Literature of European History I (Preliminary Draft of Syllabus—precise reading assignments, normally a couple of titles per week, to be determined)

Fall 2016

Wednesday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

David G. Troyansky

Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:00-2:00, and by appointment

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This course provides an introduction to the literature of European history from the Late Middle Ages through the eighteenth century. It explores different conceptual frameworks and methodological approaches to the period and examines an assortment of classic and recent works on a variety of topics: religion and the state; science, technology, and medicine; economy and society; gender and sexuality; and ideas and mentalities. The course prepares students for the end-of-semester comprehensive examination and for further study of early modern Europe.

Requirements:

Class participation: 25%

Five (2-page) response papers: 25%

Final (8-10-page) paper on the historiography of a major theme of the course (in preparation for the semester exam): 50%

Recommended Reading:

Textbooks:


Bibliographies:


Schedule of Meetings and Readings

9/7  Introduction to the Course.

9/14  Modernity, Medievalism, and History that Stands Still


9/21  Medieval Background


9/28  Renaissance

Renaissance Europe (Cambridge, 1995); Charles Trinkaus and Heiko Oberman, eds., The Pursuit of Holiness in Late Medieval and Renaissance Religion (Leiden, 1974).

10/5 Reformations


10/19 The State


10/26 Demography and Economy


11/2 Economy and Society


11/9 Science, Technology, and Medicine


11/16 Family, Gender, and Sexuality


11/23  The State Revisited


11/30  Popular Culture, Mentalities, and Microhistory


12/7  Intellectual History, from Renaissance to Enlightenment


12/14  Looking Back and Looking Ahead