

**‘Aspects of Society and Culture in
Early Modern Europe, c. 1450-1700’
SLS2HS208 (MA History: Comparative History cluster course)**

Winter Semester 2018

Instructor: Denys P. Leighton

(Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 – 11 a.m.)

Course objectives:

- To obtain an understanding of the consolidation of Europe c. 1500 – 1700 C.E. as a distinctive socioeconomic, political and cultural formation.
- To explore ‘the idea of Europe’ and the emergence of pan-European consciousness during this period, and to understand the relation of this to consciousness of nation, class, religious belonging, etc.
- To comprehend the simultaneous ‘distancing’ of Europe from other civilizations and the modified reproduction of European-ness in other regions of the world through colonization.
- To understand the transformation of Europeans’ manners and morals, their changing understanding of relations between divine and human orders and between natural laws and supernatural powers.
- To understand some implications of the association of Europe with modernity (e.g., scientific method).
- To become acquainted with types of historical investigation (methods) that have been used by historians of early modern Europe and that have been applied or could be applied to the study of other times and places..

COURSE READINGS:

Chapters are assigned from the following books. . .

E. Cameron (ed.), *Early Modern Europe. An Oxford History* (OUP, Indian edition, 2011)

C. A. Monson, *Nuns Behaving Badly: Tales of Magic, Music, Art and Arson in the Convents of Italy* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2010)

Julius Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800* (Cambridge UP, 2001)

Most other assigned readings are **journal articles**, referred to in the schedule below.

Students are encouraged to access the following web pages relating to topics of this course:

<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/crrs/Databases/WWW/Bookmarks.html>

www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook1.html and

www.fordham.edu/Halsall/sbook.asp

www.earlymodernweb.org/resources/

wess.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Medieval_and_Renaissance_Studies

www.uffizi.org/artworks/

www.artlex.com → ‘Northern Renaissance Art’

ASSESSMENT PATTERN: 1 written assignment: (30%, DUE on 6 March); 2 oral presentations (@20%, late February, late March); 1 end-semester examination (30%). If students are not reading the prescribed texts, the instructor reserves the right to conduct

'pop-quizzes' @ worth 5 - 10% of the course grade (to be factored into the oral presentations portion of assessment).

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS.

16 January 2015: INTRODUCTION.

18 & 23 January: European identity to 1700 CE: Myths and the cultural inheritance.

Reading assignment: Peter Burke, 'Did Europe Exist Before 1700?,' *History of European Ideas*, 1 (1980), pp. 21–29; Anthony Pagden, 'Prologue: Europe and the World Around,' in E. Cameron (ed.), *Early Modern Europe. An Oxford History* [EME] (OUP, Indian edition, 2011), intro.; Michael E. Yapp, 'Europe in the Turkish Mirror,' *Past and Present*, 137 (1992), pp. 134–155.

25, 30 January & 1 February: Meanings of 'Renaissance'. Italy and humanism; a scriptorial and visual revolution. The Renaissance in the North and East.

Reading assignment: Peter Burke, 'Images as Evidence in 17th-Century Europe', *Jo. of the History of Ideas*, 64/2 (2003), pp. 273-296; Euan Cameron, 'The Power of the Word: Renaissance and Reformation,' in: Cameron, EME, chap. 2; E. L. Eisenstein, 'The Advent of Printing and the Problem of the Renaissance,' *Past and Present*, 45 (1969), pp. 19-89; Joan Kelly-Gadol, 'Did Women Have a Renaissance?,' in *Becoming Visible*, ed. R. Bridenthal and C. Koonz (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977)

6, 8 & 13 February: oral presentations.

15, 20 & 22 February: Protestantism, Counter-Reformation Catholicism and communalism. Religion in relation to aristocratic, bourgeois and peasant 'politics', c. 1500 – 1650.

