HIST 202: Early Modern Europe

This course explores major developments in European, and Western history and culture from the late Middle Ages to the event of modernity, covering roughly three centuries from the late 15th century to the end of the 18th century. It will explore the interplay of politics, religion, economy, and culture in the successes and failures of the religious movements of the time; transformations of states from medieval monarchies to modern states; expansion of Europe across the Atlantic and into Asia and Africa; and the information revolution that came with the introduction of the printing press into Europe. We will discuss cultural and social transformations that ultimately helped shape modern Western society, typically associated with religious diversity, toleration, human rights, democracy, and consumerism. The course will also examine a broader European society and culture and its relationship with the rest of the world, as Europe came increasingly dependent on products supplied by the Americas, Asia, and Africa. Among questions explored will be: How did European expansion change European society? How did Western states transform to allow a participation of Jews in the political process of their states, but continue to exclude women and slaves? And what role did women and gender play in these transformations? Were women only nuns, wives, witches, and, occasionally, queens? How did the concept of marriage and family change following the Reformation? The course will cover the continuities and change in early modern Western society and will seek to show a geographically and religiously diverse range of experiences.

Readings

ALL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE Broad Street BOOKSTORE. They are also all on reserve in the Olin Library.

Lynn Hunt THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS (Bedford)
Denis Janz A REFORMATION READER (Fortress Press)
Bartolomé de Las Casas A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE INDIES (Penguin)
Hobbes, LEVIATHAN
Moses Mendelssohn JERUSALEM (Brandeis)
Francisca de los Apostolos THE INQUISITION OF FRANCISCA

Mary Lynn Rampolla, POCKET GUIDE TO WRITING IN HISTORY
Merriman, A HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE, Vol I (optional reading)

Note that some additional readings are available on-line through Ereserves at the Library or through the MOODLE
Schedule:

1. Th. 01/26 Introduction

Late 15th and Early 16th Centuries:

2. Tu. 01/31 Europe in the Late 15th and Early 16th Centuries:
   • Alexander Cowan "Urban Europe: 1500-1700": 3-31)
   • Watch lecture "Moving through Urban Space in Early Modern Europe" by Chris Friedrichs (it is also available on iTunesU)
   • Optional reading: John Merriman A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon (henceforth: Merriman History), 3-33.

3. Th. 02/02 Age of European Expansion:
   • De Las Casas "A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies"--entire;
   • De Sepulveda "Democrates Alter";
   • Optional reading: Merriman History, 177-190.

4. Tu. 02/07 Printing Revolution:
   • Michael Gullick "How Fast Did Scribes Write? Evidence from Romanesque Manuscripts" in Making the Medieval Book: Techniques of Production
   • A Sixteenth Century Book of Trades (selections)
   • Lucien Febvre, The Coming of the Book, chapter 1.
   • Optional reading: Merriman History, 34-45.

5. Th. 02/09 Printing and Its Impact on Society and Culture:
   • Natalie Zemon Davis: "Printing and the People" in Society and Culture in Early Modern France: 189-227;
   • Rudolph Bell How to Do It, chapter I "Readers" 1-16 (read carefully); chapter 2 "Conception" 20-72 (skim)
   • Recommended additional reading: Elisabeth Eisenstein The Printing Revolution
   • Recommended: Text and Video on Book of Women's Commandments (Seder Mizvot Nashim, 1577) on www.earlymodern.org also on iTunesU

6. Tu. 02/14 GROUP I: Visit to the Special Collection at Olin Library; GROUP II: EndNOTE session, PAC 100 *LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT ANNOUNCED*

7. Th. 02/16 GROUP II: Visit to the Special Collection at Olin Library; GROUP I: EndNOTE session in PAC 100
8. Tu. 02/21 European Arts and Culture: Renaissance and Humanism

- Reformation Reader: Erasmus "Praise of Folly", 63-74;
- Elias Levita "Introduction to Massoreth ha-Massoreth;"
- Optional reading: Merriman History, 46-84.

Religious Reforms Across Europe

9. Th. 02/23 The Church before the Reformation

- Reformation Reader: 4-17; 56-63

Deadline for the bibliography: Friday, February 24, 2011, 4 pm

10. Tu. 02/28 Martin Luther and His Works

- Reformation Reader: Ch. 2 "Martin Luther" sections "The Person" and "Theological Writings" (minus: A Meditation on Christ's Passion);
- Luther's "Jesus was born a Jew" - available Moodle under "Course Documents"
- Luther's On Jews and their Lies (excerpt);
- Optional reading: Merriman History, 97-105.

