

HISTORY 709-02 INTRODUCTORY RESEARCH SEMINAR:

SELF AND SOCIETY IN EUROPE, 1350-1700

Fall Semester 2008  
Mondays 3:30-6:20 PM  
Humanities 1304

Jodi Bilinkoff Humanities 2114  
Office Hours:  
MWF 10:00-10:45 and by appointment

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Benvenuto Cellini, Autobiography  
William Roper, The Life of Sir Thomas More  
Christopher Columbus The Four Voyages  
Madame de Sévigné, Selected Letters  
Johanna Petersen, The Life of Lady Johanna Eleonora Petersen,  
Written by Herself

For reference I have ordered Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789. You may, however, use any other Western Civilization or European history text.

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore and are also on reserve at Jackson Library. Using the internet can frequently result in savings on book purchases.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

We will be examining biographical and autobiographical texts, which were produced in abundance in Europe and its colonies in the period between 1350 and 1700. At the heart of our inquiry will be what scholars call "the construction of

identities," how individuals perceive and present their own lives, or the lives of others. We will read and discuss together some representative texts from the period and identify analytical categories such as class, gender, geographical origin, profession, religious orientation, political persuasion, intended audience, and genre. Students will then choose a text or group of texts to investigate and contextualize on their own. There is a wealth of material in English in Jackson Library. I have compiled a bibliography to aid you in making your choices, and will, of course, be available throughout the semester for consultation.

#### GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS:

This is a research seminar, which means that the major enterprise of the semester will be producing a research paper of 20-30 pages in length (20 pages minimum). The paper itself will count for 60% of the final grade.

During the course of the semester each student will prepare a research prospectus, detailed outline and annotated bibliography; together they will constitute 20% of the final grade. The remaining 20% of the grade will be derived from various oral presentations, including class participation, oral reports based on the common readings, and progress reports on research projects. Oral reports will be assigned after our first meeting. I do not intend to lecture at any length in this class, thus student participation is absolutely crucial to its success. Let me remind you that the Renaissance was a great age of oratory as well as written masterpieces!

Please make every effort to attend each class meeting, there is, after all, only one each week. If you have to miss a class or come late, please contact me so we don't have to hold up the class for the other students. I will check my voice mail and e-mail before each class meeting.

**RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** If you are unable to hand in any of your assignments on time or make an oral presentation for any reason it is YOUR responsibility to contact me. If I am not contacted directly or by message before the deadline I will not accept late assignments. See above for ways of contacting me.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Aug 25 Introduction to Course  
Constructing Identities, Writing about Identities

Sep 1 LABOR DAY

Sep 8 The Self as a Work of Art: Benvenuto Cellini  
Autobiography, 1-11, 19-83, 92-104, 113-117, 141-152

John Jeffries Martin, "Inventing Sincerity, Refashioning Prudence: The Discovery of the Individual in Renaissance Europe," American Historical Review 102-5(1997):1309-42. [J-Stor]

Sep 15 Cellini, Autobiography  
161-174, 184-230, 236-239, 250-274, 289-306, 356-353  
389-402

Margaret A. Gallucci, Benvenuto Cellini: Sexuality, Masculinity, and Artistic Identity in Renaissance Italy  
Chap 5("Honor and Manliness") pp.109-141 [E-reserves]

Sep 22 Personality, Politics, Religion: Thomas More and his Circle  
Thomas More and Margaret More Roper, excerpts from  
The Last Letters of Thomas More [E-reserves]

Brad Gregory, "Late Medieval Religiosity and the Renaissance of Christian Martyrdom in the Reformation Era," Continuity and Change pp.379-99 [E-reserves]

Sep 29 William Roper, The Life of Sir Thomas More  
7-125

F.W. Conrad, "Manipulating Reputations: Sir Thomas More, Sir Thomas Elyot, and the Conclusion of William Roper's *Lyf of Sir Thomas Moore, Knighte*," in The Rhetorics of Life-Writing in Early Modern Europe pp.133-61 [E-reserves]

1-2 PAGE PROSPECTUS OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE

- Oct 6      Discovering Columbus  
The Four Voyages  
27-36, 82-92, 100-114, 115-122, 127-128,  
158-199
- Margarita Zamora, "Reading Columbus" in Reading Columbus pp.9-20 [E-reserves]
- Oct 13      Columbus, The Four Voyages  
206-226, 241-253, 259-264, 265-276, 283-304, 318-320
- Mary B. Campbell, The Witness and the Other World  
Chap. 5 ("'The End of the East:' Columbus Discovers  
Paradise") pp.165-210 [E-reserves]
- Fri Oct 17      LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES
- Oct 20      FALL BREAK
- Oct 27      PROGRESS REPORTS  
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE
- Nov 3      Letters from Court and Country: Madame de Sévigné  
Selected Letters, Intro, 29-30, 55-59, 61-62, 67-72, 75-  
81, 85-90, 110-113, 124-131, 140-141, 154-158
- Roger Duchene, "The Letter: Men's Genre/Women's  
Practice," in Women Writers in Pre-Revolutionary  
France pp.315-34
- DETAILED OUTLINES DUE
- Nov 10      Madame de Sévigné, Selected Letters  
164-166, 173-175, 179-180, 182, 185-186, 188-189  
193-195, 196-197, 206-210, 216-218, 222-224, 228-31, 233-  
238, 246-248, 257, 264-265, 267-269, 271-272, 280-282,  
289-291, 298-300, 304-306, 308-311, 311-314, 320
- Elizabeth C. Goldsmith, "Giving Weight to Words: Madame  
de Sévigné's Letters to her Daughter," in The Female  
Autograph pp.96-103 [E-reserves]
- Nov 17      A Pietist Life: Johanna Eleonora Petersen  
Life, Intro 1-43, 59-80
- DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE, BRING 2 COPIES

Nov 24 NO CLASS  
Students continue to work on their papers and read  
and make comments on peer drafts.

Dec 1 PEER REVIEW, DISCUSSION OF DRAFTS

Dec 8 Instructor returns drafts, final discussion  
Suitably festive end of term

Fri Dec 12 I will be available for consultation in my office  
from 10-2.

Mon Dec 15 FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE BY 12 NOON  
Please send to Dr. Bilinkoff as an e-mail  
attachment using Microsoft Word