

History 305: Northern Renaissance and Reformation, 1450-1620

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Spring Semester 2001

Tues. & Thurs., 1–2:15, Machmer W-17 (Schedule #284679)

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This syllabus is also available on the World Wide Web:

<<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~ogilvie/courses/spring01/305/>>

(link available on the University Web-enhanced Courses page and the History Dept. website)

Brief description of course

This course examines the origins of modern Europe in the religious, political, and cultural crucible of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations. We will explore the intellectual, economic, and political trends of late medieval Europe, then turn to the origins, course, and effects of Luther's theological revolution and responses to it. After considering the transformative effect of the Reformation on theology, religious ritual, and belief, we will turn to political and cultural responses, from religious war and absolutism, to skepticism, the new science, and theories of toleration. At the end of the semester, you will understand the complex ways in which the Protestant and Catholic Reformations shaped modern Europe.

Summary of requirements: about 125 pages of reading each week (on average), one 4-5 page paper, one 8-10 page paper, one take-home final, attendance and participation.

Course goals

This course has several different goals. By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Describe the social, religious, political, and intellectual background to the Reformation.
- Explain the principal theological ideas of the Reformers and how they differed from traditional Catholic doctrine.
- Describe changes in religious belief and practice from 1400 to 1700.
- Explain the effects of the Reformations on social life, culture, politics, and ideas.
- Analyze and criticize the argument of a secondary source.
- Interpret primary sources from the late Renaissance and Reformation and use them as evidence for historical arguments.

Your goals for the course

You have just read my goals for the course. You should now take the time to reflect on those goals and think about any others you might have. In the space below, you can write

the reasons *you* are in this course and any goals on which you wish to concentrate during it.

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Course structure

History 305 is a combined lecture-discussion course. Some days there will be more lecture, others there will be more discussion. **The readings are assigned *weekly*, and you should plan to complete them by the Tuesday of each week.** That way we can adjust the amount of time we devote to each topic as we see fit without having to make last-minute changes to the syllabus. If you absolutely can't finish all the reading for a week by Tuesday, read what you can in the order it is printed in the syllabus, and catch up by Thursday.

Course requirements and grading

This course is an upper-division history course. History, as a scholarly discipline, requires a lot of reading, careful attention to detail, and grasping difficult concepts. You should be prepared to spend three to five hours per week outside of class on the reading, and a little more time when there are assignments due.

1. Attendance and participation (20% of final grade)

You will not get much out of the course if you don't attend class to hear lectures and participate in discussion. Much of what you need to know to understand the late Renaissance and Reformation will be introduced in class, and you will be expected to display knowledge of it in papers and the exam. Athletes, musicians, and others who will have to miss class for University purposes should give me a list in writing as soon as possible, but in any case by **Feb. 22** at the latest.

If necessary, I will give occasional quizzes or quickwrites in class.

2. One 4-5 page paper (20% of final grade)

Due **March 1**, at 5:00 PM in my office, Herter 624. Topics for the paper will be distributed on Feb. 8 (three weeks in advance). You may rewrite the paper if you are dissatisfied with the grade.

3. One 8-10 page paper (30% of final grade)

Due **April 26** at 5:00 PM in my office, Herter 624. Topics for the paper will be distributed by March 27 (four weeks in advance). You may rewrite the paper if you are dissatisfied with the grade.

4. Take-home final exam (30% of final grade)

Distributed at the end of the last day of class, **May 15**. It will be due on **May 22**, at **noon** in my office, Herter 624.

Option: term paper

Students interested in writing a 20-25 page term paper may do so instead of completing requirements 3 and 4; the paper will count for 60% of the final course grade. If you are considering this option, you must talk to me by the end of February to discuss a topic and additional reading, though you can change your mind later. This is a good option for those who want to explore a specific topic in more depth. The term paper will be due at the same time the take-home final is due.

Policy on late assignments

Late assignments will have the maximum grade reduced by one-half letter grade for each working day they are late (weekends and holidays do not count). Exceptions will be made only when an extension is granted at least two days in advance of the due date, or in the case of a bona fide emergency (documentation from a medical professional or the dean of students may be required).

Policy on academic honesty

Plagiarism is grounds for failure in the course. Plagiarism consists of either (a) copying the exact words of another work without both enclosing them in quotation marks and providing a reference, or (b) using information or ideas from another work without providing credit, in notes, to the source of the information or ideas. Submission of a paper copied from another work, or which contains fictitious or falsified notes, will result in automatic failure of the course. Please refer to the *Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities* booklet for the University's full policy on academic honesty.