11. Th. 03/01 Spread of Lutheranism, and Other More Radical Religious Movements:

- Reformation Reader:
  - "Lutheranism," 146-162,
  - "The Peasant Revolt," (Muntzer and the 12 articles 165-170);
  - "The Anabaptists,"(202-214, 222-228, 237-43);
  - Marie Dentière, A Most Beneficial Letter (325-328);
- Optional reading: Merriman History, 105-110.

12. Tu. 03/06 John Calvin and Calvinism:

- Reformation Reader: Ch. 5, "John Calvin" 245-325; Jeanne de Jussie, The Leaven of Calvinism, or the Beginning of the Heresy of Geneva, 402-405;
- History of the Polish Reformation: 334-379;
- Optional reading: Merriman History, 110-122

13. Th. 03/08 Responses to Challenge: Counter-Reformation and Catholic Reform:
• **Reformation Reader**: Chapter Six “The Counter/Catholic Reformation” sections: “Early Reactions” and “The Council of Trent” 381-425 (first edition 325-367);
• **Pope Paul IV: Cum Nimis Absurdum (1555)**
• For those interested full text of the Council of Trent in English available through [Hanover Historical Texts Project](#);
• Optional reading: Merriman History, 122-135
• [DRAFT OF LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT DUE](#)

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 9-25, 2011**

**MONDAY 03/26: MIDTERM EXAM ANNOUNCED on MOODLE**

14. Tu. 03/27 New Religious Orders and Rise of Catholic Spirituality

• Reformation Reader: 425-434, 436-442;
• *The Inquisition of Francisca*, 57-158.

Th. 03/29 NO CLASS **TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE, 12 pm**

15. Tu 04/03 Wars of "Religion": Victories and Losses

• Reformation Reader: 329-341, 357-376.
• *St. Bartholomew Massacre; Map of Europe*;
• For those interested here is a text of the Treaty of *Peace of Westphalia*
• Optional reading: Merriman *History*, 135-176.

16. Th. 04/05 Scientific Revolution and the Beginnings of an Era of Rationalism and Skepticism

• [Descartes "Discourse on Method";](#)
• [Galileo "Letter to the Grand Dutchess Christina"](#)
• Optional reading: Merriman *History*, 311-335

Post-Reformation Europe: Society and Culture

17. Tu. 04/10 Education and Gender:

• Anna Maria van Schurman "Whether A Christian Woman Should Be Educated," 25-37, 39-56.
• Bella Perlhefter’s Correspondence and [Elisheva Carlebach’s video presentation](#)
• Optional reading: Merriman *History*, 127-134.
• [FIRST LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT DUE-FINAL VERSION FRIDAY 04/06 4pm.](#)
18. **Th. 04/12 Women, Gender, and Change:**

- The Reformation Reader: 14-25;
- Robin Briggs "Many Reasons Why: Witchcraft and the Problem of Multiple Explanation"
- Brian Levack "State-Building and Witch Hunting in Early Modern Europe" in Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe: 49-63, 96-115;

19. **Tu. 04/17 The Poor and Poor Relief, Crime and Punishment**

- Robert Jutte "Poverty and Deviance in Early Modern Europe": 8-20, 100-142
- Julius Ruff "Justice" in Violence in Early Modern Europe, 73-116
- Optional reading: Merriman History, 376-417

20. **Th. 04/19 Reformation and Revolution in England:**

- Optional reading: Merriman History, 222-248

21. **Tu. 04/24 Religious Toleration:**

- John Locke's Essay concerning Toleration and Letter concerning Toleration [full text];
- Spinoza Theological-Political Treatise, Preface, chapters: 3-7, 11-17, 19-20;
- Optional reading: Merriman History, 248-263.

*DRAFT OF THE SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE FRIDAY 04/20 AT 12 PM (NOON)*

22. **Th. 04/26 Rationalism, Enlightenment, and Toleration:**

- Mendelssohn "Jerusalem":33-75, 77-139
- French Revolution and Human Rights 35-40;
- Karen Offen "Reclaiming the European Enlightenment for Feminism" in Perspectives on Feminist Political Thought in European History: 85-103);
- "The Old Vinegar Lady" in History from Crime: 65-87;
- Optional reading: Merriman History, 335-376

23. **Tu. 05/01 Colonialism, Slavery and European impact on Africa and the Americas.**
• *Code Noir (1685)*
• Olaudah Equiano *The Interesting Narrative*, chapters II and V
• *The Portuguese in West Africa 1415-1670*, 61-63, 153-158
• Optional reading: Merriman *History*, 191-222

