

Spring 2012
HIST 334 – Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe
Office: SCI 267A
Office Hours: M 12:30-2:00; W 3:30-5:00 or by appt.
Web Page: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/jrodriguez/> (select HIST 334 under “Courses”)

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The Renaissance, its mere invocation is powerful enough to fill our imaginations with images of artistic geniuses, architectural marvels, humanistic scholars, and none too-pious popes. But during this time (14th-16th centuries), Europe was much more than this. It was also an age of famines, horrendous pandemics that killed millions, wars that lasted a hundred years (and more) and threatened to engulf the entire continent, inquisitive explorers that sought distant lands, and inquisitors that tried to ensure true belief in the Catholic Church. The aim of this course is provide an understanding of Europe between 1300-1550 as it went through repeated and tumultuous periods of crisis and rebirth.

Learning Goals

1. Understand the basic historical narrative for Europe between 1300-1550.
2. Learn major events, movements, and changes in the cultural, religious, social, economic and military history of Europe.
3. Appreciate the importance of this period for the future development of Europe and the World.
4. Recognize the impact that Europe had on the rest of the world and how the rest of the world influenced European development.

Required Books

Daniel Waley and Peter Denley, *Later Medieval Europe* 3rd ed. (Harlow, UK: Longman, 2001)
Natalie Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (1984)
Michael Alpert, ed. and trans. *Lazarillo de Tormes and the Swindler: Two Spanish Picaresque Novels* (London: Penguin Classics, 2003)
Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*, trans. G.H. McWilliam (London: Penguin Books, 1972)
Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe* trans. Barry Windeat (London: Penguin Books, 2000)

Grades

Class Participation: 10%
Midterm: 20%
Final Exam: 25%
Research Paper Abstract: 5%
Research Paper: 40%

Your final grade will be calculated on the following scale:

93 – 100 = A	73 – 76.99 = C
90 – 92.99 = A-	70 – 72.99 = C-
87 – 89.99 = B+	67 – 69.99 = D+
83 – 86.99 = B	63 – 66.99 = D
80 – 82.99 = B-	60 – 62.99 = D-
77 – 79.99 = C+	00 – 59.99 = F

If you take the class CR/NC you must earn at least a C- to get a CR grade.

Class Participation

Class participation makes up 10% of your grade—the equivalent of one letter grade. Half of this grade is measured by your comments on the days that we have class discussions. The other half of your participation grade will come from engaging and asking questions during lectures. I will not be taking attendance, but students who are not regularly in class will see their participation grade suffer as they will not be around to participate and ask questions.

I expect everyone to show up having read the assignments and ready to speak up. If you are very shy or believe that you cannot make useful comments, now is the time to get over it. Do not risk your grade by not speaking up.

Exams

There will be one midterm and a final. They will not be cumulative and both will follow the same format. Each will include 15 multiple-choice questions, 15 identifications, and one essay. I will provide the essay questions in advance for you to prepare before the test.

Research Paper (10 pages)

The research paper will be on a topic of your own choosing that makes an argument and relies significantly on primary sources—in other words, do not go and read a couple of books on your topic and tell me what they say. Instead, put together a group of primary sources that address your particular topic, develop a thesis/argument, and create a work of original scholarship. All papers must have the thesis underlined. They must also use primary sources to develop the argument. Papers that do not use primary sources cannot earn a grade higher than an 80. Substantial additional information is available in the class website under “Research Paper.” Make sure to use this resource. I will accept late papers and abstracts for **one week** after they are due, but they will be penalized 5% each day they are late. It is almost impossible to pass the course without turning in a research paper. The research paper will be submitted in two parts.

The first part will be an abstract that describes your paper topic along with a brief bibliography of sources and secondary material you are thinking about using. The

abstract should contain 6 primary and 6 secondary sources. **Among the secondary sources, at least 2 must be scholarly articles, while the rest can be books.** This is due in class on March 5th.

