University of Wisconsin
Semester I, 1990-1991
HISTORY 119: THE MAKING OF MODERN EUROPE, 1500-1815
Prof. Desan
5124 Humanities

READING:
Machiavelli, The Prince
Kinko's Reader: There is also a xeroxed Reader of documents and articles available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue. The books are available in paperback at the University Book Store and at Brown's Books. The Reader and all the books are required.

This course will introduce you to the major social, intellectual, political, and religious developments in Europe from the Renaissance to the fall of Napoleon. We will focus on the lives of everyday people as well as on the most important events and cultural trends in European history.

There will be three lectures and one discussion section per week. You will be expected to attend both lecture and section and to participate in discussion section. You should complete the weekly reading assignments before section each week. There will be one two-hour final exam and two one-hour exams. If you wish to take this course for four credits, you will also be required to write a term paper on a topic chosen by you in consultation with the T. A. or with me. Final grades will be based on the final exam, the hour-exams, and section participation (and the paper in the case of four-credit students.)

I will also show the film The Return of Martin Guerre during the course of the semester.

Week 1 (September 5-7): INTRODUCTION
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 11

Week 2 (September 10-14): THE RENAISSANCE
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 12
R1 (i.e. Reader 1): Sources: Petrarch, Bruni, Pico, da Vinci
Machiavelli, The Prince, pp. 29-98 (Letter & Chs. 1-18)

Week 3 (September 17-21): THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 14
R2: Excerpt from Thomas More, Utopia
R3: Excerpts from Erasmus, Luther, Calvin
Week 4 (September 24-28): REFORMATION AND RESPONSE
Reading:  R4, M. Weisner, "Women's Response to the Reformation"
          R5, Keith Thomas, Religion and the Decline of Magic, Ch. 3
          R6, Loyola, Excerpts on Politics and on Catholic Response

Week 5 (October 1-5): EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE PEASANTRY
Reading:  TEXT, Chapter 13

Week 6 (October 8-12): OVERSEAS EXPANSION & EXAM
*HOUR EXAM, Friday, October 12
No Reading

Week 7 (October 15-19): WITCHCRAFT & THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION
Reading:  TEXT, Chapter 15
          R7, Documents on Images of Women
          R8, Christopher Hill, The English Revolution 1640: An Essay
          R9, G. Trevelyan, from England under the Stuarts

Week 8 (October 22-26): 17TH-C. CRISIS & SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION
Reading:  TEXT, Chapter 16
          R10, "The Crime of Galileo"
          R11, Francis Bacon

Week 9 (October 29-November 2): THE AGE OF ABSOLUTISM
Reading:  TEXT, Chapter 17
          R12, "Louis XIV, The Sun King"
          R13, Bossuet
          R14, "Peter the Great"

Week 10 (November 5-9): EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SOCIAL HISTORY
Reading:  TEXT, Chapter 18
          R15, Jeffrey Kaplow, The Names of Kings, 126-70
          R16, Isabel de Madariaga, "The Revolt of the Cossacks and
              the Peasant War in Russia"
          R17, Sebastian Haffner, "Prussia and Frederick the Great"

Week 11 (November 12-16): 18TH-CENTURY POWER STRUGGLES & EXAM
No reading
*HOUR EXAM, Friday, November 16

Week 12 (November 19-21): ORIGINS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT
Reading:  TEXT, Chapter 19
          R18, Encyclopedia Excerpt
               Begin Montesquieu, The Persian Letters, pages to be
               announced

Week 13 (November 26-30): THE ENLIGHTENMENT & POLITICS
Reading:  TEXT, Chapter 20
          Finish Montesquieu, selected pages
          R19, Sources on French Revolution
Week 14 (December 3-7): THE INDUSTRIAL AND FRENCH REVOLUTIONS
Reading: TEXT, Chapter 21
        R20, More sources on French Revolution

Week 15 (December 10-14): NAPOLEONIC EUROPE
No reading

FINAL EXAM