

**History 234-01**  
**Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe, 1350-1650**  
Fall 2008  
MWF 3:15-4:05pm  
ARH 314

Professor John Wei  
Mears Cottage 210  
x9268  
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Course Webpage: <https://pioneerweb.grinnell.edu>

### **Course Description**

This survey course provides an introduction to the later Middle Ages and early modern Europe. It will focus on two questions: What were the Middle Ages? And when did modernity begin? We will devote particular attention to two supposed harbingers of the modern world: the cultural movement known as the Renaissance and the religious movement known as the Protestant Reformation.

### **Course Goals**

1. To develop a general understanding of what happened in Europe in the period 1350-1650.
2. To gain an understanding of the most significant historiographical problems of these periods.
3. To learn how to analyze primary sources.
4. To improve reading and writing skills.

### **Assignments and Grading**

Students' grades will be based on the following criteria:

1. Class participation (10%)
2. One 3 page document analysis papers (10%).
3. 10-minute presentation on a book by a modern historian (10%)
4. Review and critique of the book you presented, approximately 6-8 pages (20%)
5. Notes to 3 other panel discussions (15% total, 5% each)
6. Midterm Exam (10%)
7. Final Exam (25%)

### **Class Participation**

Students are expected to come to class on time having already read the assigned reading. Since you cannot participate if you are not present, missing more than two classes will begin to have a detrimental effect on your grade. Be forewarned.

### **Exams**

Both the Midterm and the Final exam will consist of three parts: a map quiz, a short identification section, and a short essay section. About a week before each exam, I will hand out a list containing the places/geographical landmarks and terms from which the map and short

identification sections will be drawn. The short essay question(s) will not be distributed in advance. They will all deal, however, with larger issues discussed in the readings and in class (including the book presentations).

### **Presentation**

The 10-minute presentation will serve as the basis of your second paper. You will be asked to explain the argument and methodology of your book. About two days before the presentation, you and the other members of your panel will be required to meet with me to go over the details of the presentation and to discuss the relationship between your respective books. You should prepare for this meeting by discussing with the other panel members what the larger issues and questions of your topic are.

### **Notes to 3 other panel discussions**

In addition to your own panel presentation, you will need to submit a brief paragraph by 7pm the day before 3 of the other panel presentations. In your paragraph, you should identify what you think the key issues for the panel are. You should also include 3 questions that you have about the topic.

### **Document Analysis Paper**

In the document analysis paper, you will be asked to analyze/compare one or more primary sources and to discuss your interpretation in light of contemporary events and ideas. The paper should have a clear thesis statement (which you must underline) and a concluding paragraph.

### **Book Review**

The book review will be based on your in-class presentation. In the paper, you will critique a book by a modern scholar. You will need to demonstrate an understanding of the scholar's argument, methodology, and process of argumentation. You will also be asked to evaluate your book in light of class readings and the books assigned to other members of your panel.

### **Resubmissions and Regrading**

Students can submit revised versions of their papers for regrading. The grade for the revised paper will be final, regardless of whether it is higher or lower. The grade of the revised paper can be at most 1 letter grade higher. The deadline for submitting revised papers is two weeks after the original, corrected paper is returned.

### **Accommodations**

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, who is located on the third floor of the JRC (x3702).

### **Required Texts**

Julia Conway Bondanella and Mark Musa, eds., *The Italian Renaissance Reader*.

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Night Battles: Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, 1983.

Carter Lindberg, ed., *The European Reformations Sourcebook* (Blackwell 2000).

Daniel Waley and Peter Denley, *Later Medieval Europe, 1250-1520*.

## Schedule

Friday  
Aug. 29                      Introduction

### Narratives of the Later Middle Ages

#### Week 1: The Waning of the Middle Ages

Monday                      Black Death and Great Famine  
Sept. 1                              Waley, chapter 5

Wednesday                Great Schism  
Sept. 3                              Waley, chapter 6 (to p. 122)

Friday                        Hundred Years' War  
Sept. 5                              Waley, chapter 7; [Extracts from Froissart](#)

#### Weeks 2-4: The Renaissance

Monday                      Trecento Italy  
Sept. 8                              Waley, chapter 8

Wednesday                Life in Fourteenth-century Florence  
Sept. 10                              Renaissance Reader 60-61, 90-118, 124-132, 146-161 (Boccaccio)

Friday                        Early Italian Humanism  
Sept. 12                              Renaissance Reader 1-22 (Petrarch)

Monday                      Quattrocento Italy  
Sept. 15                              Waley, chapter 10  
   Renaissance Reader 259-97 (Machiavelli)

#### **Document Analysis Assignment handed out**

Wednesday                Later Italian Humanism  
Sept. 17                              Renaissance Reader 164-96 (Alberti, Mirandola, Da Vinci)

Friday                        Court Culture  
Sept. 19                              Renaissance Reader 197-220 (Castiglione)

Monday                      Renaissance Art  
Sept. 22                              Renaissance Reader 382-93 (Vasari)

#### **Document Analysis Paper Due**

Wednesday                Northern Humanism  
Sept. 24                              [Erasmus, "The Shipwreck" \(from the \*Colloquies\*\)](#)

Friday Interpretations of the Renaissance – PRESENTATIONS  
Sept. 26 Kelly-Gadol, “Did Women Have a Renaissance?” (Burling Reserve)

### **Weeks 5-6: Prelude to the Reformation**

Monday Church Finance  
Sept. 29 [Poem criticizing the papacy](#); [Extract from a letter by Petrarch](#)

Wednesday Religious devotion and late medieval theology  
Oct. 1 Lindberg, chapter 1.18, 24-27

