

## THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

History 73101: Autumn 2002

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W 1:30-4:20

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### SEMINAR

#### EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN ORDER(S)

This is a two-quarter seminar designed to introduce beginning and advanced graduate students to the early modern European background behind the principles of order that governed the European and American worlds from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, but are now giving way under the impact of changes that are both obvious and poorly understood. We mean principles such as certain familiar distinctions (e.g., public/private, state/church, political/social, legal/moral, past/present, nature/culture) and fundamental concepts (e.g., sovereignty, democracy, nation, liberty, progress, science, conscience, rights ... the list is easy to extend).

The reading is European in scope, rather than focusing on one particular country. Authors as different from each other in historical temperament, method, and national focus as Giovanni Levi, Fernand Braudel, Norbert Elias, and Ernest Gellner appear on the reading list. France, England, Spain, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands, the Germanies and so on are all fair game. So are social, legal, political, intellectual, religious, and other areas of historical inquiry. The point is simply to explore the reality of order and disorder in different spheres and from different points of view in order to clarify how Europeans organized and comprehended the world around them in the early modern period.

The seminar is at once thematic and historical. It is designed to distinguish what is typical from what is unique about order in the modern world; what is modern from what is owed to traditions of long standing; and what may be expected to be easy to change from what will most likely prove enduring. Though we shall naturally have to focus on particular books and specific issues, we have singled out works with a broad perspective, a distinctive approach, and a clear thesis. We have done so in a conscious attempt to encourage reflection upon the subject as a whole, respecting neither geographical boundaries nor chronological divisions nor even distinctions such as those between legal,

political, and social. All such preconceptions are only too likely to beg the basic question: what was order like before it came to be understood along the lines of such distinctions?

The first quarter of the seminar will serve two different, but concurrent and equally important purposes. First, it will introduce you to the fundamental issues and the basic tools of research in this field of inquiry. Second, it will furnish you with the opportunity and the challenge to develop a research topic of your own design. For this purpose you will have to start thinking about a topic early on in the seminar, identify possible leads in the sources and the secondary literature, pursue those leads in the library, and report regularly (orally as well as in writing) to the instructors on your on-going research. In order for us to be able to assist and supervise you at every stage of this process, you will be expected to keep in close contact with us. That will be the most effective way for you to develop a topic that will be not only of interest to you, but also clearly delimited, meaningfully related to the current state of the scholarship, and above all else manageable for you in the time allowed. In order to engage the whole class in this process, you will be asked to present an outline of your research plans in the fifth week of the quarter, and to submit a written research proposal for general discussion in the ninth and tenth weeks.

The second quarter of the seminar will allow you to turn the research you started in the first quarter into a successful seminar essay. We will continue to meet on an ad-hoc basis in order to discuss the progress of your research and writing.

The following books have been placed on reserve in Regenstein Library and ordered at the Seminary Co-op (5757 University Ave.):

- Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983)
- Edward Peters, *Inquisition* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988)
- Giovanni Levi, *Inheriting Power: The Story of an Exorcist* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988)
- Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*, trans. Barbara Bray (New York: Vintage Books, 1979)
- Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, 2nd ed. (New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1975)
- Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1994)
- Manlio Bellomo, *The Common Legal Past of Europe, 1000-1800* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1995)
- Natalie Z. Davis, *Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and their Tellers in Sixteenth-Century France* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1987)

### **Schedule of readings**

First week:

Introductory

Second week:

Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983)

Third week:

Edward Peters, *Inquisition* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988)

Fourth week:

Giovanni Levi, *Inheriting Power: The Story of an Exorcist* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988)

Fifth week: **one page outline of your research proposal is due**

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*, trans. Barbara Bray (New York: Vintage Books, 1979)

Sixth week:

Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, 2nd ed. (New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1975)

Seventh week:

Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1994)

Eighth week:

Manlio Bellomo, *The Common Legal Past of Europe, 1000-1800* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1995)

Ninth week: **presentation and discussion of research proposals**

Natalie Z. Davis, *Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and their Tellers in Sixteenth-Century France* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1987)

Frye, D. "Telling Histories: A Late Colonial Encounter of *Spanish* and *Indian* in Rural Mexico and in the Archives." *Colonial Latin American Review*, 3 (1994) 115-138.

