

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 1981

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
History 572	Undergrad. Seminar in European History: New Directions in Social History	MacDonald

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The most innovative and influential historians in this century have been scholars associated with the journal Annales, E.S.C. The French masters who established the Annales school, Febvre, Bloch, and more recently Braudel and Le Roy Ladurie, have called for a new kind of history, a total history of past societies that embraces every aspect of human experience. They and the writers who have been influenced by them have produced a magnificent series of works that are designed collectively to realize their ideal. The aim of this seminar will be to clarify the principles that characterize this new school of historical writing and to examine the practice of those principles in a representative selection of books by French, English, and American scholars. The course will begin with theoretical statements, then proceed to studies of whole regions and classes, and finally conclude with works about popular culture and thought. Throughout the course, the seminar as a group will consider how well each of the books we read embodies the theoretical prescriptions of the Annalists and how valid the statements themselves seem to be when they have been tested in practice.

LECTURES

There will be no lectures. A seminar is a discussion course in which the success or failure of the class depends upon the willingness of each student to read the assigned books carefully, to develop strong and defensible opinions about them, and to articulate his or her views in discussion. Every effort will be made to create a stimulating and pleasant atmosphere in which everyone feels free to contribute, but indolence and sullenness will be rudely penalized.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Each student will be asked to write two short papers, based on the class readings. No other written work will be required.

GRADING SYSTEM

The final grade will be based largely on the quality of the student's contributions to class discussions. The papers will count for less than half of the final grade.

REQUIRED READINGS

Braudel, <u>The Mediterranean</u> , vol. I	Davis, <u>Society and Culture in Early Modern France</u>
Goubert, <u>Louis XIV & Twenty Million Frenchmen</u>	Le Roy Ladurie, <u>Montaillou</u>
Le Roy Ladurie, <u>Peasants of Languedoc</u>	Aries, <u>Western Attitudes toward Death</u>
Stone, <u>The Crisis of the Aristocracy</u>	Ginzburg, <u>The Cheese and the Worms</u>
Burke, <u>Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe</u>	Articles by Braudel, Le Roy Ladurie, Hexter, Le Goff, and Thompson