Reading assignment: John Bossy, 'The Counter-Reformation and the People of Catholic Europe', *P+P*, 47 (1970), pp. 51-70; Stephen Clark, 'French Historians and Early Modern Popular Culture', *P+P*, 100 (1983), pp. 62-99; C. S. L Davies, 'Peasant Revolt in France and England,' *Agricultural History Review*, 21 (1973), pp. 122 – 34; N. Z. Davis, 'The Rites of Violence', *P+P*, 59 (1973), pp. 51-91; Steven Gunn, 'War, Religion and the State,' in: Cameron, EME, chap. 3; Donald R. Kelley, 'Martyrs, Myths and the Massacre,' *Am.Hist.Rev.*, 77/5 (1972), pp. 1323-1342; Craig A. Monson, 'Dangerous Enchantments: What the Inquisitor Found' (Chap. 2), in *Nuns Behaving Badly: Tales of Magic, Music, Art and Arson in the Convents of Italy* (Chicago: Chicago UP, 2010); Julius Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800* (Cambridge, 2001), chap. 4.

27 February & 1 March: Making the New World old; the Orient in the European world picture.

Reading assignment: R. A. Houston, 'Colonies, Enterprise and Wealth,' in: Cameron, EME, chap. 4; Wayne E. Lee, 'Peace Chiefs and Blood Revenge: Patterns of Restraint in Native American Warfare,' *Jo. of Military History*, 71 (2007), pp. 701-741; J. H. Parry, 'Juan de Tovar and the History of the Indies', *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 121/4 (1977), pp. 316-19; Anthony Pagden, 'Ius et Factum: Text and Experience in the Writings of Bartolomé de Las Casas,' *Representations*, 33 (1991), pp. 147-62.

6, 8 & 13 March: Rituals of life and death; family, gender and social experience; a witchcraft 'craze'. **Writing assignment due 6 March.**

Reading assignment: Stephen Clark, 'Inversion, Misrule and the Meaning of Witchcraft', *P+P*, 87 (1980), pp. 98-127; N. Z. Davis, 'The Reasons of Misrule', *P+P*, 50 (1971), pp. 41-75; C. A. Monson, 'Spinsters, Silkworms. . . ' (Chap. 3) and 'Slipping Through the Cracks' (Chap. 5) in *Nuns Behaving Badly*; E. W. Monter, 'Women in Calvinist Geneva (1550-1800)', *Signs*, 6/2 (1980), pp. 189-209; L. Roper, "'Going to Church and Street": Weddings in Reformation Augsburg', *P+P*, 106 (1985), pp. 62-101; Alison Rowlands, 'The Condition of Life for the Masses,' in Cameron, EME, chap. 1; H. Trevor-Roper, 'The European Witch-craze of the 16th and 17th Centuries,' in *The Crisis of the Seventeenth Century* (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 2001 [1967]), pp. 62-115.

15 March: Literacy, orality, and communication, c. 1500 – 1700.

Reading assignment: N. Z. Davis, 'Printing and the People'; Peter Burke, 'Languages and Anti-Languages in Early Modern Italy,' *History Workshop Jo.*, 11 (1981), pp. 24-32.

20, 22 & 27 March: oral presentations. [**29 March:** gazetted holiday.]

3 & 5 April: 'Scientific Revolution'?: changing relationships between Man and Nature.

Reading assignment: Robin Briggs, 'Embattled Faiths: Religion and Natural Philosophy,' in: Cameron, EME, chap. 5; Carolyn Merchant, 'Hydraulic Technologies and the Agricultural Transformation of the English Fens', *Environmental Review*, 7/2 (1983), pp. 165-78; K. Thomas, 'Numeracy in Early Modern England', *TRHS*, 5th Series, 37 (1987), pp. 103-32.

10 & 12 April: Machiavelli, Hobbes and modern politics. Absolutism and its challengers.

Reading assignment: William Beik, 'The Violence of the French Crowd from Charivari to Revolution,' *P+P*, 197 (2007), pp. 75-110; Jeremy Black, 'Warfare, Crisis and Absolutism,' in: Cameron, EME, chap. 6; Quentin Skinner, 'Thomas Hobbes and His Disciples in France and England,' *Comp. Studies in Society and History*, 8/2 (1966), pp. 153-67.

17 April: Overview and Q&A.

[End-semester examination period: per SLS Semester Calendar.]