

Spring 2007
Tues 2-4pm
Coolidge Room, Adams House I-entry

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Spring 2007
History 90b
Sophomore tutorial in Early Modern European History

This tutorial on early modern Europe focuses on historiography, i.e. the ways in which this field has been defined and studied by historians. Topics addressed range chronologically from humanism and Reformations to the 18th century and from social and economic history to intellectual and cultural history. The course is designed for sophomore history concentrators, but others with similar preparation and needs may be admitted with the instructor's permission.

Requirements:

- active and informed participation: 25%
- oral presentation on a topic as proposed in the syllabus (or on another topic which meets with the instructor's approval): 20%
- short paper (5-7pp), due in week IV (March 3), analyzing your choice of weekly readings to date: 20%
- final bibliographic essay (10-12pp), on a topic of your choice which meets with the instructors' approval: 35%

Books on order at the COOP:

These books have been ordered at the COOP for your convenience (prices are from amazon); they are also available for sale elsewhere. All books are on reserve in the libraries and many are available in multiple copies, so that you could check out a copy for your own use. Buy only what you'd like to own; no purchases are required.

Eugene Rice and Anthony Grafton, Foundations of early modern Europe 1460-1559, 2nd ed. (Norton, 1994); \$25.95; ISBN 0-393-96304-7

Johann Huizinga, The Waning of the Middle Ages (Dover) \$9.95; 0486404439

Natalie Z. Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre (Harvard University Press, 1984); \$16.95; ISBN: 0674766911

Merry Wiesner, Witchcraft in early modern Europe (2006); \$25; 978-0618474806

Lawrence Stone, Causes of the English Revolution 1529-1642 (first published 1972; any edition is OK)--used copies for sale; ISBN 0061316784 or try amazon.com

Steven Shapin, The Scientific Revolution (U of Chicago Press, 1998); \$10.95; ISBN: 0226750213
John Elliott, The Old World and the New (Cambridge University Press, 1992); \$17.99; ISBN 0521427096

Robert Darnton, Great Cat Massacre (Vintage, 1985); \$11.62; ISBN 978-039729725

Readings not available for sale:

A number of readings are listed as "on-line"--to locate these start with a journal search on HOLLIS and follow the links to the on-line versions on Harvard's e-resources. Other items will be distributed in class.

Syllabus

Week I (Feb 6): periodization: what is "early modern"?

Reading: Rice, Foundations of early modern Europe, ch. 2

Johan Huizinga, The Waning of the Middle Ages (first published 1919; English translation 1954), chs. 1-3, 11-14, 16-17 (at COOP and in very many copies in the library)

William Bouwsma, "The Waning of the Middle Ages Revisited," in his A usable Past: Essays in European Cultural History (University of California Press, 1990), pp. 325-35 [photocopies available from the tutorial office]

Randolph Starn, "Review article: the early modern muddle," Journal of Early Modern History 6:3 (2002), pp. 296-307 (on-line)

Edwards Peters and Walter Simons, "The New Huizinga and the Old Middle Ages," Speculum 1999 (74:3), pp. 596-620 (skip the first section)

MOVIE SCREENING: "The Return of Martin Guerre," Wed Feb 7, 7-9pm, CGIs-Knafel N-050 (this building is located at 1737 Cambridge St, room on basement level)

Week II (Feb 13): life in early modern Europe

Reading: Please watch the movie and read the book: Natalie Z. Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre (COOP) with critique by Robert Finlay and response by Davis in American Historical Review 93:3 (1988), pp. 553-71 (on-line)

David Bell, "Total History and Microhistory: the French and Italian Paradigms," in A Companion to Western Historical Thought, ed. Lloyd Kramer and Sarah Maza (2002), pp. 262-76. [copies to be distributed]

Week III (Feb 20): humanism

Reading: Rice, Foundations of early modern Europe, ch. 3

Wallace K. Ferguson, "The Interpretation of Italian Humanist: The Contribution of Hans Baron," Journal of the History of Ideas 19 (1958): 14-25 (on-line)

Hans Baron, "Moot Problems of Renaissance Interpretation: an Answer to Wallace K. Ferguson," Journal of the History of Ideas 19 (1958): 26-34 (on-line)

Hans Baron, "Leonardo Bruni: 'Professional Rhetorician' or 'Civic Humanist'?" Past and Present 36 (1967): 21-37 (on-line)

James Hankins, "The 'Baron Thesis' after Forty Years and Some Recent Studies of Leonardo Bruni," Journal of the History of Ideas 56 (1995): 309-38 (on-line)

John Najemy, "Civic humanism and Florentine politics," in Renaissance Civic

Humanism. Reappraisals and Reflections, ed. James Hankins (Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 75-104. [copies to be distributed]

