

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

History 22301/32301
Winter 2003
TU TH 1:30-2:50
Cobb 402

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EARLY MODERN EUROPE, 1450-1650

This course is designed to introduce upper-level undergraduate students to the main structures, events, and developments that shaped early modern European history from the end of the Hundred Years War to the first stirrings of the Enlightenment. Graduate students who would like to take a basic survey are welcome to register for this course under the separate course number I have established for that purpose.

As a matter of principle, no level of historical life and no region of Europe shall be excluded from consideration. I shall pay attention to society as well as politics, religion as well as science, state as well as church. Renaissance and Reformation, the expansion of Europe, agriculture, demography, humanism, and the scientific revolution will all fall within the scope of this course. My goal, however, is neither to cover everything nor to convey as much historical information as possible. It is rather to give you a means of orienting yourself in early modern European history and to relate it to earlier and later phases of the past. For that reason I will place particular emphasis on the transformation of medieval principles of thought and action (based on ecclesiastical or clerical supervision of a single universal hierarchy) into a modern order (based on a multiplicity of states enjoying equal degrees of sovereignty and inhabited by subjects increasingly conceiving of themselves as autonomous individuals). Above all, my goal is to convey to you what I believe to matter in thinking about the past in general and the early modern European past in particular.

My method will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. In the lectures I will expound on an elementary survey by Jonathan Zophy entitled *A Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe: Dances over Fire and Water*, an interpretive essay by Theodore Rabb entitled *The Struggle for Stability in Early Modern Europe*, and a small selection of primary sources taken from Italy, England, the Germanies, and France, in that order. The discussions will occur as soon as you begin to ask questions.

Requirements for undergraduate students

1. Compile an annotated bibliography of primary documents in English or in English translation on one of the topics listed at the end of this syllabus, or on another topic for which you have received my approval. The bibliography should be no shorter than five double-spaced pages and no longer than ten. For some subjects it will be easy to find primary documents, for others it will be harder. You will need to tailor your procedure to the subject. Write a brief introduction to describe how you proceeded and what you found. Include a brief description for each item in your bibliography. The point is not to make the bibliography complete, but to make it

useful for anyone who wants to learn about the subject on the basis of primary documents. Use the following bibliographic tools to get you started on your research:

The lists of further reading included in Jonathan W. Zophy, *A Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe: Dances over Fire and Water*, 3rd ed. (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2003), the textbook for this course

Mary Beth Norton and Pamela Gerardi, eds., *The American Historical Association's Guide to Historical Literature*, 3rd ed., 2 vols. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995)

The volumes in the series *Sixteenth Century Bibliography*, published by the Center for Reformation Research in Saint Louis

Historical Abstracts: Bibliography of the World's Periodical Literature (Santa Barbara: American Bibliographical Center-Clio Press, 1955-)

2. Complete one of the following four writing assignments. Whichever assignment you choose, write no less than ten and no more than fifteen double-spaced pages, including notes and bibliography:
 - a. Write a paper about the topic on which you compiled an annotated bibliography.
 - b. Choose a passage in Zophy's *Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe* that strikes you as interesting or implausible; read up on the subject in the literature Zophy recommends; and write a paper to show what is misleading, superficial, or just plain wrong in Zophy's account.
 - c. Write a paper that focuses on a primary source from the period in question and places it in its historical context with the help of appropriately chosen secondary literature.
 - d. Write a review of an important book about the period in question and explain what it contributes to our knowledge of the past.

50% of the grade will be based on the annotated bibliography, and 50% on the paper. The assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Submissions via email are not acceptable. The annotated bibliography is due no later than 5 pm on Monday, February 3. The papers are due no later than 5 pm on Monday, March 3. The grade for late assignments will be lowered by one point for each day they are late, beginning with the day on which they are due until I hold them in my hands. That is, an A paper will get an A- if I receive it on the day the paper is due, but later than 5 pm. If I receive it the following day, it will get a B+. If I receive the day after that, it will get a B, and so on.

Requirements for graduate students

Consult with me to identify an appropriate subject and write a paper of ten to twenty pages about it. Possible approaches include primary research into a narrowly defined subject matter; analyses of primary sources in the light of existing scholarship; and reviews of the historiography. Papers are due no later than 5 pm on Monday, March 10.

