

THE REFORMATION

HIST 336

Spring 2016
Monroe 226 x1478
Office Hours: MWF 2-3pm TR 2-3pm

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The class will explore the development of Protestantism, the Catholic reaction and the effects of religious change on European social, political, and economic life. We will examine the social, economic, political, and religious tensions that provoked the emergence of Protestant sects and analyze the evolution of different branches of Protestantism. In addition, the class will discuss topics related to religious upheaval, including the early modern witch hunts and changes in family life.

Course Objectives and Goals:

- Comprehension of historical processes
- Ability to write with clarity about the past
- Ability to read critically primary sources and modern authorities

This course counts in the History Major and as an International Affairs elective.

Readings available for purchase:

Richard Wunderli, *Peasant Fires: The Drummer of Niklashausen*
Garcia Arenal et al. *A Man of Three Worlds: Samuel Pallache, a Moroccan Jew in Catholic and Protestant Europe*
Kathryn Edwards and Susie Sutch, *Leonarde's Ghost: Popular Piety and "The Appearance of a Spirit" in 1628*
Holly Tucker, *Blood Work: A Tale of Medicine and Murder in the Scientific Revolution*

Course Requirements:

Map quiz:

During the second class period, EVERYONE will take a map quiz of early modern Europe. You must retake the quiz until you get 90%. Either you receive above a 90 or you receive a zero. After that, you will have to take the quiz on your own time until the last day of classes. This quiz is worth 5% of your grade.

Exams:

There will be a midterm exam worth 20% and a final exam worth 20% of your grade.

Class participation:

Class participation is an important aspect of this class and of your grade (20%). Class discussion will take place on predetermined days, clearly indicated on the syllabus. Your attendance and participation is expected and there is no way to make up a missed discussion. To receive credit in class discussion, your contribution must indicate that you have done the reading. Please respect the opinions of others. Remember that there is no single way to understand history and that the same incident has numerous interpretations. Do not feel

constrained to rely on either my interpretations or the interpretation of any of our authors. Your participation in the Reformation Debate and the Witch trial will also be factored into your participation grade.

PAPER ASSIGNMENTS (each worth 10% of your grade)

Assignments #1 and #2 Reformation Theology

As new theological interpretations are critical to understanding the Reformation, you will write two short papers on key aspects of Reformation theology.

For Wednesday January 27, you will write a 2 page essay answering the following question based on your reading of Martin Luther's "Freedom of a Christian Man"

According to Martin Luther, how does a Christian achieve salvation?

For Friday February 5, you will write a 2 page essay answering the following question based on your reading of John Calvin's "Institutes of the Christian Religion"

According to John Calvin, what is predestination and how does it define how a Christian should live?

Assignment #2

The Trial of Griselda

In April, we will learn about the phenomenon of early modern witchhunting and then conduct our own witch trial. Our discussions of religious beliefs, literacy, peasant mentality, etc . . . should provide you with enough basic knowledge to present your portion of the trial, although you will need to do some extra research to better understand your role and to write your paper.

THE SCENARIO

REWORK THIS The year is 1555. The place is a hypothetical town in eastern France named Hautbourg. The town is small (fewer than 50 families). The religious wars have subsided and the townspeople are all Catholic. The trial is taking place in a larger town, approximately 20 kilometers away named Samoirs en Bains. Griselda has been accused of witchcraft after the death of three local children.

The main characters:

- 1) Griselda, the alleged witch
- 2) Pierre, a local merchant the accuser
- 3) Anna, Griselda's niece a witness
- 4) Francois, Anna's husband a witness
- 5) Nicolas, the parish priest
- 6) Three judges from a Catholic ecclesiastical court at Samoirs en Bains
- 7) A variety of townspeople, including shopkeepers, teachers, and their wives and children

DUE Monday April 11 -- You will write a 5 page paper on your assigned person (worth 15%). You will formulate a personality sketch and life history of your person. Beyond basic

biographical material, you should consider occupations, literacy, economic, social, and political status. You should also discuss what your personage believes and why he or she believes those things. You should do any outside research necessary to make your person historically accurate. The biographical sketch may be composed in either first or third person; however, it must be well-researched and present a clear, consistent point of view. ***You must use only scholarly sources and websites. The best sources are books and journal articles available in and through the library. You should never refer to Wikipedia or other web-based encyclopedias or use non-scholarly websites. You should not refer to sources written before 1980.***

For those assigned to be the judges. In addition to the biographical and other pertinent information, the judges will compose at least 10 questions to ask the witnesses and Griselda.

