

J.P. SOMMERVILLE

351 Course Requirements

FALL 2009

Instructor:

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The [Course schedule](#) gives an outline of this course's content, summaries of the lectures, additional relevant information, and links to other internet sites.

This is a **three or four credit** course for undergraduates, and a **three credit** course for graduate students. If you are registered for the wrong number of credits, please visit your [MyUW site](#) and follow the links to update your current course information.

Requirements:

Undergraduates

- attend lectures (MWF, 2:25-3:15 1641 Mosse Humanities.)
- do the required course reading (for those who are interested there is additional [optional reading](#).)
- attend discussion section.
- and explore the material on this site by clicking the hyperlinks (starting with [Course schedule](#).)

Three credit undergraduates do two [midterms](#) (in class on 10/12 and 11/20,) and take the final (12:25, Wednesday 12/23, place to be announced;); **four credit students** do the same things and also write a [term paper](#) (due 10/30 in class.)

Your fourth credit [term paper](#) should be double-spaced and about 5-6 pages in length; in addition to the 5-6 pages of text, the paper should also include a bibliography, and references to things you have read, giving your sources, and it should show familiarity with at least two books or articles in addition to the course reading. See [this guide](#) on how to cite references in your paper.

The paper should be on either:

- (1) Why did the Thirty Years' War break out, and why did it last so long?
- or (2) In what ways did the long reign of Louis XIV benefit the French people, and in what ways did it harm them?;
- or (3) Galileo is often seen as a martyr to the causes of truth, freedom, and scientific objectivity. Is that right, or was he in fact an obstinate and opinionated man whom the Catholic church was fully justified in prosecuting?;
- or (4) another topic, by arrangement by myself or Haley Richardson.

Honors students: as 3 or 4 credit students, but you will write an additional paper (due 12/14.)

Graduate students:

Do 2 term papers (12-15 pp. including notes and bibliography; due 10/23 and 12/14.) Topics by arrangement.

Reading

Required Texts:

(1) Richard S. Dunn, *The Age of Religious Wars, 1559-1715*, paper, second edition 1979, W. W. Norton, ISBN 0-393-09021-3 This is the main textbook for the whole course.

(2) J. H. Elliott, *Richelieu and Olivares*, paper, Cambridge 1991, ISBN 0521406749. This book is relevant to the first midterm.

(3) Pierre Goubert, *Louis XIV and Twenty Million Frenchmen*, Paper, Vintage 1972; ISBN-10: 0394717511; ISBN-13: 978-0394717517.

This book will be especially relevant between the first and second midterms.

(4) Jerome J. Langford, *Galileo, Science and the Church*, paper, revised edition 1992, Ann Arbor Paperbacks, University of Michigan. ISBN-10: 0472065106; ISBN-13: 978-0472065103. This will be relevant to the material we cover after the second midterm.

NOTE: you will be given detailed reading assignments in discussion section.

Also read the material and follow the links in the pages on this site, beginning with the [Course schedule](#). For those who are interested, and for people writing term papers, there are additional readings [here](#).

How much are the exams (etc.) worth:

Undergraduates:

3 credit students: classroom participation 20%; each mid-term 20%; final 40%

4 credit students: classroom participation 20%; term paper 25%; each mid-term 13.75%; final 27.5%

3 credit honors students: classroom participation 20%; term paper 25%; each mid-term 13.75%; final 27.5%

4 credit honors students: classroom participation 20%; each term paper 15%; each mid-term 12.5%; final 25%

Graduates: 50% for each paper.

A note on term papers and the Internet:

The term paper should cite at least two sources in addition to the course reading. You can find many sources [here](#), and others are listed in the footnotes and endnotes of the course reading. A good link for buying books is [here](#). Be careful about using sources from the Internet, as they are not always reliable. As a general rule, use printed, published sources (though it's fine to use them in pdf versions available on the Internet.)

In addition, there are a great many relevant web sites; try starting with:

[History On-line: The Seventeenth Century](#).

A good guide on questions of style, grammar etc. is available at [The Wisconsin Handbook](#).

Finally, be aware that you should be careful to give proper citations for things you take from the Internet or from printed books and articles; take a look at [this information on academic misconduct](#).



