

European History I: Readings Course

Thursdays: 6:30-8:30

Office Hours: by appointment

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Falling in love with history often centers around an encounter with primary sources. This is not a course about those. It is, instead, devoted to reading the love letters other historians have already written so as to gain a better understanding of the obsession we share: bringing the past, blinking, into the light. You have undoubtedly already read your share of secondary material as undergraduates. Some of you liked it. Many of you did not. I hope this class will sway some of you doubters into the former category. Because reading historiography as a graduate student—and later, as a faculty member—is not solely about learning the scope and topography of a field, but is instead a means of understanding how other people write, how books come together, how arguments are won—and sometimes lost—in the scope of a single chapter.

For this term, you will of course be improving your knowledge of historiographic approaches and developing an educated sense of the major questions, themes, and problems in premodern history. This will form the basis of your first exam, to be offered at the end of the course, and will provide an important foundation for your oral examinations. But you will also be entering the whirl of voices currently contributing to the field of premodern history and figuring out how new and interesting books emerge from conversations that have been going on for decades. Our field is constantly changing, and I look forward to helping you puzzle out how you too will change it.

A few pieces of advice for the course: do the reading, take notes on the reading, use the notes to inform your participation in class discussions, and then use them again when you write your short papers. Keep the notes. Make sure you head every single entry on a book with the full bibliographic citation. (It will save a lot of time later.) Email me for help when you're anxious, not when you're terrified. Do not miss due dates. Remember that this could be fun.

Weekly short summaries of readings: 30%

Presentations: 20%

4 Papers: 50%

Week One: 8/30

Mechanics and introductions

Week Two: 9/6

Michael D. Bailey, *Fearful Spirits, Reasoned Follies: The Boundaries of Superstition in Late Medieval Europe* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press) 2013.

Week Three 9/13 (we will divide the class and each read 1)

Caroline Walker Bynum, *Christian Materiality: An Essay on Religion in Late Medieval Europe* (Boston: MIT Press) 2011 (paperback 2015).

Scott G. Bruce, *Cluny and the Muslims of La Garde Freinet: Hagiography and the Problem of Islam in Medieval Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) 2015.

Week Four: 9/20 (we will divide the class and each read 1)

Naomi Reed Kline, *Maps of Medieval Thought: The Hereford Paradigm* (Boydell Press) 2005.

J.R.S. Philips, *The Medieval Expansion of Europe* (Clarendon) 1998.

Week Five: 9/27 (we will divide the class and each read 1)

M. Cecilia Gaposchkin, *Invisible Weapons: Liturgy and the Making of Crusade Ideology* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press) 2017.

Thomas Asbridge, *The First Crusade: A New History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) 2005.

Paper one due over email by 11:59 (covers weeks 1-4)**Week Six: 10/4**

Andrew Willard Jones, *Before Church and State: A Study of Social Order in the Sacramental Kingdom of St Louis IX* (Emmaus Academic) 2017.

Helen Rawlings, *Church, Religion, and Society in Early Modern Spain* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan) 2002.

Week Seven:10/11 (the first book is a survey, but it is exceptionally useful and well done. Keep it for when you are teaching. It is not as important for this class, but I wanted you to have the reference. It is also helpful if you are lack any background in the history of this period. It is not required reading for this class and we will not discuss it.) We will divide the class between Adams and Rose.

Steven J. Epstein, *An Economic and Social History of Later Medieval Europe, 1000-1500* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) 2009.

Julia Adams, *The Familial State: Ruling Families and Merchant Capitalism in Early Modern Europe* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press) 2007.

Susan Rose, *The Wealth of England: The Medieval Wool Trade and its Political Importance 1100-1600* (Oxbow) 2018.

Week Eight: 10/18

Robert S. Gottfried, *The Black Death: Natural and Human Disaster in Medieval Europe* (Free Press) 1985.

George Huppert, *After the Black Death: A Social History of Early Modern Europe* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press) 1998.

Week Nine: 10/25 (we will divide the class in half and each read 1)

E.M. Rose, *The Murder of William of Norwich: The Origins of the Blood Libel in Medieval Europe* (Oxford University Press) 2015.

Maeve Brigid Callan, *The Templars, the Witch, and the Wild Irish: Vengeance and Heresy in Medieval Ireland* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press) 2014

Paper Two Due Over Email by 11:59 (covers weeks 5-8)

Week Ten: 11/1 (we will divide the class and each read 1)

Stuart Clark, *Thinking With Demons: The Idea of Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe* (Oxford University Press) 1999.

James Sharpe, *Witchcraft In Early Modern Europe* (Longman) 2001.

Week Eleven: 11/8 (we will divide the class in half and each read one)

Katharine Park, *Secrets of Women: Gender, Generation, and the Origins of Human Dissection* (Boston: MIT Press) 2010.

Helen King, *The One Sex Body on Trial: The Classical and Early Modern Evidence* (NY: Routledge) 2016.

Paper Three Due over Email by 11:59 (covers weeks 6-10)

Week Twelve: 11/15 (we will divide the class in half and each read one)

Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History* (Penguin) reprint 2005.

Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down : Radical Ideas During the English Revolution* (Penguin) 1984.

Week Thirteen: 11/22

THANKSGIVING!!

Week Fourteen: 11/29 (we will divide the class in half and each read one)

Adam Fox, *Oral and Literate Culture in England, 1500-1700* (Oxford University Press) 2002.

Steven Shapin, *A Social History of Truth: Civility and Science in Seventeenth-Century England* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) 2005.

Week Fifteen: 12/6

Conclusions and discussion about the exam

Paper 4 due over email by 11:59, covers weeks 11-14