Elementary rules of paper writing

The following rules are elementary, but I state them anyway so as to make sure that you are aware of them. If you are drawing on someone else's ideas, identify the source in endnotes or footnotes. If you repeat the words of another source, enclose them in quotation marks and identify the source in endnotes or footnotes. The first time you refer to a source, the note should include full bibliographical data. At a minimum that means the name of the author, title of the book or article and journal, place of publication, date of publication, and

relevant page or section numbers. Subsequent references to the same source can be limited to the name of the author, short title, and page numbers. Do not cite or quote sources from the Web if there is a scholarly alternative in print. If you do take information from the Web, identify the location of the page, the owner of the page, the author of the information, and the time you accessed it. No matter which sources and which form of citation you use, append a bibliography to your paper listing the full bibliographical data for all of the sources on which you relied in writing your paper, arranged alphabetically by authors' last names and divided into separate sections for primary and secondary sources. Proofread your paper before handing it in. Make sure that the title page has your name on it, the pages are numbered, and you have not omitted any necessary quotation marks, citations, or bibliographical references. If you don't observe these rules, you run the risk of committing plagiarism. For further information see the booklet *Sources* available from the Dean of Students in the College's office, which describes proper methods of citation in detail. If you have any questions, ask me.

Required readings

- Zophy, Jonathan W. *A Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe: Dances over Fire and Water*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2003.
- Rabb, Theodore K. *The Struggle for Stability in Early Modern Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975.
- Cochrane, Eric, and Julius Kirshner, eds. *The Renaissance*. University of Chicago Readings in Western Civilization, vol. 5, ed. John W. Boyer and Julius Kirshner. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986.
- Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. Trans. with an Introduction by Harvey Mansfield, Jr. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.
- More, Thomas. *Utopia*. Ed. George M. Logan and Robert M. Adams. Cambridge texts in the history of political thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Dillenberger, John, ed. *Martin Luther: Selections from His Writings*. New York: Doubleday, 1961.
- Bodin, Jean. *On Sovereignty: Four Chapters from Six Books of the Commonwealth*. Ed. and trans. Julian H. Franklin. Cambridge texts in the history of political thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Schedule of readings

First week

- January 7, **Purpose and design of the course**
 January 9, **European society:** Zophy, *Short History*, chaps.1-3

Second week

- January 14, **Italian Renaissance and Humanism:** Zophy, *Short History*, chaps. 4-7
 January 16, **The Family:** Leon Battista Alberti, "On the Family," and Alessandra Macinghi negli Strozzi, "Letters to Filippo degli Strozzi," in *The Renaissance*, ed. Cochrane and Kirshner, 78-117

Third week

- January 21, **Machiavelli I:** *The Prince*, chapters 1-18, and "Letters," in *The Renaissance*, ed. Cochrane and Kirshner, 174-84
 January 23, **Machiavelli II:** *The Prince*, chapters 19-26; Machiavelli, "Discourses," in *The Renaissance*, ed. Cochrane and Kirshner, 185-210

Fourth week

- January 28, **Northern Europe:** Zophy, *Short History*, chaps. 8-9
 January 30, **More I:** *Utopia*, book 1, pp. 3-41

Fifth week **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 3 BY 5 PM**

- February 4, **More II:** *Utopia*, book 2, pp. 42-111
 February 6, **The Reformation:** Zophy, *Short History*, chaps. 10-12

Sixth week

- February 11, **Luther:** "Preface to the Complete Edition of Luther's Latin Writings, 1545" and "Secular Authority: To What Extent it Should be Obeyed," in *Martin Luther*, ed. Dillenberger, 3-12, 363-402
 February 13, **The Peasants War:** "Twelve Articles of the Peasants," and Luther, "Admonition to Peace," in *The Renaissance*, ed. Cochrane and Kirshner, 333-57

Seventh week

- February 18, **Calvinism and the Reformation in England:** Zophy, *Short History*, chaps. 13-15
 February 20, **The Catholic Reformation:** Zophy, *Short History*, chap. 16; "Decrees of the Council of Trent," and "Diary of Giambattista Casale," in *The Renaissance*, ed. Cochrane and Kirshner, 395-426

Eighth week

- February 25, **Religious War:** Zophy, *Short History*, chap. 17-18; Montaigne, "Of Cannibals" and "Of Books," in *The Renaissance*, ed. Cochrane and Kirshner, 285-308
 February 27, **Sovereignty I:** Bodin, *On Sovereignty*, pp. 1-45

Ninth week

PAPERS ARE DUE MARCH 3 BY 5 PM

- March 4, **Sovereignty II:** Bodin, *On Sovereignty*, pp. 46-126
 March 6, **Crisis and Resolution I:** Rabb, *Struggle for Stability*, pp. 1-59

Tenth week

GRADUATE ARE PAPERS DUE MARCH 10 BY 5 PM

- March 11, **Crisis and Resolution II:** Rabb, *Struggle for Stability*, pp. 60-151
 March 13, **Reading period** - no class

Recommended reading: general histories

- Asch, Ronald G. *The Thirty Years War: The Holy Roman Empire and Europe, 1618-48*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.
- Bonney, Richard. *The European Dynastic States, 1494-1660*. Short Oxford History of the Modern World, ed. J. M. Roberts. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Cameron, Euan, ed. *Early Modern Europe: An Oxford History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Dunn, Richard S. *The Age of Religious Wars, 1559-1689*. New York: Norton, 1970.
- Koenigsberger, H. G., G. L. Mosse, and G. Q. Bowler. *Europe in the Sixteenth Century*. 2nd ed. Denys Hay. London: Longman, 1989.
- Rice, Eugene F., and Anthony Grafton. *The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460-1559*. 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1994.
- Tracy, James D. *Europe's Reformations, 1450-1650*. Critical issues in history. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 1999.

