



## HSTY 224 EARLY MODERN EUROPE

MW, 12:30-1:45  
MANDEL CENTER, ROOM 105

PROFESSOR GILLIAN WEISS

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OFFICE HOURS:  
W 2-4 AND BY APPOINTMENT

Europe has not always existed. To find out who created it and when, this course will ask two fundamental questions: First, how did the geographic, linguistic, religious and ethnic characteristics of European identity develop over the course of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? Second, how did Europeans in this period influence other parts of the world? Through close readings of memoirs, treatises and chronicles, and discussions of secondary literature, we will explore the political, social and religious history of Europe from roughly 1350 to 1800. Topics include: exploration and conquest; Protestant and Catholic reformations; witchcraft and popular culture; science and medicine; Enlightenment and Revolution.

### COURSE MATERIALS

The following required books are available at the bookstore and will be on reserve at the library:

- Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990)
- Leonard Blussé, *Bitter Bonds* (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2002)
- Voltaire, *Letters Concerning the English Nation*, ed. Nicholas Cronk (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)
- Glueckel of Hameln, *Memoirs of Glueckel of Hameln* (New York: Knopf, 1988)
- Thomas More, *Utopia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001)
- John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Norton, 2004)
- Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, *Chronicle of the Narvaez Expedition* (New York: Penguin, 2002)

Additional required readings, marked with a **β**, will be posted on Blackboard. Please bring the texts with you to class for discussion.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance & participation (25%): This class meets twice a week for a combination of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to complete the weekly readings, participate actively and respectfully and take turns setting out the class agenda (15%). They are also expected to give one ten-minute analytic presentation – based on a primary source in Early English Books Online (<http://eebo.chadwyck.com/home>) chosen in consultation with the professor (10%). Students who need to miss a session should notify me in **advance**. Those with unexcused absences should expect to be graded down accordingly.

Papers (35%): Each student must write two papers, one 4-5 pages in length (15%), the other 7-8 pages in length (20%). Late papers will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day except in documented cases of emergency or serious illness.

Take-home midterm exam (15%): The take-home midterm exam will be distributed at the end of class on Wednesday, October 7 and will be due at the beginning of class on Monday, October 12.

In-class final exam (25%): There will be an in-class final exam on December 15, 8:30-11:30. I will distribute a list of possible exam questions a week in advance and hold a review session.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to abide by the Case policy on academic integrity, available on the web at: <http://studentaffairs.case.edu/office/integrity/policy.html>. All papers should be fully documented and represent the students' own work. Plagiarism, whether from printed, unprinted or digital sources, is a form of theft and a serious violation of ethical conduct. All cases will be reported to the dean of undergraduate studies.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Changes to the syllabus: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as the semester progresses.

Note on the textbook: This course covers a broad geographic area over an extremely large period of time. By necessity, I will be selective, treating some events and themes in greater detail than others. The purpose of the textbook is to fill in gaps and, in some cases, provide more background than I can in class.

Blackboard: Please look regularly at the course site on Blackboard where, besides readings, I will post images and maps, links to relevant sites and announcements.

Locations: This class will normally meet in the Mandel Center, Room 105. We will also take field trips to the Rare Book Room of the Kelvin Smith Library, the Cleveland Museum of Art and to hear a concert by Apollo's Fire, Cleveland's Baroque Orchestra.

Communications and Accommodations: I will do my best to facilitate learning in this class. If you encounter difficulties, please talk to me as soon as possible. I encourage you to come to office hours or, if you cannot come at the posted times, to make an appointment. I would especially like to meet with students with disabilities who are registered with the Coordinator of Disability Services (368-5230) and who might need individual arrangements. The best way to reach me is by e-mail.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Week One (8/26): Introduction: The Idea of Europe

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 3-17

### Week Two (8/31 & 9/2): The Collapse of the Medieval Order

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 3-17, 46-65, 91-93  
Perspectives on the plague [1348] β  
Boccaccio, *The Decameron* [c 1350], Day 1, Novela 2; Day 9, Novela 2 β  
Petrarch, "The Ascent of Mount Ventoux" [c1336], "To Posterity" [c 1372] β  
Laura Cereta, *Collected Letters of a Renaissance Feminist* [1485-1488], selection β

\*\*SIGN UP FOR PRESENTATIONS\*\*

### Week Three (9/9): Exploration and Conquest

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 37-45, 177-191  
Cabeza de Vaca, *Chronicle of the Narvaez Expedition* [1542], entire

