

H/Hum 3b  
Prof. Nicholas Popper  
Fall 2008  
T Th 2:30-255

### **Early Modern Europe from Renaissance to Enlightenment**

This class will introduce students to the history of Europe from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. It will focus on the ways that institutions and individuals identified and addressed perceived ills, injustices or instabilities in their societies.

Most of the readings will be excerpts from primary sources, and students will be taught both how to interpret classic works from the period and how to make sense of other materials, such as letters and legal records. Students will also be pushed to examine the methods by which these *sources* can be used as *evidence*.

This class will be writing intensive. Students will be required to write three papers and will work with me on basic considerations of organization, editing, and use of evidence. For the final paper, students will submit a first draft by the beginning of Week 9 and will meet with me to discuss this draft. The re-write will be due at the end of the term.

The class will also be discussion intensive. While each week I will supplement textbook readings with brief expositions of the historical context and background for the primary sources, the majority of class time will be devoted to discussion. Attendance and participation are critical. One of the many virtues of seminar courses in the humanities is that they expose students not just to thinking of the professor, but also to that of their fellow students.

Below is a very tentative syllabus, to be revised over the summer. Each week's assignment will consist of 100-120 pages of reading each week; the below listed works are simply those that will be extracted. Most, if not all, of the readings will be compiled in a course packet, posted online or distributed in class.

Textbooks: Eugene F. Rice, Jr., with Anthony Grafton, *Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460-1559* (New York: Norton, 1994)  
Richard S. Dunn, *The Age of Religious Wars, 1559-1715* (New York: Norton, 1979)

Week 1: The Medieval World and Its Discontents

Th: Petrarch, *Letters, Secretum, Ascent of Mount Ventoux*

Week 2: Humanism

T: Erasmus, *Adages*; Vespassiano da Bisticci, *Lives of Illustrious Men*

Th: Thomas More, *Utopia*

Week 3: The Renaissance State

First paper due Tuesday before class

T: *Selected Letters* of Alessandra Strozzi; LuAnn Homza, ed. *The Spanish Inquisition*

Th: Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Week 4: Reformation

T: Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*

Th: *German Peasants' War*, ed. Scribner and Scott; *The Chronicle of Jeanne de Jussie*; John Calvin, *Institutes of Christian Religion*

Week 5: Counter Reformation

T: Ignatius of Loyola, *Autobiography*

Th: St. Francis Xavier, *Select Letters*; Teresa of Avila, *Autobiography*

Second Paper due Friday

Week 6: Travel and Exploration

T: Antonio Pigafetta, *Magellan's Voyage*

Th: Juan Gines de Sepulveda, *Democrates Alter*; Bartolomé de Las Casas, *Apologetic History of the Indies*

Week 7: The 16<sup>th</sup> century Crisis

T: Michel Montaigne, *Essais*

Th: Francis Bacon, *New Atlantis* and *Advancement of Learning*

Week 8: The New Learning

T: Galileo Galilei, *Letter to Madame Christina of Lorraine*

Th: Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method*

Week 9: Absolutism and Liberty

First Draft of Third Paper Due Tuesday before class

T: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Th: John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*

Week 10: Enlightenment

T: Denis Diderot, *Encyclopedie*; Carolus Linnaeus, *Systema Naturae*; *Selected Letters* of Madame de Sevigne

Th: Voltaire, *Candide* and *Philosophical Dictionary*

Re-write of Final Papers due at end of week