

History 182: Expansion and Enlightenment

Prof. Cotts

Office: Olin E207

Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:30, Th 4:00-5:00

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This course introduces the history of Western Europe from approximately 1400 to 1800, a period that includes some of history's greatest hits. The title of the course includes just two of the many movements under discussion, and raises some questions about what is and ought to be important in the period. Who was "enlightened" and by what? What was it that expanded and what were the consequences of this development? How does the analysis of different types of sources affect our understanding of historical change? Underlying our consideration of such meta-historical issues will be careful discussion of source materials: literature, contemporary chronicles, political theory, and data on material life. We will explore the traditional narrative of cultural ferment and religious change along with the rise of modern-style state institutions, the expansion of European civilization to the Americas, and changes in the social order, concluding with Europe's position in the Atlantic world in the late eighteenth century. Different methodologies will compete for precedence in our syllabus—part of your job is to identify them.

Books for Purchase at the College Bookstore

- Coffin and Stacey, *Western Civilizations, Volume B: 1300-1815*, 16th ed. ISBN: 978-0-393-93101-3
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Bull (Penguin). ISBN: 978-0140449150
- Thomas More, *Utopia*, trans. Adams (Norton). ISBN: 978-0393961454
- Carlo Ginzburg, *Night Battles: Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, trans. Tedeschi (Johns Hopkins) ISBN 0801843863
- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings*, ed. Vincent Carretta (Penguin). ISBN: 0-14-243716-6

Course requirements

1. *Class attendance and participation.* You are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate vigorously, insightfully, and respectfully in class discussions. While attendance and participation represent 15% of the course grade, persistent non-attendance is grounds for *failing the course*. If you feel uncomfortable speaking in class, please come chat with me about how we can create an encouraging environment in which you can share your ideas with your colleagues.

2. A midterm examination (15% of course grade) and a final examination (25%).

3. Three short (4-5 pages) papers, formatted according to the conventions found in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition, written in response to questions provided by the instructor. Each paper will count for 15% of your course grade. A supplement to this syllabus detailing the writing assignments will be provided early in the semester.

September 1: Introduction to the course

September 3: Periodization and the problem of the “Renaissance”:

Reading

- Judith G. Coffin and Robert C. Stacey, *Western Civilizations: Their History and Their Culture. Volume B: 1300-1815*, 16th ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton, 2008) [hereafter *WC*], preface to Part IV (p. 369)
- Thomas A. Brady, Heiko A. Oberman, and James D. Tracy, “Introduction: Renaissance and Reformation, Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Era,” in *Handbook of European History 1400-1600. Volume I: Structures and Assertions* (through CLEo)

September 7: The Crises of the Fourteenth Century

Reading

- *WC*, 372-84
- Documents relating to population and the Black Death (through CLEo)

September 8: Political Culture in the Late Middle Ages

Reading

- *WC*, 384-98
- The “Golden Bull” at:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/goldenbull.html>

September 10: Piety and Faith

Reading

- *WC* 398-406
- Selections from the *Book of Margery Kempe* (through CLEo)

September 14: Late Medieval Thought and Aesthetics

Reading

- *WC* 406-414
- Boccaccio, selections from the *Decameron* (through CLEo)
- Have a look at selections from John Duns Scotus (through CLEo)
(this is fairly opaque material, so don’t try to read it too closely—just get a sense for the method of presenting the argument)

September 15: Europe and its neighbors

Reading

- WC 417-427
- Selections from the journal of William of Rubrock (through CLEo)
- An account of the fall of Constantinople, online at:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20001209110900/http://www.islam.org.au/articles/14/consta.htm>

September 17: Exploration, Conquest and Colonialism

Reading

- WC 427-439
- Selections from the *Diaries* of Cristóbal Colón (through CLEo)

September 21: Italian humanism and the reception of antiquity

Reading

- WC 441-51
- Petrarch, “The Ascent of Mt. Ventoux” and “Two Letters to Cicero” (through CLEo)

September 22: Was there a “Renaissance philosophy of man” (or “of woman”)?

Reading

- Pico della Mirandola, “Oration on the Dignity of Man” (through CLEo)
- Laura Cereta, letters to Biblio Semproni and Vernacula (through CLEo)

September 24: A revolution in Aesthetics?

