

University of Wisconsin
Semester I, 1993-1994
HISTORY 119: THE MAKING OF MODERN EUROPE, 1500-1815

Prof. Desan
5124 Humanities

READING:

TEXTBOOK: Jackson Spielvogel, Western Civilization, 1300 to 1815, vol B
George Huppert, After the Black Death: A Social History of Early Modern Europe
Machiavelli, The Prince
Montesquieu, The Persian Letters
George Mosse, The Reformation
Geoffrey Scarre, Witchcraft and Magic in Early Modern Europe

The books are all required and are available in paperback at the University Book Store. The books are all on reserve at H. C. White Library. There is also a small reader of required documents and articles available at the Copy Center in the basement of the Humanities Building. These readings are marked "R>."

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. Four-credit students 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 fifth week.

Week 1 (September 3): INTRODUCTION

Week 2 (September 6-10): GEOGRAPHAPHIC BACKGROUND & THE RENAISSANCE

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 13

*Machiavelli, The Prince, pp. 29-76 (Letter & Chs. 1-11)

Week 3 (September 13-17): RENAISSANCE & THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 14

*Machiavelli, The Prince, pp. 77-138 (Chs. 12-26)

Week 4 (September 20-24): REFORMATION & CATHOLIC RESPONSE

Reading: *George Mosse, The Reformation

R> Twelve Articles of the Peasantry

R> M. Weisner, "Women's Response to the Reformation"

Week 5 (September 27-October 1): PEASANTRY AND JUDAISM

Reading: *Huppert, After the Black Death, Chapters 1, 5-6, 9-11

R> Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln

Week 6 (October 4-8): GROWTH OF THE STATE & EXAM

*HOUR EXAM, Friday, October 8

No Reading

Week 7 (October 11-15): OVERSEAS EXPANSION & SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY CRISIS

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 15

R> Montaigne, "On Cannibals," from Essays, trans. Donald Frame

R> Columbus & Las Casas excerpts

Week 8 (October 18-22): WITCHCRAFT & THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 17

*Geoffrey Scarre, Witchcraft and Magic in Early Modern Europe

R> Documents on Images of Women and Men, Compiled by Natalie Davis

Week 9 (October 25-29): CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY VS. ABSOLUTIST KINGS

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 16

R> Bossuet, from Politics drawn from the Very Words of Scripture; Duc de Saint Simon, "Louis XIV;" Selections on "Peter the Great."

Week 10 (November 1-5): EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SOCIAL HISTORY

Reading: *Huppert, After the Black Death, Chapters 7-8

R> Manifesto of Pugachev Peasant Revolt

R> Robert Darnton, "The Great Cat Massacre"

Week 11 (November 8-12): PRUSSIA, AUSTRIA & EXAM

*HOUR EXAM, Friday, November 12

No reading

Week 12 (November 15-19): THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 18

Begin *Montesquieu, The Persian Letters, pages to be announced

R> Diderot, from The Encyclopedia, & Rousseau, Social Contract

Week 13 (November 22-24): ENLIGHTENMENT & SCIENCE

Reading: Finish *Montesquieu, selected pages

Week 14 (November 29-December 3): ENGLISH POLITICS & INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 19

*Huppert, After the Black Death, Chapters 2-4

R> Documents on Industrial Revolution

Week 15 (December 6-10): FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: TEXT, Chapter 20

R> Documents on the French Revolution

Week 16 (December 13-15): NAPOLEONIC EUROPE

FINAL EXAM