The research paper itself is due April 30th in class.

A Note on Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another to do so. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material so used as one's own work. It includes "borrowing" ideas and quotations from books, articles, and websites without proper attribution. If you're not sure about something, check with me. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not a defense against it. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a 0 in the assignment and could result in expulsion from the University. For more on the University's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog (Policies and Regulations).

History Graduate Students

History graduate students will have to turn in a research paper 15-18 pages in length.

Disability Statement Policy

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).

Readings and Weekly Lecture Topics

Week 1 (Jan 23rd)

Readings:

Waley & Denley, chs. 1-2

Lecture Topics:

Class Introduction

The Renaissance or the Late Middle Ages

The Church and Religion

Week 2 (Jan 30th)

Readings:

Waley & Denley, chs. 3-4

Lecture Topics:

The Late Medieval Economy

Rural Life and the Great Famine
The Black Death – Part I

Week 3 (Feb 6th)

Readings:

Waley & Denley, ch. 5

Boccaccio, *The Decameron*, Introduction; I: 1, 2, 3; II: 1, 3, 7, 9; III: 1, 2, 10; IV: 1, 2, 5; V: 2; VI: 7, 10; VII: 2, 7; VIII: 1; IX: 2, 3; X: 9.

Lecture Topics:

The Black Death – Part II

CLASS DISCUSSION: *The Decameron*

An Absent and Schismatic Church

Week 4 (Feb 13th)

Readings:

Waley & Denley, ch. 6-7

Margery Kempe, Proem - ch. 15; chs. 26 - 42; chs. 51 - 55; chs. 79 - 81

Lecture Topics:

Love and Marriage

CLASS DISCUSSION: Margery Kempe

The Hundred Years' War

Week 5 (Feb 20th)

Readings:

Waley & Denley, ch. 17

Lecture Topics:

An Age of Revolutions

Renaissance Medicine

Renaissance Women

Week 6 (Feb 27th)

Readings:

Petrarch Letters to Posterity, Socrates, Boccaccio, Cicero (I), Cicero (II), Homer, and description of his ascent to Mt. Ventoux [online]

Lecture Topics:

The Book Hunters

CLASS DISCUSSION: PETRARCH

Humanism

Week 7 (Mar 5th)

Readings:

Waley & Denley, chs. 8-9

Lecture Topics:

The Artist and the World
Art History of the Renaissance
Northern Renaissance
ABSTRACTS DUE

Week 8 (Mar 12th)
MIDTERM

Week 9 (Mar 19th)
NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (Mar 26th)
Readings:
Waley and Denley, chs. 10-12
Lecture Topics:
15th Century Northern Europe
15th Century Mediterranean Europe
Research Paper Overview

Week 11 (Apr 2nd)
Readings:
Waley and Denley, ch. 18
Lecture Topics:
Renaissance Music
Renaissance Warfare
Witchcraft and Inquisition

Week 12 (Apr 9th)
Readings:
Waley & Danley, ch. 16
Lecture Topics:
Science and Technology
Printing
Origins of Exploration

Week 13 (Apr 16th)
Readings:
Alpert, *Lazarillo de Tormes*, 3-60
Lecture Topics:
The New World
CLASS DISCUSSION: *Lazarillo de Tormes*
The Results of Contact

Week 14 (Apr 23rd)

Readings:

Waley & Danley, ch. 14
The Return of Martin Guerre

Lecture Topics:

Jews in the Renaissance
CLASS DISCUSSION: The Return of Martin Guerre
The Ottomans and Islam

Week 15 (April 30th)

Readings:

Waley & Danley, chs. 13 & 15

Lecture Topics:

Crime and Punishment
Origins of the Reformation
The Protestant Reformation

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Week 16 (May 7th)

Readings:

The Catholic Reformation
Final Exam Review

Week 17 (May 14th)

FINAL EXAM: 4:10 – 6:55