Recommended reading: Classics and special topics

- Burckhardt, Jacob. *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*. Trans. Samuel George Chetwynd Middlemore. London: Penguin Books, 1990.
- Figgis, John Neville. *Studies of Political Thought from Gerson to Grotius, 1414-1625*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1916.
- Huizinga, Johan. *The Waning of the Middle Ages*. London: E. Arnold & Co., 1924.
- Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Trans. Talcott Parsons. New York: Scribner, 1958.
- Elias, Norbert. *The Civilizing Process*. Trans. Edmund Jephcott. Oxford: Blackwell, 1994.
- Febvre, Lucien. *The Problem of Unbelief in the Sixteenth Century: The Religion of Rabelais*. Trans. Beatrice Gottlieb. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982.
- Braudel, Fernand. *Capitalism and Material Life, 1400-1800*. New York: Harper, 1967.
- Baron, Hans. *The Crisis of the Italian Renaissance: Civic Humanism and Republican Liberty in an Age of Classicism and Tyranny*. 2nd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966.
- Kristeller, Paul Oskar. *Renaissance Thought and Its Sources*. Ed. Michael Mooney. New York: Columbia University Press, 1979.
- Pocock, John Greville Agard. *The Machiavellian Moment: Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975.
- Skinner, Quentin. *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought*. 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978.
- Mattingly, Garrett. *Renaissance Diplomacy*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1955.
- Mattingly, Garrett. *The Armada*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1959.
- Bainton, Roland H. *The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1952.
- Moeller, Bernd. *Imperial Cities and the Reformation*. Trans. H. C. Erik Midelfort & Mark U. Edwards, Jr. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1972.
- Bossy, John. *Christianity in the West, 1400-1700*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Butterfield, Herbert. *The Origins of Modern Science*. Revised ed. New York: Free Press, 1957.

- Debus, Allen G. *Man and Nature in the Renaissance*. Cambridge History of Science, ed. George Basalla and Wiliam Coleman. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978.
- Parker, Geoffrey. *The Military Revolution: Military Innovation and the Rise of the West, 1500-1800*. The Lees Knowles lectures, 1984, given at Trinity College, Cambridge. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Parry, John Horace. *The Age of Reconnaissance*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1963.
- Bentley, Jerry H. *Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Wolf, Eric R. *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.

List of topics for the annotated bibliography of primary documents in English or English translation

If you don't like any of these topics, you are free to choose another one. But make sure to get my approval before you start to work on the bibliography. For the purpose of this assignment, the chronological limits are 1300-1700. The geographical limits are Europe including the Ottoman Empire and the regions touched by the expansion of Europe by about 1700.

women and gender	the new monarchies	Naples
the family	meetings of diets and estates	Sevilla
sexuality	bureaucracy and administration	Venice
village life	taxation	Rome
urban life	early modern warfare	Paris
children and adolescents	early modern diplomacy	Geneva
plagues and epidemics	crime and punishment	London
agriculture	the judicial system	the Lutheran Reformation
food and cooking	the legal system	the Peasants War of 1524-26
famine	changes in the law	the radical Reformation
guilds	the persecution of heresy	the Kingdom of Münster
industry	the inquisition	Calvinism
navigation	the debate over toleration	Arminianism
banking	early modern sculpture	the Catholic Reformation
cloth making	early modern architecture	the Council of Trent
mining	the scientific revolution	the Jesuits
rural feasts and celebrations	early modern natural philosophy	Jansenism
noble and royal ritual	early modern medicine	religious war
tournaments	childbirth	the Huguenots in France
changes in manners	death	the Saint Bartholomew's Day
slavery in Europe	astrology	Massacre
the Mediterranean slave trade	magic	the Dutch Revolt
the Atlantic slave trade	the Babylonian Captivity	the Armada
Muslims in Europe	the Great Schism	the Elizabethan Settlement
Jews in Europe	the Hundred Years War	the English civil war
the conquest of Mexico	the Hussite revolt	the execution of Charles I
the conquest of Peru	the War of the Roses	the Peace of Augsburg
Europeans and the Far East	the Modern Devotion	the Thirty Years War
Europeans and native Americans	the Medici	the Peace of Westphalia
European missions abroad	Milan	