reading:** [on French historiography in late 16<sup>th</sup> ct] George Huppert, "The Renaissance background of Historicism," History and Theory 5(1966): 48-60 [includes appendix of one page of La Popelinière translated] and The Idea of Perfect History; Zachary Schiffman, "Renaissance historicism reconsidered" History and Theory (1985), pp. 170-82

### **Week VII (March 11): confessional histories**

**Assignment due by class time:** paper prospectus presenting your ideas for the final paper, including the primary source you plan to analyze and the questions you plan to investigate (1-2pp)

**Reading:** Versions of History, pp. 311-45 (Luther, Bucer, Sleidan, Calvin, Foxe, Clarendon). Choose one of these authors and browse their works as available on EEBO –note the size of the original, the number of editions, the presentation and nature of the contents.

\*Anthony Grafton, "Where was Salomon's House? Ecclesiastical History and the Intellectual Origins of Bacon's New Atlantis," in Die Europäische Gelehrtenrepublik im Zeitalter des Konfessionalismus, Wolfenbütteler Forschungen 96 (2001): 21-39.

Gregory B. Lyon, "Baudouin, Flaccius and the Magdeburg Centuries," Journal of the History of Ideas 64 (2003), pp. 253-72 (on-line through HOLLIS)

\*Brad Gregory, Salvation at Stake (1999) on martyrologies: "the midcentury martyrologies" (pp. 165-87), "Protestant martyrologies in national contexts" (pp. 187-96).

**For further reading:** on Catholic historiography: Simon Ditchfield, Liturgy, sanctity and history in Tridentine Italy (1995); Paolo Sarpi, History of the Interdict in Brendan Dooley ed. and tr., Italy in the Baroque, pp. 148-83.

SPRING BREAK

### **Week VIII (March 25): the impact of contact with other cultures**

**Assignment due by class time:** bibliography of primary and secondary sources for your final paper

**Reading:** Jose de Acosta, Natural and Moral History of the Indies (1590; this translation 2002), book I, chs. 1-7, 13, 19-25; II, chs 1-3; III, ch. 1; V, chs. 1-6; VI, chs. 1-4, 7-8; skim book VII, ch. 1.

Edwin van Kley, "Europe's discovery of China and the writing of world history," American Historical Review 76 (1971): 358-385 (on-line through HOLLIS)

\*Peter Burke, "America and the Rewriting of World History," in America in European Consciousness 1493-1750 (1995), pp. 33-51

**For further reading:** Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, How to Write the History of the New World: Histories, Epistemologies and Identities in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (2001); David Armitage, "The New World and British Historical Thought: From Richard Hakluyt to William Robertson" in America in European Consciousness (1995).

### **Week IX (April 1): new kinds of historical evidence, new audiences**

**Assignment due by class time:** sample close reading for your primary source (2-3pp)

**Reading:** \*Barbara Shapiro, A culture of fact, England 1550-1720 (2000), ch. 2 : "fact" and history, only pp. 34-40 and 47-53

\*Alain Schnapp, The Discovery of the Past (1997), ch 3: "From antiquary to archeologist" (pp. 179-219)

Peter Burke, "Images as Evidence in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Europe," Journal of the History of Ideas 64 no. 2 (2003) (on-line through HOLLIS)

\*Jean Mabillon, On diplomatics (1681) in Gay ed., Historians at Work (1972), pp. 161-98.

**For further reading:** on antiquarianism: Peter Miller, Peiresc's Europe: Learning and Virtue in the Seventeenth Century (2000); Arnaldo Momigliano, "The Rise of Antiquarian Research" in The Classical Foundations of Modern Historiography (1990)

### **Week X (April 8): Enlightenment (I)—Edward Gibbon**

**Assignment due by class time:** report on the context of your primary source (e.g. comparison with 2-3 other works, relation of your source to political, social, intellectual context)

**Reading:** Edward Gibbon, Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire (1776) (available in multiple copies in the library; pp #s from Womersley unabridged ed). Book 1, ch 1 entire, ch 15, esp beginning and end (I, 446-54 and 507-513). Book 3, ch 28 end (II, pp. 96-97), ch 31 end (II, pp. 231-34), ch 34 near end (II, pp. 312-4), and general observations (II, 508-16). Book 4, ch 40 (II, 585-86). Book 6, ch. 71 (pp. 1063-85).