### Week Four (9/14 & 9/16): Tradition and Innovation in the Renaissance

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 18-33, 65-81  
Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy*, 1-108 β

GUEST: Jon Seydl, Vignos Curator of European Painting and Sculpture, 1500-1800, Cleveland Museum of Art

\*\* ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, MEET IN THE LOBBY OF THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART \*\*

### Week Five (9/21 & 9/23): Imagining Other Worlds

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 34-37, 81-95, 119-122  
Thomas More, *Utopia* [1516], entire

\*\*4-5-PAGE PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23\*\*

### Week Six (9/28 & 9/30): The Fragmentation of Christianity

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 95-133  
Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian" [1520] β  
[Sebastian Lötzer], "The Twelve Articles of the Upper Swabian Peasants" [1525] β  
Theresa d'Avila, *The Way of Perfection* [1566] β  
Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent [1542-1563] β

GUEST: Prof. Peter Bennett, Dept. of Music, Case

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP (10/2, 8 PM): Performance of Apollo's Fire, Cleveland's Baroque Orchestra ("GLORIA! Highlights from Bach's B Minor Mass & Vivaldi's Gloria, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights)

### Week Seven (10/5 & 10/7): Religious Conflict and Social Discipline

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 15-17, 133-156  
Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger, *Malleus Maleficarum* [1486] β  
"The Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day, August 24, 1572" β

### Week Eight (10/12 & 10/14): Politics in Crisis

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 156-172, 191-210, 222-248  
Destruction of Magdeburg [1631] β

Overton with Walwyn, "A Remonstrance of Many Thousand Citizens" [7 July 1646] β  
"The Trial of Charles I" [1649] & "King Charles, His Speech on the Scaffold" [1649] β

\*\*TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12\*\*

**Week Nine (10/21): Revolutionizing the Sciences**

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 311-334  
Galileo, "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany," [1615] β  
Descartes, *Discourse on Method* [1637] β

\*\*ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, MEET IN KEVIN SMITH LIBRARY, RARE BOOK ROOM\*\*

**Week Ten (10/26 & 10/28): Accommodating European Jewry**

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 211-221, 248-260  
Glueckel of Hameln, *Memoirs of Glueckel of Hameln* [1690-1719], selection TBA  
Additional article, TBA

**Week Eleven (11/2 & 11/4): Commerce and Colonization**

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 177-183, 200-204, 400-403, 419-421, 426-433  
Leonard Blussé, *Bitter Bonds*, entire [starts 1676]

GUEST: Prof. Marcy Norton, Dept. of History, George Washington University (Mather 100, 4pm)

\*\* ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, MEET IN THE LOBBY OF THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART \*\*

**Week Twelve (11/9 & 11/11): Restoring Order**

READING: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 261-284, 300-306  
Bossuet, "Politics Derived from the Words of the Holy Scripture" [c1670s] β  
Saint-Simon, *Memoirs* [1691-1709] β  
Revocation of the Edict of Nantes [1685] β

\*\*7-8-PAGE ESSAY DUE IN MY BOX IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 5PM\*\*

**Week Thirteen (11/16 & 11/18): Enlightenment**

READINGS: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 335-354, 358-361  
Voltaire, *Letters Concerning the English Nation*, entire

**Week Fourteen (11/23 & 11/25): The End of the Old Regime**

READINGS: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 361-375, 403-418, 453-457, 464-465, 469-475  
*Encyclopédie* entries at <http://www.hti.umich.edu/d/did/> -- be prepared to discuss one  
Edict of Toleration [1787] β  
Nicholas Toussaint le Moyne des Essarts, "The Noailles Affair" [1786] β

\*\*ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, MEET IN KEVIN SMITH LIBRARY, RARE BOOK ROOM\*\*

**Week Fifteen (11/30 & 12/2): Atlantic Revolutions**

READINGS: Merriman, *Modern Europe*, 475-547  
Abbé de Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" [1789] β  
"Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" [1789] β  
Petition by the Jews Settled in France to National Assembly [1790] β  
The National Assembly Declares the Enfranchisement of Free Men of Color [1791] β  
Olympe de Gouges, "Declaration of the Rights of Woman" [1791] β

\*\* FINAL EXAM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 8:30-11:30AM \*\*