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HISTORY 351: SEVENTEENTH CENTURY EUROPE

FALL 2009



This course is about Europe in the seventeenth century - probably the most important century in the making of the modern world. It was during the 1600s that Galileo and Newton founded modern science; that Descartes began modern philosophy; that Hugo Grotius initiated international law; and that Thomas Hobbes and John Locke started modern political theory. In the same century strong centralized European states entered into worldwide international competition for wealth and power, accelerating the pace of colonization in America and Asia. The Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese, English, and others, all struggled to maintain and extend colonies and trading-posts in distant corners of the globe, with profound and permanent consequences for the whole world. They also fought one another in Europe, where warfare grew increasingly complex and expensive. To gain an edge against other powers in war, European governments invested in research in military technology, and the seventeenth century was consequently an age of military revolution, enabling Europeans from then on to defeat most non-European peoples relatively easily in battle.

Schedule of Topics

SEPTEMBER

Introduction:
An age of revolution
Geography, climate and economy
The balance of power
Government religion and ideas

The Thirty Years' War:
Onset
The Bohemian phase
The Danish interval
Swedish invasion
The final French phase

Europe and the aftermath of the Thirty Years War

Spain in the seventeenth century:
A nation in decline
Olivares and crisis

OCTOBER

Early seventeenth-century France
Henry, Louis, and Richelieu

The Netherlands in the early seventeenth century
Dutch Religious and intellectual history
The Netherlands, 1600-1650

EXAM

10/12

Early Stuart England

Russia:
The Time of Troubles
The first Romanovs

Poland:
Society and Government
The Deluge

TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS: 10/30

Peasant Revolts,
the Fronde
and the English Civil War

The "General Crisis" of the seventeenth century

NOVEMBER

The course will examine the main social, economic, intellectual, religious, cultural and political developments that occurred in the seventeenth century. It will begin by exploring European religious divisions at the opening of the seventeenth century - divisions that led to assassinations and to widespread warfare, especially in the [Thirty Years War](#) of 1618-48. This war devastated much of Germany, and for a while made Sweden a great power. It also profoundly affected France, Spain and the Netherlands. In France, [Cardinal Richelieu](#) and Jules Mazarin strengthened and centralized state power, though at times their policies came perilously close to disaster. In Spain, disaster struck, and the Spaniards lost their long war with the Dutch, who formed a prosperous independent republic. Spain also lost control of Portugal, and for a while it seemed that Catalonia too would break free from Spanish control.

In the seventeenth century, Spain declined but France rose to become the greatest power in Europe. In the second half of the century Louis XIV increased royal power at home and French power abroad, but at a very high cost in lives and cash. The France of Louis XIV threatened to dominate Europe, and to oppose him other powers laid aside their religious differences (which were becoming less important in the increasingly secularized and scientific atmosphere of the late 1600s) and joined forces against France. By the end of the century two powers in particular were rivaling France, namely Holland and England. Both benefited from the shift of Europe's economic center of gravity from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. In both, agricultural and commercial changes were taking place which would soon pave the way for the Industrial Revolution.

[France under Mazarin](#) and [Louis XIV](#)

[Louis and the French Church](#)

France against Europe: the wars of Louis XIV
[- to 1678](#)
[- to 1697](#)
[- to 1713](#)

Europe in the later-seventeenth century:
[Austria](#),
the [rise of Prussia](#), [Russia](#),
[Sweden](#), [Britain & the Netherlands](#)

The Military Revolution:
[Arms & tactics](#),
[Ships & navies](#),
[Soldiers & government](#)

EXAM 11/20

THANKSGIVING RECESS: 11/25-29

DECEMBER

The Intellectual Revolution:
[Intellectual trends](#),
[Absolutism and the divine right of kings](#),
[Contractarians, republicans & skeptics](#).

[The Scientific revolution](#):
[Copernicus to Kepler](#),
[Galileo](#),
[Newton and other advances](#).

[Scientific & philosophical method](#)
[Mechanical philosophy](#)

Beliefs and culture:
[Doubts & Deism](#)
[Witchcraft](#)

FINAL EXAM:

12/23, 12:25

[Course Requirement details](#)

[Optional Readings](#)