Friday Printing and Biblical scholarship  
Oct. 3 Lindberg, chapter 1.5, 1.20

Monday Reformations before the Reformation  
Oct. 6 Waley, pp. 122-128

Wednesday Germany on the Eve of the Reformation  
Oct. 8 Lindberg, chapter 1.3  
Waley, chapters 4, 13

Friday **Midterm Exam**  
Oct. 10

### **Early Modern Europe**

#### **Weeks 7-9: Protestant Reformation**

Monday Martin Luther  
Oct. 13 Lindberg, chapter 2

Wednesday Response to Luther  
Oct. 15 Lindberg, chapter 3-4

Friday The Reformation in Germany  
Oct. 17 Lindberg, chapters 5 and 8

-----**Oct. 18-26: Fall Break**-----

Monday Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation  
Oct. 27 Lindberg, chapter 6

Wednesday The Radical Reformation  
Oct. 29 Lindberg, chapter 7

Friday The Reformation as a Social Movement – PRESENTATIONS

Oct. 31

Monday  
Nov. 3 Calvin and the Reformed Tradition  
Lindberg, chapter 9-10

Wednesday  
Nov. 5 The Church of England  
Lindberg, chapter 12

Friday  
Nov. 7 The Reformation's Effect on Women – PRESENTATIONS  
[Peter Matheson, "Breaking the Silence: Women, Censorship and the Reformation" \(JSTOR\)](#)

### **Weeks 10-11: Catholic Renewal and Reformation**

Monday  
Nov. 10 Early Attempts at Catholic Renewal  
Lindberg, chapter 13.1-8

Wednesday  
Nov. 12 New Religious Orders  
Lindberg, 13.10-13

Friday  
Nov. 14 Council of Trent  
Lindberg, 13.14-20

Monday  
Nov. 17 Colonization and Evangelization  
[Las Casas on the destruction of the Indies](#)  
[A letter by Francis Xavier from India](#)

Wednesday  
Nov. 19 Inquisition  
[Kamen, "Toleration and Dissent in Sixteenth-Century Spain" \(JSTOR\)](#)

Friday  
Nov. 21 Evangelizing the Masses – PRESENTATIONS

### **Week 12: Witch Craze**

Monday  
Nov. 24 Magic and Witchcraft in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Europe  
Begin reading Ginzburg, *Night Battles*

Wednesday  
Nov. 26 Witch Hunts  
Continue Ginzburg, *Night Battles*

Friday  
Nov. 28 **Thanksgiving Break – No Class**

### **Week 13: Finishing the Witch Craze; Religious Violence**

Monday            Interpretations of the Witch Craze – PRESENTATIONS  
Dec. 1            Finish Ginzburg, *Night Battles*

Wednesday      French Wars of Religion  
Dec. 3            [St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre](#)

Friday            Thirty Years' War  
Dec. 5            [Treaty of Westphalia](#)

### **Week 14: Towards Modernity**

Monday            The Scientific Revolution  
Dec. 8            [Galileo's Letter to the Duchess Christina of Tuscany \(1615\)](#)  
[Bellarmine's Letter on Galileo's Theories](#)

Wednesday      Capitalism and the World Economy  
Dec. 10          [Immanuel Wallerstein, "From Feudalism to Capitalism" \(JSTOR\)](#)

Friday            Review and EOC Evaluations  
Dec. 12

**Thursday      Final Exam**  
**Dec. 18**

### **Sept. 26 – Interpretations of the Renaissance**

Hans Baron, *The Crisis of the Early Italian Renaissance: Civic Humanism and Republican Liberty in an Age of Classicism and Tyranny*, 1955. (Read Parts 1-3, Part 5, ch. 16 + Epilogue)  
DG537 .B37

Peter Burke, *The Italian Renaissance: Culture and Society in Italy*, 1987. DG445 .B85 1987

Lisa Jardine, *Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance*, 1996. CB361 .J35 1996

### **Oct. 31 – The Reformation as a Social Movement**

Peter Blickle, *Communal Reformation: The Quest for Salvation in Sixteenth-Century Germany*, 1992. BR305.2 .B5313 1992

Thomas Brady, *Ruling Class, Regime and Reformation at Strasbourg*, 1978. HN438.S87 B7

Steve Ozment, *The Reformation in the Cities: The Appeal of Protestantism to Sixteenth-Century Germany and Switzerland*, 1975. BR305.2 .O9

### **Nov. 7 – The Reformation's Effect on Women**

Amy Leonard, *Nails in the Wall: Catholic Nuns in Reformation Germany*, 2005. BX4337 .Z9 S735 2005

Steve Ozment, *When Fathers Ruled*, 1983. HQ611 .O97 1983

Lynda Roper, *The Holy Household: Women and Morals in Reformation Augsburg*, 1989. HQ1630.A84 R67 1989

**Nov. 21 – Evangelizing the Masses**

Louis Chatellier, *The Europe of the Devout: The Catholic Reformation and the Formation of a New Society*, 1989. BX1490 .C4613 1989

Louis Chatellier, *The Religion of the Poor: Rural Missions in Europe and the Formation of Modern Catholicism*, 1997. BV2900 .C4313 1997

Jean Delumeau, *Catholicism between Luther and Voltaire*, 1977. (Interlibrary Loan)

**Dec. 1 – Interpretations of the Witch Craze**

Brian P. Levack, *Witch-Hunting in Scotland: Law, Politics and Religion*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany*, 2004. BF1583 .R66 2004

Walter Stephens, *Demon Lovers: Witchcraft, Sex, and the Crisis of Belief*, 2002. BF1572.S4 S74 2002