

HISTORY 411B

**SEMINAR IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND WRITING:
SELF AND SOCIETY IN EUROPE, 1400-1800**

Spring Semester 2021
MW 3:30-4:45 PM
MHRA 1215

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REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789*, 2nd ed.
New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013. ISBN:978-1107643574
[abbreviated on syllabus as MWH]

This book is available to purchase or rent at the UNCG Bookstore and is on reserve at Jackson Library. Using the internet can result in considerable savings on book purchases. We will also be reading together some examples of primary sources available in this book, on its website, and as handouts.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will be examining biographical and autobiographical texts, which were produced in abundance in Europe and its colonies between 1400 and 1800. 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 explore categories of analysis such as class, gender, geographical origin, profession, religion, intended audience, and genre. Each student will choose a text or texts to investigate and contextualize for their research project. There is a wealth of print and eBooks in English in Jackson Library and materials on the internet as well. I have compiled a bibliography to aid you in making your choices and will, of course, be available for consultation throughout the semester.

GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To ensure the health and safety of everyone in our community, you must follow University COVID guidelines by wearing a mask that covers both your nose and mouth and keeping appropriate distance from others while in the classroom. For more information and many helpful links see: <https://update.uncg.edu> Please watch this video as well: <https://youtu.be/Mb58551qxEk>
2. **Attendance Policy:** Please make every effort to attend each class period. If you will not be able to attend a class or must arrive late, please email me. If you experience any symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and contact your health care provider or the student health clinic. If you experience a personal or family emergency, contact the Dean of Students Office and they will inform all your instructors: deanofstudents@uncg.edu (336) 334-5514. A student who has three unexcused absences will be dropped from the course. The last day to drop courses without academic penalty is Monday March 15. I have set up Zoom meetings and Cloud recordings for each session for use as a back-up.
3. **Attentiveness Policy:** HIS 411B is a seminar course and I do not plan to lecture at any length. Please come to class prepared to discuss shared readings, pay attention to your classmates, and take careful notes. After the drop/add period is over I will make a seating chart and ask students to sit in their assigned seats each time; this is a mandatory policy for the purpose of contact tracing in case someone should test positive for COVID-19. I do not permit the use of laptops in the classroom, except for accessing primary sources or in documented cases of medical need. Cellphones must be silenced during the class period and placed on top of students' desks and used only to access primary sources or at the instructor's request. **Texting is very rude and indicates a lack of respect for one's classmates and for the instructor.**
4. This is a research seminar whose main objective is the production of a research paper of 15-25 pages in length (minimum 15 full pages). We will follow a step-by-step approach with written exercises, drafts, and oral presentations leading up to the final version of the research paper, complete with endnotes and bibliography. (HIS 411B is both a Writing Intensive and Speaking

Intensive Course.) All writing assignments must be word-processed, double-spaced, and spell-checked and written in 12-point font and standard 1" margins. I will formulate course grades according to the following rough breakdown: Final Paper, 50%, Exercises and Drafts, 25%, Oral Presentations, 15%, Participation, 10%. Participation may be manifested in various ways: questions, comments, responses to texts and visual media, general mental alertness and intellectual engagement with and curiosity about course material.

5. Communication between students and instructor is **crucial** to success in this course. Please be sure to check your UNCG email at least once a day; I will do the same.
6. UNCG takes very seriously its Academic Integrity Policy, and so do I. We will discuss in detail the correct ways to cite sources. If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask me or consult: osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/violations-and-sanctions/plagiarism/ Plagiarized work will receive a failing grade and the student may face disciplinary procedures. If you are ever tempted or hear other students describing their plans to plagiarize, please ask them and yourself: Is it really worth jeopardizing one's GPA, date of graduation, and potentially, future career prospects, to cheat in this way?
7. **Responsibility Clause:** If for **any reason** you are unable to hand in an assignment on time or make an oral presentation, it is **your** responsibility to contact me beforehand to make alternative arrangements. If I am not contacted directly or by message before the due date, I will not accept late assignments. See the front page of the syllabus for ways of contacting me.