Edward Gibbon, Memoirs of My Life, pp. 178-79 (Penguin ed)—letter of David Hume of 18 March 1776

Arnaldo Momigliano, "Gibbon's contribution to historical method" in Studies in Historiography (1966)

John Clive, Not by Fact Alone, pp. 25-33, 48-65

**For further reading:** J.G.A. Pocock, Barbarism and Religion (1999), on Gibbon; Montesquieu and his Considerations on the causes of the greatness of the Romans and their decline; Voltaire, History of Charles XII, King of Sweden or The Age of Louis XIV

**Week XI (April 15): Enlightenment (II)—Condorcet and conjectural history (led by Hannah Callaway)**

**Assignment due by class time:** statement of your thesis and your historiographical position

**Reading:** Condorcet, *Sketch for a historical picture of the progress of the human mind* (1795), selections, and other readings TBA

**Weeks XII-XIII (April 22-29): student presentations on their papers in progress**

**FULL DRAFTS of final papers DUE FRIDAY APRIL 30 AT NOON**

**FINAL PAPERS DUE THURSDAY MAY 6, 2008 AT NOON; NO FINAL EXAM**

### **Further suggestions for final paper topics:**

In addition to the authors and extra readings mentioned in the syllabus, we offer some other primary and secondary sources to consider. You may focus on a particular author and/or work or on a theme (as long as the topic is articulated as to be manageable!). If you have proficiency in one or more foreign languages, please speak to the instructors about topics that would make best use of your skills.

### **Biographies**

of religious figures: Melanchthon, Life of Luther (in English, 1561 as A famous and godly history); Theodore Beza, Life of Calvin

of other kinds of figures: Pierre Gassendi, Mirrouir of True Nobility (life of Nicolas Fabri de Peiresc, an antiquarian); Pierre Gassendi, Vies de Tycho Brahe, Copernic, Peurbach et Regiomontanus, in modern edition of 1996 (requires French)

### **History in poetic form:**

Samuel Daniel (1562-1619), wrote English history in verse

Pierre de Ronsard, La Franciade (requires French)

### **Histories of disciplines—historiographical leads:**

-of mathematics (the topic would require French or Italian): Paul Rose, The Italian Renaissance of Mathematics ch. 12: Bernardino Baldi; Cifoletti, Giovanna, "The creation of the history of algebra," in L'Europe mathématique, ed Catherine Goldstein et al. (Paris: MSH, 1996), pp. 123-42.

-of artists: Vasari, Lives of Artists; Polydore Vergil, On the inventors of things

### **Methods of history:**

See sources cited in Grafton, What was history?

Degory Wheare (1573-1647), The method and order of reading histories

Thomas Blundeville, True order and method of wryting and reading histories

### **Universal/biblical history**

Examine how a biblical episode was interpreted by an early modern author: e.g. Moses, Noah, the size of the Temple, the Ark. Authors include Athanasius Kircher, Isaac Newton among others.

Bossuet, Discourse on universal history

### **History in national contexts**

Gaspar Contareno, The commonwealth and government of Venice

Orest Ranum, Artisans of Glory (on French royal historiographers--would require French)

Daniel Woolf, Reading history in early modern England (2000)

John Selden, A History of Tithes

John Twyne, De rebus angliis et albionis et britannicis, available in unpublished English tr'n

### **Enlightenment:**

Giambattista Vico, The New Science –difficult!

Jena-Jacques Rousseau, First and Second Discourses

David Hume, History of England