Week IV (Feb 27): printing

****This session will take place at Houghton Library--meet in the lobby of Houghton Library at the usual time****

Reading: Rice, Foundations of early modern Europe, pp. 1-10

Elizabeth Eisenstein, "Some conjectures about the impact of printing on Western society and thought: a preliminary report" Journal of Modern History (1968) (on-line)

Anthony Grafton, "The Importance of Being Printed" (Review of Eisenstein's 1980 The Printing Press as an Agent of Change) in Journal of Interdisciplinary History 11 (1980) pp 265-286 (on-line)

"How revolutionary was the print revolution?" a forum featuring a debate between Elizabeth Eisenstein and Adrian Johns, American Historical Review 107:1 (2002), pp. 84-128. (on-line)

SHORT PAPER DUE ON FRIDAY MARCH 1, AT NOON on your choice of topic selected from the readings for Weeks 1-4

Week V (March 6): the Reformations

Reading: Rice, Foundations of early modern Europe, ch. 5 and ch. 6 to p. 200 (excluding English Reformation)

Steven Ozment, The Age of Reform 1250-1550, pp. 223-89 ("The Mental World of Martin Luther," "Society and Politics in the German Reformation) (on reserve and in multiple copies in libraries)

Robert Scribner, "Incombustible Luther: the Image of the Reformer in Early Modern Germany," Past and Present 110 (1986): 38-68 (on-line)

Gerald Strauss, "Success and Failure in the German Reformation," Past and Present 67 (1975): 30-63 (on-line)

John Bossy, "The Counter-Reformation and the People of Catholic Europe, Past and Present 47 (1970) (on-line)

Week VI (March 13): witchcraft

Reading: Merry Wiesner, Witchcraft in early modern Europe (2006) (COOP)

Humanities Center talk of relevance (but not required): Monday 3/12, 5pm, Abby Zanger (Tufts University): "I publish therefore I perish... or do I? Cartesian agitations on print and publication," Barker Ctr 114

Week VII (March 20): nation building--the English civil war

Reading: Rice, Foundations of early modern Europe, pp. 10-18 (new warfare), 200-3 (English Reformation)

Lawrence Stone, Causes of the English Revolution 1529-1642 (for sale in used copies + in library in multiple copies)

Peter Lake, "Retrospective: Wentworth's political world in revisionist and post-revisionist perspective," in The Political World of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford 1621-41,

ed. J. F. Merritt (1996), p. 252-83.

Ann Hughes, The Causes of the English Civil War, 2nd ed (1998), pp. 1-9
(photocopies)

March 27 spring break

Week VIII (April 3): political thought (led by Monica Poole)

STATEMENT OF FINAL PAPER TOPIC DUE IN CLASS

Reading TBA

WEEK IX (April 10): scientific revolution

Reading: Rice, Foundations of early modern Europe, pp. 18-26

Steven Shapin, The Scientific Revolution (1998)

Roy Porter, "The Scientific Revolution: A Spoke in the Wheel?" in Revolution in History ed Porter and Teich (CUP 1986), pp. 290-316.

Thomas Kuhn, "The History of Science" from International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (1968) in The Essential Tension (1977), pp. 105-26

John Henry, "National styles in science: a possible factor in the scientific revolution?" in Geography and revolution, ed. David Livingstone and Charles Withers (2005). [on order at the library]

Week X (April 17): contact with the other

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Reading: Rice, Foundations of early modern Europe, pp. 26-44

John Elliott, The Old World and the New (Cambridge University Press, first published 1970)

John Elliott, "Final reflections: the Old World and the New revisited," in America in European Consciousness 1493-1750, ed. Kupperman (1995).

Walter Mignolo, "On the Colonization of Amerindian Languages and Memories: Renaissance Theories of Writing and the Discontinuity of the Classical Tradition," Comparative Studies in Society and History 34 (1992), 301-30 (on-line)

Anthony Grafton, "The Rest versus the West," New York Review of Books, 10 April 1997, pp. 57-64 [not on-line]--review essay of recent works on this theme, including Mignolo and mention of Elliott. Reprinted in Grafton, Bring Out Your Dead, pp. 77-93.

Week XI (April 24): Enlightenment

Reading: Dorinda Outram, The Enlightenment, ch. 1 on historiography

Robert Darnton, Great Cat Massacre

Roger Chartier, "Do books cause revolutions?" in Cultural Origins of the French Revolution (reserve or photocopies)

Week XII (May 1): student presentations on their bibliographical essays

FINAL PAPER DRAFTS DUE MON MAY 7

FINAL PAPERS DUE FRI MAY 18 at NOON