This course is an introduction to the literature of European history from the Late Middle Ages through the eighteenth century. It introduces students to the main debates and themes of the scholarship on that period and prepares them for the end-of-semester comprehensive examination as well as further study of European history.

Requirements:

**Attendance and Participation** (20%). Students are expected to contribute substantially to the weekly discussions; attendance is therefore essential. Each week there will be one or several common readings (a book or a number of articles) that everyone must read. Additionally, each student will select an individual reading (a book or several articles) and report on it to the class.

**Weekly Response Papers and Presentations** (40%). Every week students must submit a one to two-page (double-spaced, 12 point font) critical essay on one reading of their choice (not the common reading). They should briefly summarize the book or articles, describing how they compare with the assigned reading, and what they add to the theme of the week. They will email this essay to the rest of the class by 9 am on the day of the class, present it to the class orally (5 min), and answer questions about it.

**Two Historiographical Papers** (40%). Students must also write two 8-10 page (double-spaced 12 point font) historiographical papers on major themes of the course.

Schedule of Meetings and Readings:

**Week One: Introduction to the Course (8/31)**

How to read books and articles at the PhD level.

**Week Two: What is “Early Modern European History”? (9/14)**

Common Reading:

Individual Reading:


Week Three: The “Middle Ages” (9/21)

Common Reading:


R.I. Moore, *Formation of a Persecuting Society: Authority and Deviance in Western Europe 950-1250* (Wiley Blackwell, 2007). Read the introduction and chapter 5; you may skim the rest.

Individual Reading:


**Week Four: The Renaissance (10/3)**

**Common Reading:**


**Individual Reading:**


**Week Five: The Protestant Reformation I --NOTE DIFFERENT DATE (10/14)**

**Common Reading:**


**Individual Reading:**


**Week Six: Reformation II (10/19)**

**Common Reading:**


**Individual Reading:**


Week Seven: War and the Construction of the State (10/26)

Common Reading:

Steve Pincus, *1688: The First Modern Revolution* (Yale University Press, 2011.)

Individual Reading:


Week Eight: Economy and Society (11/2)

Common Reading:


Individual Reading:


Week Nine: Europe and the World (11/9)

Common Reading:


Individual Reading:


Week Ten: Science (11/16)

Common Reading:


Individual Readings:


**Week Eleven: Women, Sex and the Family (11/23)**

**Common Reading:**

AHR forum Revisiting Gender 113 (2008)


**Individual Reading:**


4. Nicholas Terpstra, *Cultures of Charity: Women, Politics and the Reform of Poor Relief in Renaissance Italy* (Harvard University Press, 2015.)

5. *The Ashgate Research Companion to Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*


Week Twelve: Popular Culture, Mentalities and Microhistory (11/30)

Common Reading:


Robert Darnton, The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History (Basic Books, 1984.)

Individual Reading:


Stuart Clark, Thinking with Demons: The Idea of Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe (Clarendon Press, 1997.)

Natalie Zemon Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre (Harvard University Press, 1984.)


Lyndal Roper, Oedipus and the Devil. Witchcraft, Sexuality and Religion in Early Modern Europe (Routledge, 1994.)

Week Thirteen: The Enlightenment I (12/7)

Common Reading:


Individual Reading:


David Harvey, *The French Enlightenment and its Others* (Palgrave, 2012.)


Week Fourteen: Debating the Enlightenment (12/14)

Common Reading:


David Harvey, *The French Enlightenment and its Others*, Introduction and Conclusion.