24. Th. 05/03 Political and Cultural Transformation in an Absolutist State

• Swann in Blanning "The Eighteenth Century: 11-51;"
• Lois Dubin "Between Toleration and "Equalities" - Jewish Status and Community in Pre-Revolutionary Europe";
• Robert Darnton, "A Police Inspector Sorts His Files" in *The Great Cat Massacre*
• French Revolution and Human Rights, 40-43;
• Optional reading: Merriman *History*, 261-306, 417-468

25. Tu. 05/08 The Enlightenment and the French Revolution

• Therese Philosophe in Robert Darnton *Forbidden Best-Sellers in Pre-Revolutionary France*
• French Revolution and Human Rights: 48-50; 60-103; 119-129)
• Optional reading: Merriman *History*, 469-517

26. Tu. 05/08 12-1 pm Toward Modernity: Reassessment.

05/09 FINAL VERSION OF THE SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE BY 8AM

FINAL EXAM (TAKE HOME) ANNOUNCED ON THE FIRST DAY OF EXAMS. DUE ON THE LAST DAY OF REGISTRAR’S SCHEDULED EXAM PERIOD.
Students’ Rights and Obligations, or the Requirements

All work in the course is done under the Honor Code. Cases will be brought to the Honor Board, should questions concerning potential or actual violation of the Honor Code arise

• One bibliographic assignment based on rare books available through the Olin Special Collection
• One 5-6 page paper on a book from the special collections (Book as an object and history of its printing).
• One 5-6 page paper on the book as a text in historical context.
• Take-home midterm and final exams
• Class attendance (3 unexcused absences allowed, 4+ will entail grade penalty)
• Excessive lateness (more than 15 minutes) and sleeping in class count as absence.
• Class participation: the success of this class depends on our mutual involvement and therefore your participation in class discussions is crucial: participation in class discussions (1 point per class), postings on discussion boards (1 point per posting), reflections on each class (1 point/class).

Students’ Rights:

• To express their ideas freely, while being respectful to others.
• To meet with me during office hours to discuss issues related to the course or students’ performance in the classroom.
• To receive accommodation for their learning and other disabilities (see below)
• To make an appointment outside office hours (via email).
• To know their grade at any give time during the semester.
• To give me feedback throughout the duration of the semester (in fact, you are encouraged to do so).

Written assignments:

• A writing fellow is available at the Writing Workshop, you can approach him/her on your own, or you may be referred to him/her, should the need arise.
• All written assignments are due on the day noted in the syllabus, posted through moodle. No extensions will be given. There will be a grade penalty for lateness (1 grade per day).
• Papers are graded based on: clarity of writing; evidence provided to support the claim; insight; argument; spelling and punctuation; proper use of sources (footnotes, proper acknowledgment of ideas and sources), proper formatting.
• Footnoting should follow the formats given in Mary Rampolla’s book Mary Lynn Rampolla A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, which is required for this class, and ENDNOTE program, Chicago 15th A format. Improper footnoting will
result in grade penalty and/or referring the case to the Honor Board, while improper formatting will result in grade penalty.

- **Plagiarism** is one of the most serious academic offenses a student can commit at Wesleyan.

  - Instances of plagiarism:
    - submitting essays or portions of essays written by other people as one's own;
    - failing to acknowledge, through footnotes and bibliographical entries, the source of ideas that are essentially not one's own;
    - failing to indicate paraphrases or ideas or verbatim expressions not one's own through proper use of quotations and footnotes;
    - submitting an essay written for one course to a second course without having sought prior permission from both instructors (self-plagiarism).

**Grading:**

- One bibliographic assignment based on rare books available through the Olin Special Collection (5%)
- One 5-6 page paper on a book from the special collections (Book as an object and history of its printing). (10% draft; 15% final version)
- One 5-6 page paper on the book as a text in context. (10% draft, 20% final version).
- Midterm and final exams (10% midterm, 20% final)
- Class participation: 10%.
- Bonus: 100% rate of attendance and postings.
- Penalties: missing more than 3 classes, missing the assignment deadline.

**Policy on Religious Observance:**

The absence due to religious observance will not count toward your 3 unexcused absences.

If you need to miss a class due to religious observance, you are still responsible for the readings and should contact your class mates about the material we discussed during class. You are also welcome to meet with me to discuss the material.

**Accommodation for Disability:**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Wesleyan University has a policy of accommodating learning and other disabilities. If you identify as disabled, or are chronically ill, although the requirements of this course remain the same, you are eligible for accommodation and/or assistance. If you have not already registered with the university, please see Sarah Lazare, Associate Dean of Student Academic Resources before the end of drop-add (slazare@wesleyan.edu, x2332) and discuss assistance her office can provide. You should also talk to me so that we can make sure that your needs are accommodated.