EXHORTATION

Follow these guidelines, stay focused and on schedule, deploy your best research and writing skills, and allow your critical thinking and creativity as a historian to flourish and you will produce a paper of which you can be proud for the rest of your life!

COURSE SCHEDULE

Wed 1/20 Introduction to Course
Identity and Categories of Analysis

Mon 1/25 The Renaissance and Individualism
Literacy and Printing
MWH 2-14, 35-43

LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES

Wed 1/27 Source Analysis: Autobiographical Accounts
Benvenuto Cellini *Autobiography* (handout)
Jan Chryzostom Pasek, *Memoirs* MWH 355-356
Samuel Pepys, *Diary* MWH 291
Mary, Queen of Scots, letter MWH online 3.9

Mon 2/1 The Age of Reformations
Religion and Life-Writing
MWH 164-172, 178-197

Wed 2/3 Source Analysis: Letters and Correspondents
Thomas More and Margaret More Roper (handout)
Dutch Anabaptist married couple MWH online 5.6
Maria Celeste Galileo MWH online 10.6

Mon 2/8 Workshop: Searching Primary Sources

Wed 2/10 Workshop: Searching Secondary Sources

Mon 2/15 Meet at Jackson Library, in front of Circulation
Desk, but six feet apart!

Wed 2/17 European Expansion and Travel Accounts
MWH 238-240, 245-254, 263-274, 356-358
Christopher Columbus (handout)

Mon 2/22 Source Analysis: Biographical Accounts
Raimondo di Soncino on John Cabot MWH online 7.7
Antonio Pigafetta on Ferdinand Magellan
MWH online 7.8
Four authors on Peter the Great
MWH online 10.17

Wed 2/24 **ABSTRACTS OF PAPER DUE**
Discussion of Students' Main Primary Sources

Mon 3/1 Workshop: Citations

Wed 3/3 **HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY, NO CLASS**

Mon 3/8 Workshop: Organization and Time Management

Wed 3/10 Workshop: Grammar and Style

Mon 3/15 Oral Progress Reports

LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

Wed 3/17 Oral Progress Reports

Mon 3/22 **DETAILED OUTLINES DUE**
Students Swap and Discuss with Peer Reviewers

Wed 3/24 NO CLASS MEETING, STUDENTS WORK ON DRAFTS OF PAPERS
DR. BILINKOFF AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION

Mon 3/29 **FIRST FIVE PAGES DUE (BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, BASIC
DATA, THESIS STATEMENT)**
Students Swap and Discuss with Peer Reviewers

Wed 3/31 NO CLASS MEETING, STUDENTS WORK ON DRAFTS OF PAPERS
DR. BILINKOFF AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION

Sat 4/3 **DRAFTS OF PAPER DUE**
E-MAIL 1 COPY TO YOUR PEER REVIEWER AND 1 COPY
TO DR. BILINKOFF AS WORD ATTACHMENT OR PDF NO LATER
THAN 11:59 PM

Mon 4/5 Students Discuss Drafts with Peer Reviewers,
Make Appointments with Dr. Bilinkoff for
Individual Meetings

Wed 4/7 Individual Meetings, Students Revise Drafts

Mon 4/12 Individual Meetings, Students Revise Drafts

Wed 4/14 Individual Meetings, Students Revise Drafts

Mon 4/19 **FINAL ORAL REPORTS AND FEEDBACK**

Wed 4/21 **FINAL ORAL REPORTS AND FEEDBACK**

Mon 4/26 **DRAFTS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**
Students Swap and Discuss with Peer Reviewers
Reviews of Reviewers

Wed 4/28 Final Class Meeting
Time to Tie up Loose Ends and Celebrate
the End of the Semester!

Mon 5/3 **FINAL PAPERS (INCLUDING BIBLIOGRAPHY) DUE**
EMAIL TO DR. BILINKOFF AS WORD ATTACHMENT OR
PDF NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM. YOU MAY SEND IT
EARLIER IF YOU WISH.