Tenth week: **presentation and discussion of research proposals (ctd.)**

### **Requirements**

Students taking this course as a **two-quarter seminar** will be expected to:

- complete the assigned readings
- submit a brief (1-2 pages) statement on the readings for a given week by 5 pm on Tuesday of that week
- participate actively in class discussions
- report in class on their progress in researching and writing a seminar paper
- submit a one-page outline of a research proposal by fifth week and a research paper proposal for discussion in class by ninth week
- meet regularly in the winter quarter to report orally and in writing on the progress of their research
- submit a draft of their seminar paper for discussion by the class during the winter quarter
- submit a final version of their seminar paper by the departmental deadline

Students who do not need to fulfill a two-quarter seminar requirement may register for the first quarter of the course without taking the second quarter, unless registration exceeds a total of fifteen. Students who wish to take only the **first quarter for letter credit** will be expected to do the same work as students taking the full seminar, except that they will write a paper of about 15-20 pages length in lieu of a full-length seminar paper (or Master's Thesis). Students who wish to take only the **first quarter for R credit** will be expected to do the same work as students taking the full seminar, except that they will write no paper.

## Deadlines

One-page outline of research proposal is due fifth week

Full draft of research proposal is due ninth week

Paper of students taking the first quarter only (for letter credit) is due tenth week

## Reserve readings:

In addition to the required readings, the following items have also been placed on reserve in Regenstein Library. We considered each of them for inclusion on the list of required readings, and we would have included all of them if the quarter were a little longer. If you have time to read any of them, please do. If not, keep them in mind for future reference. They deserve to have a place in your historiographical repertoire.

Books whose importance is chiefly as works of reference and orientation have been marked with an asterisk.

- Bakhtin, Mikhail. *Rabelais and His World*. Trans. Helene Iswolsky (Cambridge, Mass.: M. I. T. Press, 1968).
- Bartlett, Robert. *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization, and Cultural Change, 950-1350*. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1993).
- Blickle, Peter. *Obedient Germans? A Rebuttal: A New View of German History*. Trans. Thomas A. Brady, Jr (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997).
- Bossy, John, ed. *Disputes and Settlements: Law and Human Relations in the West*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983).
- \*Brady, Thomas A., Jr., Heiko A. Oberman and James D. Tracy, eds. *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation*. 2 vols. (Leiden - New York - Köln: E. J. Brill, 1994-95).
- Brunner, Otto. *Land and Lordship: Structures of Governance in Medieval Austria*. Trans. by Howard Kaminsky and James Van Horn Melton (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992).
- \*Burns, J. H. and Mark Goldie, eds. *Cambridge History of Political Thought, 1450-1700*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991).
- Febvre, Lucien. *The Problem of Unbelief in the Sixteenth Century: The Religion of Rabelais*. Trans. Beatrice Gottlieb (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1982).
- Franklin, Julian H. *Jean Bodin and the Sixteenth-Century Revolution in the Methodology of Law and History*. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1963).
- Gilmore, Myron P. *Argument from Roman Law in Political Thought, 1200-1600*. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1941).
- Habermas, Jürgen. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. Trans. Thomas Burger (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1989).
- Kirshner, Julius, ed. *The Origins of the State in Italy, 1300-1600*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995).

- Koselleck, Reinhart. *Critique and Crisis: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society*. (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1988).
- Maravall, José Antonio. *Culture of the Baroque: Analysis of a Historical Structure*. Trans. Terry Cochran (Minneapolis, 1986), pp. vii-xx, 3-15, 19-53 and 149-172 (plus notes on pp. 267-278 and 296-300)
- Oakley, Francis. *Politics and Eternity: Studies in the History of Medieval and Early-Modern Political Thought*. (Leiden - Boston: Brill, 1999).
- Peters, Edward. *Inquisition*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988).
- Rabb, Theodore K. *The Struggle for Stability in Early Modern Europe*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1975).
- \*Roberts, Simon. *Order and Dispute: An Introduction to Legal Anthropology*. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1979).
- Robinson, O. F., T. D. Fergus and William M. Gordon. *An Introduction to European Legal History*. (Abingdon, Oxon.: Professional Books, 1985).
- Sabean, David Warren. *Power in the Blood: Popular Culture and Village Discourse in Early Modern Germany*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985).
- \*Skinner, Quentin. *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought*. 2 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978).
- Te Brake, Wayne Ph. *Shaping History: Ordinary People in European Politics, 1500-1700*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998). Available at <http://escholarship.cdlib.org/ucpress/tebrake.xml>.
- Tierney, Brian. "Hierarchy, Consent, and the 'Western Tradition'." *Political Theory*, 15 (1987) 646-652.
- Tierney, Brian. *The Idea of Natural Rights: Studies on Natural Rights, Natural Law, and Church Law, 1150-1625*. (Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press, 1997).
- Tuck, Richard. *Natural Rights Theories: Their Origin and Development*. (Cambridge - New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979).
- Ullmann, Walter. *Law and Politics in the Middle Ages: An Introduction to the Sources of Medieval Political Ideas*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975).
- Ullmann, Walter. *The Relevance of Medieval Ecclesiastical History: An Inaugural Lecture*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1966).
- \*Wieacker, Franz. *History of Private Law in Europe with Particular Reference to Germany*. Trans. Tony Weir (New York: Clarendon Press, 1995).