Introduction
This course will introduce you to the basic theories, methodologies, debates, and themes in the historical study of medieval and early modern history. In addition to surveying the different conceptual and methodological approaches to the development of “history” as a mode of knowledge across time, we will read works that best reflect these different approaches; we will then move on to study classic and recent texts that approach such essential topics in medieval and early modern history as political thought and the emergence of states and nations; religion and the crisis of the reformation and counter-reformation; revolutions in science and technology; and transformations in social life and gender relations. This will be an intensive yet supportive course with the goal not only of helping you study for the first-year comprehensive examination, but aid you in laying the critical foundations for future studies. As such, our work will be collaborative; not only are you encouraged to see me in my office hours, but you should consult with each other and participate on blackboard (or in independent study groups) to share the material and your own comments and findings together.

Requirements

- **Attendance and Participation** (20%). You will be expected to read intensively in this course and to contribute substantially to the weekly discussions; attendance is therefore essential.

- **Weekly Response Papers and presentation** (40%). Every week you must submit a two-page critical essay on the reading of your choice, answering the questions I provide you in the handout. You should focus on the major themes, questions, and
problems posed by the reading for the week, and post your essay on blackboard by 9 a.m. on the day of the class. I will need my own hard copy, and will grade it with a √+ for outstanding, a √ for good, and a √- for a deficient essay with no penalty. You may miss two papers without penalty. You will also be expected to participate in discussions of the book you chose, contextualizing it in accordance to the other readings on historiography and method.

- **Seminar Presentation.** You will be asked to give a 10-15 minute presentation based on the reading(s) of the week, with special focus on the historiographical or theoretical approach, and providing a general overview and posing questions for the seminar.

- **Final Paper (40%).** You will be expected to write two 8-10 page papers that utilize a broad range of the readings and theoretical approaches, answering the following broad questions:

  1. What are problems in approaching the study of pre-modern history? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches, and how are they illustrated in the books under review?
  2. Based on three of the specialized fields that we’ve studied, describe the approaches and manner in which those fields have been treated, and how study of them has changed over the years

**READING:**

**Required:**

- One book a week, chosen from the list provided each session. We will be coordinating the books with each other in order that most if not all are covered in each class. You are also encouraged to familiarize yourself with the other books, however.
- Historiography readings (3rd column) in part one of the class. Available on blackboard.

**Recommended:**

**Textbooks:**

- Daniel Waley and Peter Denley, *Later Medieval Europe: 1250-1520*
Useful Websites:
  Annotated bibliographies of specialized areas, compiled by leading scholars in the field. See for Renaissance and Reformation, and for Medieval Studies.
- [http://home.uchicago.edu/~icon/teach/guideorals.pdf](http://home.uchicago.edu/~icon/teach/guideorals.pdf)
  “Guide to the Study of Early Modern European History For Students Preparing their Oral Examination,” by Constantin Fasolt. Issued by the University of Chicago, very useful throughout your graduate career as a guide to sources and reference works, in addition to suggestions on how to study for exams and orals.

### SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

| Week One: 9/2 | Introduction to the course; overview of historiography; themes in medieval and early modern history; studying for the exam. |

### Part One: Historiographical Approaches and Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Two: 9/9</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>One of the Following</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four: 9/23</td>
<td>No Class; Friday schedule</td>
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4. Robert DuPlessis, Transitions to |
| Week Seven | History of Science and Ideas | Ken Adler, “The History of Science, Or, an Oxymoronic Theory of Relativistic Objectivity”  
|---|---|---|
| Week Eight | Anthropology and Microhistory | William Reddy, “Anthropology and the History of Culture”  
| Week Nine | Gender and Sexuality; the body | J. Scott, “Gender as a Useful Category for Analysis,” AHR 91 |  
### Part Two: Specialized Areas: Medieval and Early Modern

#### Week Ten 11/4
**The Medieval Background**


#### Week Eleven 11/11
**Humanism and the Renaissance**

3. Lauro Martines, *Power and Imagination: City-States in Renaissance Italy* (Baltimore, 1988)

#### Week Twelve 11/18
**States and Nations**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week Fourteen:</td>
<td>Society; Gender</td>
<td>1. Peter Burke. <em>Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe</em> (revised; Ashgate, 1994)</td>
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READING LIST

Note: You do not need to know all of the following books for the exam, but this list covers the material—and classic books in the field-- we will be discussing in class, and you will be asked to discuss a good sampling of them on the exam.

21. Grafton, Anthony. Defenders of the Text: The Traditions of Scholarship in
an Age of Science, 1450-1800 (1994)


47. Siraisi, Nancy G. *Medieval and Early Renaissance Medicine: An
Introduction to Knowledge and Practice (University of Chicago Press)
1990
50. Wiesner, Merry. Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe (1993)

TIPS IN STUDYING FOR THE EXAMINATION:

1. Read systematically, carefully and take notes. You may begin by consulting bibliographies such as the Oxford Bibliographies Online. Also, begin with some more recent works, or rather their bibliographies and footnoted, which will give you a recent sense of the field.
   What is the author’s approach and argument? How is s/he positioning himself or herself in the existing historiography? What sources is he or she relying upon?
2. Read book reviews and other works that critique or engage with the work.
3. Consult guides and dictionaries.
4. Compile your own bibliography/database. You will be referring to this throughout your graduate career, and be thankful when it comes time for the orals.
5. Start support groups with your peers to circulate abstracts and study. For this class, utilize blackboard.
6. See me on a fairly regular basis to discuss any questions you may have.
7. Create study sheets and notes in preparation for the exam.