

**HISTORY 511B SEMINAR IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND WRITING:
SELF AND SOCIETY IN EUROPE AND ITS COLONIES,
1350-1700**

Spring Semester 2017
MW 2:00-3:15pm
MHRA 2206

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Jodi Bilinkoff
Office: MHRA 2127
Office Hours: MW 12:45-1:45pm PM and by appointment
Phone Number, History Department Office: (336)334-5992
E-Mail: jodi_bilinkoff@uncg.edu

REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Benvenuto Cellini, *Autobiography*, trans. George Bull. London:
Penguin Classics, 1999. ISBN:978-0140447187

Christopher Columbus, *The Four Voyages*, trans. J.M. Cohen.
London: Penguin Classics, 1992. ISBN: 978-0140442175

Thomas More and Margaret More Roper, *Letters*
(photocopies provided)

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

William K. Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, 5th ed.
New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0190238940
[unless you have another, similar manual]

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore and
are also on reserve at Jackson Library. Using the internet
usually results in considerable 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 is 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 several 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 RESPONSIBILITIES:

This is a research seminar, which means that the main goal of the semester is producing a research paper of 15-25 pages in length (minimum of 15 full pages). The final version of the paper counts for 60% of the final grade. In addition, students will produce a series of written research exercises, worth 25% of final grade, and make a number of oral presentations, which, together with class participation, will count for 15% of the final grade.

I do not plan to lecture at any length in this class, thus student participation is **CRUCIAL** to its success. Let me remind you that the Renaissance was a great age of oratory as well as written masterpieces!

Make every effort to attend each class meeting. If you are not prepared to attend consistently, come on time, and stay until the end of the class period, please drop the course. If, because of illness or another legitimate excuse you must miss a class or arrive late, please contact me ahead of time so I don't have to hold up the class for the other students. I will check my messages and e-mail before each class meeting. Three unexcused absences will result in a student being dropped from the course.

If you are not prepared to pay close attention and take careful notes during class periods, please drop this course. Laptop computers are not permitted in the classroom except in documented cases of need. Cellphones and other electronic equipment must be turned off and placed out of sight during class. **Texting during class is extremely rude and indicates a lack of respect for one's classmates and for the instructor.**

UNCG takes its Academic Integrity Policy very seriously, and so do I. We will review correct citation of sources and how to avoid plagiarism. Students may also consult: <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Any work containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action.

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 the front page of the syllabus for ways of contacting me.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- W 1/18 Introduction to Course
Constructing Identities, Writing about Identities
- M 1/23 The Self as a Work of Art: Benvenuto Cellini
Autobiography, 1-11, 28-39, 45-50, 59-70
Wiesner-Hanks, 35-43, 52-68, 103-106, 119-123,
149-160, 224-228
- W 1/25 Cellini, *Autobiography*, 76-83, 92-104, 113-117,
141-152
- M 1/30 Cellini, *Autobiography*, 161-174, 184-201, 215-230,
236-239
- W 2/1 Cellini, *Autobiography*, 250-274, 289-306, 343-353,
389-402
- M 2/6 Library Workshop: Primary Sources
Ms Lynda Kellam location TBA
- W 2/8 Library Workshop: Special Collections
Ms Kathelene Smith, Hodges Reading Room, Jackson
Library (on 2nd floor of old library building)
- M 2/13 Discovering Columbus
The Four Voyages, 27-36, 82-92, 100-114, 115-122
Wiesner-Hanks, 106-113, 238-240, 245-254
- W 2/15 *The Four Voyages*, 127-128, 168-185, 194-199
- M 2/20 *The Four Voyages*, 206-226, 241-253, 259-264
- W 2/22 *The Four Voyages*, 265-276, 283-304, 318-320
- M 2/27 **1-2 PAGE PROSPECTUS OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

BRIEF ORAL REPORTS ON PLANNED RESEARCH PROJECTS
DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR PRIMARY SOURCE OR SOURCES
- W 3/1 Library Workshop: Secondary Sources
Ms Lynda Kellam, Citilab, Jackson Library

M 3/6 Writing Workshop: Citations

W 3/8 Writing Workshop: Grammar and Style

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

F 3/10 **LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES WITHOUT PENALTY**

MW 3/13-15 **SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES**

M 3/20 Between Father and Daughter
Thomas More and Margaret More Roper,
Final letters (handouts)
Wiesner-Hanks, 75-83, 99-103, 138-143, 164-174

W 3/22 Thomas More, Margaret More Roper,
Final Letters

DETAILED OUTLINES DUE

M 3/27 Discussion of Outlines; Peer Reviewers Assigned

W 3/29 NO CLASS MEETING, STUDENTS WORK ON DRAFTS

Sat 4/1 **DRAFTS DUE, SEND 1 COPY TO YOUR PEER REVIEWER,
1 COPY TO DR. BILINKOFF AS WORD FILE OR PDF,
NO LATER THAN NOON.**

M 4/3 Discussion of Drafts with Peer Reviewer
Assessment of Peer Reviews
Sign Up for Individual Meetings with Dr. Bilinkoff

W 4/5 No Class Meeting, Students Revise Drafts
Individual Meetings, Group I, at Dr. Bilinkoff's
Office, 2127 MHRA

M 4/10 No Class Meeting, Students Revise Drafts
Individual Meetings, Group II, at Dr. Bilinkoff's
Office, 2127 MHRA

W 4/12 No Class Meeting, Students Work on Final Version of Research Papers; Dr. Bilinkoff available for consultation in 2127 MHRA

M 4/17 No Class Meeting, Students Work on Final Version of Research Papers; Dr. Bilinkoff available for Consultation in 2127 MHRA

W 4/19 **FINAL ORAL REPORTS; FEEDBACK FROM PEERS**

M 4/24 **FINAL ORAL REPORTS, FEEDBACK FROM PEERS**

W 4/26 Final Class Meeting: Wrap Up, Festivities, Recognition of Graduating Seniors

W 5/3 READING DAY, EXTRA OFFICE HOURS TBA

F 5/5 **FINAL PAPERS DUE IN MAILBOX NEXT TO THE DOOR OF DR. BILINKOFF'S OFFICE, 2127 MHRA, NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM.**

STUDENTS MAY HAND IN THEIR PAPERS EARLIER IF THEY WISH.