Books for course

The following **required** books have been ordered through Food For Thought Books (106 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, tel. 253-5432). They are also on reserve in the DuBois Library. I have given ISBN numbers in case you want to order them yourself; I encourage you to support local businesses. The books are listed in the order we will use them, but you should buy all the books early in the semester; bookstores begin to return unused copies around the middle of the semester. (Exception: Bodin, *On sovereignty*, will not be available at the bookstore until mid-March.) Please let me know if prices differ significantly from those I have listed.

Mary Lynn **Rampolla**, *A pocket guide to writing in history*, 3rd ed. (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2001). ISBN 0-312-24766-4. \$10.

Natalie Zemon **Davis**, *The return of Martin Guerre* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984). ISBN 0-674-76691-1. \$15.50.

Eugene F. **Rice**, Jr., and Anthony T. Grafton, *The foundations of early modern Europe, 1460-1559*, 2nd ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 1994). ISBN 0-393-96304-7. \$18.

Desiderius **Erasmus**, *The Praise of Folly and other writings*, ed. and trans. Robert M. Adams (New York: W. W. Norton, 1989). ISBN 0-393-95749-7. \$13.

John **Bossy**, *Christianity in the West, 1400-1700* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985). ISBN 0-19-289162-6. \$18.

Richard S. **Dunn**, *The age of religious wars, 1559-1715*, 2nd ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 1980). ISBN 0-393-09021-3. \$17.

Jean **Bodin**, *On sovereignty: Four chapters from the Six Books of the Commonwealth*, ed. Julian H. Franklin (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992). ISBN 0-521-

34992-3. \$19.

A note on readings

In addition to the books, several **required** readings are available online from the course web page. You should either read these texts online or download and print them. I am using these reliable online editions of texts to keep your costs down; please let me know if you prefer the convenience of a printed book and I will indicate editions that you can buy or borrow from the library. A few additional short sources will be handed out in class.

Because this course involves frequent discussions, you should bring your books or a good set of reading notes to class.

The course web page has an enhanced syllabus with an extensive set of suggested readings, in case you are interested in pursuing any topic in more depth.

Course schedule with topics, readings, and assignments

Tues. 1/30 Introduction to the course
Thurs. 2/1 Europe in the sixteenth century: A portrait

Tues. 2/6 No formal class meeting today; come to class if you want to chat
Thurs. 2/8 The Return of Martin Guerre: Film as history

The film *The Return of Martin Guerre* will be screened on Monday, February 5, and Tuesday, February 6, 7-9 PM, in Herter 601. If you cannot attend either of these screenings, you should plan to watch the film at AIMS, Goodell 303, where it will be on reserve. A set of discussion questions will be distributed at the screenings, and it will be available for download from the course web site if you can't attend the screenings. There is no reading this week, but you **must** watch the film.

NOTE: For next week, you should plan to read The Return of Martin Guerre by Tuesday. The first paper assignment will be handed out in class on 2/8.

Tues. 2/13 The Return of Martin Guerre: Film vs. history
Thurs. 2/15 Martin Guerre's world: Renaissance and Reformation

Read: Davis (read the entire book by Tuesday).

REMINDER: If you are considering the term paper option, you must talk to me by the end of February about your topic and readings.

Tues. 2/20 NO CLASS (Monday class schedule in effect)
Thurs. 2/22 Intellectual change and economic revival

Read: Rice, xi-76 (ch. 1-2).

Tues. 2/27 The rise of strong European states
Thurs. 3/1 The Church in the late Middle Ages

Read: Rice, 110-145 (ch. 4); Erasmus, 142-175, 222-227 (“Julius Excluded from Heaven,” “The abbot and the learned lady”).

REMINDER: 4-5 page paper due 3/1 in class.

Tues. 3/6 The Renaissance in the North
Thurs. 3/8 Northern humanism, Christianity, and the Church

Read: Rice, 77-109 (ch. 3); Erasmus, 3-87, 117-127, 181-212, 228-251 (“Praise of Folly,” “Paraclesis” (1516), “The Religious Feast,” Letter to Martin Dorp).

Tues. 3/13 Luther’s theological innovations
Thurs. 3/15 Luther and the humanists

Read: Rice, 146-177 (ch. 5); Luther, “Ninety-Five Theses” (ONLINE), “To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation” (ONLINE), Preface to the translation of Romans (ONLINE); Erasmus, 127-141 (Preface to the third edition of the New Testament).