Reading

- WC 451-61
- Leonardo da Vinci, selections from the *Notebooks* (through CLEo)
- Michelangelo Buonarotti, selected poems (through CLEo)

September 28: Politics and the State in Renaissance Italy

Reading

- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, xv-xxix, 4-49

September 29: Machiavelli: The State as a Work of Art

Reading

- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, 50-83

October 1: Republicanism

Reading

- Gene Brucker, selections from *Renaissance Florence* (through CLEo)
- Machiavelli, selections from the *Discourses* (through CLEo)

*****FRIDAY, October 2: First Paper Due at 4:00pm*****

October 5: The Northern Renaissance

Reading

- WC, 462-69
- More, *Utopia*, 3-30

October 6: Politics and the State in Northern Europe

Reading

- Robert Bucholz and Newton Key, *Early Modern England, 1485-1714*, pp. 41-58 (through CLEo)
- More, *Utopia*, 30-48

October 8: The Humanist as Statesman

Reading

- More, *Utopia*, 48-85

October 12-13: No Class

October 15: Midterm Summary and Review

*****October 19: Midterm Examination*****

October 20: Martin Luther's Revolt

Reading

- WC, 473-82
- Luther, Selections from *On Christian Liberty* (through CLEo)

October 22: Calvin and second-wave reformers

Reading

- WC, 482-90
- John Calvin, selections on predestination (through CLEo)
- Calvin, Ecclesiastical Ordinances for Geneva at:
<http://web.leedstrinity.ac.uk/histcourse/reformat/geneva/eccleord.htm>

October 26: Reformation and Politics: The Case of England

Reading

- WC, 490—95
- Account of the suppression of Glastonbury Abbey, at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/h8-glastonbury.html>
- The Thirty-Nine Articles at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1571-39articles.html>

October 27: The “Catholic Reformation”

Reading

- Excerpts from St. Ignatius Loyola at: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/loyola-spirex.html>
- Decrees of the Twenty-third session of the Council of Trent at <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent/ct23.html>

October 29: Gender Trouble at the Time of the Reformation

Reading

- Natalie Davis, “Women on Top,” in *Society and Culture in Early Modern France* (through CLEo)

November 2: Witchcraft and Gender

Reading

- Selections from the *Malleus Maleficarum* (through CLEo)
- Witch pamphlets from Strasburg and Scotland (through CLEo)
- The witchcraft trial of Suzanne Gaudry (through CLEo)
- Carlo Ginzburg, *The Night Battles: Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, introductions, preface, and 1-32

November 3: High and Low Culture in the Sixteenth Century

Reading

- Ginzburg, *Night Battles*, 33-97

November 5: Night Battles

Reading

- Ginzburg, *Night Battles*, 99-145

*****FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6: Second Paper Due at 4:00pm*****

November 9: The Age of Religious Wars

Reading

- WC, 503-10
- Natalie Davis, "The Rites of Violence," *Past and Present* 59 (1973): 51-91, at www.jstor.org

November 10: Thirty Years War and the Making of Early Modern States

Reading

- WC, 510-17
- The Treaty of Westphalia at: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/westphal.asp

November 12: The English Civil War

Reading

- WC, 517-522
- The Petition of Right at <http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1601-1650/england/por.htm>
- A facsimile of a contemporary account of the execution of Charles I at <http://www.exmsft.com/~davidco/History/charles1.htm>

November 16: Art and Culture in an Age of Uncertainty

Reading

- WC, 522-32
- Montaigne, "On Cannibals" (through CLEo)

November 17: Absolutism

Reading

- WC, 539-64
- Louis XIV's revocation of the Edict of Nantes at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1685revocation.html>
- Selection from the memoirs of the Duc de Saint Simon at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/17stsimon.html>

November 19: The Origins of the Scientific Revolution

Reading

- WC, 579-600
- Galileo, Letter to the Duchess of Tuscany at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/galileo-tuscany.html>
- Isaac Newton, selections from the *Principia* at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/newton-princ.html>

November 30: The Enlightenment I: Ideals of Man and Government

Reading

- WC, 603-21
- Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” at: <http://www.english.upenn.edu/~mgamer/etexts/kant.html>
- David Hume, “Of Civil Liberty” and “Of the Rise and Progress of the Arts and Sciences” (through CLEo)
- Voltaire, *Encyclopedia* entry for “Men of Letters” (through CLEo)

December 1: The Enlightenment II: Thought and Society

Reading

- WC, 621-31
- Jonathan Swift, “A Modest Proposal” (through CLEo)
- Antoine-Léonard Thomas, selections from “Essay on the Character, Morals and Mind of Women Across the Centuries,” and Louise d’Epinay, “Letter to Abbé Ferdinando Galiani” (through CLEo)

December 3: Industrialization

Reading

- WC, 673-80

*****FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4: Third Paper Due at 4:00pm*****

December 7: Slavery and the Atlantic World

Reading

- Robert Harms, *The Diligent: A Voyage Through the Worlds of the Slave Trade*, xi-xxi, 3-28 (through CLEo)
- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, selections TBA

December 8: A Final Witness

Reading

- Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*, selections TBA

December 10: Last Day

******FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, December 15, at 2:00pm******