

HIS 544: EARLY MODERN EUROPE: SELECTED TOPICS
MICROHISTORY, OR HISTORY FROM THE BOTTOM UP:
NEW APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF EARLY MODERN EUROPE, 1400-1800

Fall Semester 2015
Mondays 3:30-6:20 PM
MHRA 2206

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REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Gene Brucker, *Giovanni and Lusanna: Love and Marriage in Renaissance Florence*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. [orig. 1986] ISBN: 978-0520244955

Eamon Duffy, *The Voices of Morebath: Reformation and Rebellion in an English Village*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-0300098259

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013. [Italian orig. 1976; orig. English trans. 1980] ISBN: 978-0801843877

Allan Greer, *Mohawk Saint: Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2006. [orig. 2004] ISBN: 978-0195309348

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789*, 2nd. ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013 [1st ed. 2006]. ISBN: 978-1107643574

These books are available for sale at the UNCG Bookstore, although purchasing via the internet usually results in considerable savings. The books are also on reserve at Jackson Library. Page assignments in brackets are optional for undergraduates, required for graduate students. I may be adding some supplementary readings that will be available via the internet.

COURSE SYLLABUS

- M 8/17 a) Introduction to Course
b) What is Microhistory?
- M 8/24 a) Italy in the Renaissance
Wiesner-Hanks 27-30, 35-38, 59-75, 119-123, 138-143, 224-228
b) Brucker, *Giovanni and Lusanna* vii-xi, xiii-xv, 1-75
c) Discussion of course bibliography and critical book reports
- M 8/31 a) *Giovanni & Lusanna* 75-121
b) Assessment of book; History from the Top Down
- M 9/7 **LABOR DAY**
- M 9/14 a) The Coming of the Protestant Reformation
Wiesner-Hanks 38-43, 75-83, 99-103, 113-115, 164-174
b) Reformation in England:
Duffy, *The Voices of Morebath* xiii-xv, 1-16, [17-46], 65-83
- M 9/21 a) *Voices of Morebath* [84-110], 111-151
b) *Voices of Morebath* 152-190
c) Assessment of Book; History from the Top Down
ESSAY 1 ASSIGNED
- M 9/28 a) Catholic Reform and Reaction
Wiesner-Hanks 53-58, 72-75, 174-176, 180-182, 186-197
b) Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms* ix-xiii, xix-xx [xxi-xxxiii], 1-61
**GUIDELINES ON CRITICAL BOOK REPORTS AND DATA COLLECTION
EXERCISE ASSIGNED**
- M 10/5 a) *The Cheese and the Worms* 61-95
b) *The Cheese and the Worms* 95-121
c) Assessment of Book; History from the Top Down
ESSAY 1 DUE
- F 10/9 **LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES**

- M 10/12 **FALL BREAK**
- M 10/19 Microhistory and Film:
 "Le Retour de Martin Guerre," 1982 (French, with English subtitles)
 Historical Consultant: Natalie Zemon Davis, author of *The Return of Martin Guerre*.
 Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1983.
 Wiesner Hanks 53-58, 59-72, 78-84, 103-105, 178-180, 192-196
 [AHR Forum: The Return of Martin Guerre, *American Historical Review* 93, no. 3
 (June, 1988: 507-603.) [available on internet or JStor]
- M 10/26 a) Oral Progress Reports on chosen books
 b) Discussion of Film
DATA COLLECTION EXERCISE DUE
- M 11/2 a) After 1492: Europe and the New World
 Wiesner-Hanks 238-240, 288-292, 325 (3rd full paragraph)-332,
 415-420, 425-427, 492-495, 512-519, 526-528
 b) Greer, *Mohawk Saint* vii-xiv, 3-24
ESSAY 2 ASSIGNED
- M 11/9 a) *Mohawk Saint* [25-47], 47-58, 59-88
 b) *Mohawk Saint* [89-110], 111-124, 125-146
- M 11/16 a) *Mohawk Saint* 147-170, [171-192], 193-205
 b) Assessment of Book; History from the Top Down
ESSAY 2 DUE
- M 11/23 Final Oral Reports on chosen books
- M 11/30 a) Final Oral Reports on chosen books
 b) History from the Bottom Up: Its Past, Present, and Future
 c) Festive End to Semester
- F 12/4 **CRITICAL BOOK REPORTS DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S MAILBOX NEXT TO HER OFFICE (MHRA 2127) NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM.**
STUDENTS MAY HAND IN THEIR REPORTS EARLIER IF THEY WISH.

GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Attendance Policy:** This is a small, seminar-style course. Regular attendance and full participation is absolutely crucial to its success. If you are not prepared to come every week, arrive on time, and stay until the end of the class period, please drop the course. We will take a 10-minute break at the halfway point of each class period. If you miss 2 classes you will be dropped from the course. I will also drop any registered student who does not attend the first class meeting or notify me beforehand. In case of an emergency, contact the Office of the Dean of Students and they will inform all of your instructors: deanofstudents@uncg.edu (336) 334-5514

2. **Attentiveness Policy:** If you are not prepared to pay attention and take careful notes during class periods, please drop this course. I do not make seating assignments, but if I find that students are distracting me or other students I will require them to change their seats. I do not permit laptops in the classroom, except in documented cases of need. In those cases I will require students to seat themselves so as not to distract others. Cellphones or other electronic devices which have been **silenced** may be used for to access the assigned reading material **only**. Otherwise they must be turned off and stowed out of sight. **Texting during class is extremely rude and indicates a lack of respect for the instructor and one's classmates.**

3. Please read the material specified for a given class period before coming to class and be prepared to raise questions and engage in discussion. It is essential to keep up with the syllabus. If you lose your copy, just ask me for another. Please bring to class the book we are reading that week.

4. Grades will be based primarily on 3 take-home writing assignments. I will calculate grades according to this rough scale: 2 take-home essays, 25% each, final critical book report, 40%, class participation, including oral presentations, 10%. I will explain all this in greater detail when the drop/add period is over. Please word process all writing assignments, double-spaced, spell-checked, and with 12-point fonts and 1" margins. I require hard copies of written work; I will accept e-mail attachments only with prior permission. As always, I am looking for correctness and clarity of exposition in students' written work, as well as a demonstration of comprehension of course content.

5. All assignments are due on the days specified in the syllabus.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE: If for **ANY** reason you are unable to hand in an assignment or make a scheduled oral presentation on time, it is **YOUR** responsibility to contact me. If I am not contacted directly or by message beforehand I will **NOT** accept late assignments. See the front page of the syllabus for ways of contacting me.

6. If you do not think you will be able to abide by these guidelines, please drop the course. The last day to drop courses without academic penalty is Friday October 9. But, if you would like to read some fascinating books and continue to improve your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, please stay in the course!