Tues. 3/27 Traditional Christianity: salvation and the saints
Thurs. 3/29 NO CLASS—Prof. Ogilvie is at a conference

Read: Bossy, through p. 56

REMINDERS:

—*Paper #2 assignment will be distributed 3/27 in class.*

—*Food for Thought Books will begin to return unsold books next week.*

Tues. 4/3 Traditional Christianity: the social miracle
Thurs. 4/5 The spread of the Reformation

Read: Bossy, 57-87; Rice, 178-202 (ch. 6); Erasmus, 212-222, 259-264 (“An inquisition into faith,” Letter to Peter Tomicz).

Tues. 4/10 Visible churches and the invisible Church
Thurs. 4/12 The moral police in Reformed lands

Read: Bossy, 91-152; Heidelberg Catechism (ONLINE).

Tues. 4/17 Counter-Reformation and the Inquisitions of Catholic Europe
Thurs. 4/19 The religious wars in France

Read: Council of Trent, Canons and Decrees (selections, ONLINE); Dunn, 1-56 (introduction, ch. 1); De Thou, the assassination of Coligny (ONLINE).

Tues. 4/24 The theory of the absolutist state
Thurs. 4/26 Absolutism and republicanism: the Dutch Revolt

Read: Bodin (whole book).

Reminder: 8-10 page paper due 4/26 in class.

Tues. 5/1 The Reformations and the arts
Thurs. 5/3 Skepticism and the New Science

Read: Dunn, 199-258 (ch. 5); Eric Cochrane, "Science and humanism in the Italian Renaissance" (ONLINE).

Tues. 5/8 The age of iron: Europe and the emerging world economy
Thurs. 5/10 Social stratification, manners, and "The Civilizing Process"

Read: Dunn, 103-151 (ch. 3); Bossy, 153-171.

Tues. 5/15 What's modern? What's not? (And what would Martin Guerre have thought about all this?)

REMINDER: Take-home final will be distributed 5/15 in class.

Tues. 5/22 TAKE-HOME FINAL (OR TERM PAPER) DUE IN HERTER 624 BY NOON!

Tips for success

History 305 is not an easy course, but if you keep a few simple points in mind, it will be a lot easier. Here are some tips for doing well in the course. They all are really aspects of one overarching principle: TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN EDUCATION!

- Read the syllabus carefully, and write down in your organizer the dates on which assignments are due. This will help you budget your time for the weeks when there is more work than normal.
- Plan to spend 3-5 hours every week, outside of class, working on the course.
- Complete all the assigned readings every week in a timely fashion, preferably in one or two study sessions, and jot down important points in your notes after finishing the readings. This should take about four hours every week, or possibly more. As you read each assignment, think about how it relates to earlier readings and lectures, and jot down some of those thoughts in your notes. Don't use a highlighter for note-taking; it substitutes motion for thought.
- Look up unfamiliar words in a good dictionary. Look up unfamiliar names or concepts in an encyclopedia. The *Columbia Encyclopedia* is a good one-volume encyclopedia; the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, available online at britannica.com, is a good multi-volume encyclopedia.
- If your apartment or dorm room aren't quiet places to study, go to the library or somewhere else quiet. The main level of DuBois Library is a good place because it has lots of dictionaries and encyclopedias. If you need coffee while studying, try the Newman Center. Study a lot during the day, then you can relax in the evening without feeling stressed out or guilty.
- Ask questions about what you don't understand, but only after you have tried to answer them yourself. Part of your college education is learning to be self-reliant. Who should you ask? Prof. Ogilvie, of course; if your question is factual, you can also ask a reference librarian.
- Take advantage of Prof. Ogilvie's office hours if there are questions you did not have time to raise in class.
- Arrive for class on time, and pay attention to what everyone says. Take good notes. If you need guidance on note-taking, Learning Support Services (DuBois Library, 10th floor) offers a Note Taking Workshop several times each semester. They also offer workshops in time management and test-taking should you feel in need of help in those areas.
- Start work on each written assignment as soon after you receive it as your schedule allows. Complete a rough draft of each paper at least five days before it is due, and revise it at least once before you hand it in. Be sure to copyedit and proofread your papers carefully.
- Consider forming an informal study group.
- Talk to Prof. Ogilvie if you feel overwhelmed or if you are falling behind in the course. My main goal is to help you learn.