HIS 740: MICROHISTORY: THE FAMOUS AND THE FASCINATING IN EUROPEAN HISTORY, 1400-1800

Fall Semester 2009
Mondays 3:30-6:20 PM    MHRA 3204

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:
Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller
Natalie Zemon Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre
Steven Ozment, The Bürgermeister’s Daughter: Scandal in a Sixteenth-Century German Town
Eamon Duffy, The Voices of Morebath: Reformation and Rebellion in an English Village
Sara T. Nalle, Mad for God: Bartolomé Sánchez, The Secret Messiah of Cardenete
David L. Ransel, A Russian Merchant’s Tale: The Life and Adventures of Ivan Alekseevich Tolchenov, Based on His Diary
Merry-Wiesner-Hanks, Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789 [recommended]

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore and have been placed on reserve at Jackson Library. Additional readings have also been placed on reserve.

COURSE SYLLABUS:

M  8/24  Introduction to Course
    Defining Microhistory

M  8/31  Carlo Ginzburg and Microhistory as Method

Carlo Ginzburg, “The Inquisitor as Anthropologist” in Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method 156-164 [reserve]


Carlo Ginzburg, Cheese and Worms 1-70

M 9/7 LABOR DAY

M 9/14 Cheese and Worms 70-128
Reviews

The Famous: Galileo Galilei

M 9/21 Natalie Zemon Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre 1-61
Reviews

M 9/28 The Return of Martin Guerre 62-125

The Famous: Catherine de’ Medici
R.J. Knecht, Catherine de’ Medici esp. chs. 1,3,4,7, Conclusion [reserve]

M 10/5 Steven Ozment, The Burgermeister’s Daughter 1-101
Reviews

ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE

M 10/12 FALL BREAK

F 10/16 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

M 10/19 The Burgermeister’s Daughter 104-194

The Famous: Martin Luther
Heiko Oberman, Luther: Man Between God and the Devil esp. 3-12, 209-225, 298-324, 325-330 [reserve]
M 10/26  Eamon Duffy, *The Voices of Morebath* 1-110
Reviews

M 11/2  *The Voices of Morebath* 111-190

The Famous: Thomas More
John Guy, *Thomas More* esp. chs. 1, 9, 10, 11 [reserve]

Reviews

ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE

M 11/16  *Mad for God* 93-168

The Famous: Teresa of Avila
Jodi Bilinkoff, “Teresa of Jesus and Carmelite Reform,” in
*Religious Orders of the Catholic Reformation* 165-178 [reserve]

M 11/23  David Ransel, *A Russian Merchant’s Tale* intro, chs.1, 3, 4
Reviews (if available)

M 11/30  *A Russian Merchant’s Tale* chs.6, 7, 8, conclusion

The Famous: Catherine the Great
Simon Dixon, *Catherine the Great* esp. chs.1, 5, 6, 9 [reserve]

ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE

M 12/7  Reports, Wrap-Up, Suitably Festive End of Course

F 12/11  ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF’S
MAILBOX IN HISTORY DEPT OFFICE (MHRA 2118A)
BY 2:00 PM. YOU MAY HAND IT IN EARLIER IF YOU WISH.
GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. As this course only meets once a week, please make a strong effort to attend every class meeting. If you will not be able to attend a class, or must arrive late please call or e-mail me ahead of time. I will check my messages and e-mail just before the class begins.

2. Please read the material for a given class period before coming to class. It is **essential** to keep up with the syllabus. Please let me know if you misplace your syllabus and I will be happy to supply you with another copy. Course syllabi are also available on the History dept website: [http://www.uncg.edu/his](http://www.uncg.edu/his)

3. Course grades will be based on the following factors, in this order of priority:

   Four written assignments based upon the major readings for the course and included in the bibliography. I will describe these assignments in greater detail after the semester gets underway. All written work must be word processed, double-spaced, with 12-point fonts and standard margins, and spell-checked.

   Each student will make 1-2 oral presentations to the class based upon the weekly reading assignments. I will make assignments and explain this in greater detail after our first meeting when I can gauge the number and preferences of students. Please organize your oral presentation(s) according to an outline or other written plan, which I will collect and use for comments and grades.

   Class participation is **crucial** to a seminar-style course such as this; I do not intend to lecture. The frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussions will thus figure into your grade.