The Trial will take place on April 11 and 13. The judges will call the witnesses and ask their questions. Witnesses will be expected to answer as that person might have answered. The historical accuracy of your participation will be factored in to your participation grade. The judges will reach and announce a verdict.

FOR ALL PAPERS:

Papers will be typed in 12pt. font, double-spaced, and will have 1" margins (please note that the default in WORD is 1.25"). Be sure to spellcheck and grammar check your papers. Papers are due at the BEGINNING of class on the assigned date. Computer breakdowns are NOT an excuse. Late papers (even one minute late), will be penalized one grade for each 24 hour period.

Failure to turn in any written assignment will result in an automatic failure for the course.

You must attach a signed and filled out copy of the Paper Checksheet to your first paper. You must attach a signed and filled out copy of the Paper Checksheet and the Paper feedback sheet to your second paper and your third paper.

You must be careful NOT to plagiarize any material for your paper. Some students are tempted to summarize (and often plagiarize) their background information. Remember that any and all information that you learn from ANY SOURCE must be carefully and correctly cited. If you have any questions about citation refer to the UMW honor code and the history department web page about plagiarism.

If you have any questions about format or footnoting see *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Be sure to proofread your papers before turning them in. This will avoid embarrassing errors. Below are examples of correct footnotes:

a first reference

¹John Hope Franklin, *George Washington Williams: A Biography* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985), 54.

a second reference to the same material:

²Franklin, *George Washington Williams*, 68.

Additional citation information is available at
<http://cas.umw.edu/historyamericanstudies/history-department-resources/>

Check your papers to ensure that

- 1) You have a thesis, something to argue
- 2) The thesis is stated clearly
- 3) Each paragraph asserts something that relates back to the thesis
- 4) This assertion is backed up by specific evidence
- 5) Each paragraph contains some of your own ideas
- 6) The conclusion reasserts the paper's argument clearly and concisely

I encourage you to discuss your papers with me and I am willing to read any drafts, except in the last 24 hours before the assignment is due.

LAPTOP and TABLET POLICY: Laptops and tablets may be used in the classroom for *notetaking only*. I reserve the right to prohibit laptop use at any time for any reason. Cellphones must be shut off and remain out of sight during class.

Students requiring special accommodations:

If you already receive services through the Office of Disability Services and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Please bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in the strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not contacted the Office of Disability Services and need special accommodations, please contact them at 540-654-1266.

Grade scale

A 95-100 A- 90-94 B+ 87-89 B 84-86 B- 80-83 C+ 77-79 C 74-76 C- 70-73 D+ 67-69 D 63-66

Students with an average of 69 or lower will receive an unsatisfactory on mid-semester reports

Class Schedule

Week 1 *The Context*

Introduction

Late Medieval Society and Economy (take the map quiz)

Late Medieval Catholicism

READ: Start reading Peasant Fires

Week 2 *The Context Continued*

Monday: NO CLASS MLK day

Late Medieval Catholicism pt.2

Discuss: *Peasant Fires: The Drummer of Niklashausen*

READ: *Peasant Fires: The Drummer of Niklashausen*

Week 3 *Religious Differences*

Martin Luther

Discuss: Martin Luther “Freedom of a Christian Man”

The Peasant’s War/ Discuss: “Articles of the Peasants of Stuhlingen and Lupfen” **AND**
Martin Luther, “Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants” on Canvas

READ: Martin Luther “Freedom of a Christian Man” **AND** “Articles of the Peasants of Stuhlingen and Lupfen” **AND** Martin Luther, “Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants” (On Canvas)

PAPER #1 is due Wednesday

Week 4 *Religious Differences*

Zwingli and other reformers

Calvin and Calvinism

Discuss: excerpts from Calvin’s *Institutes*

READ: excerpts from “The Institutes of the Christian Religion” (on Canvas)

Paper #2 is due Friday

Week 5 *Religious Differences*

Anabaptism

Discuss: “Letters to Thomas Muntzer from Conrad Grebel and Friends” (on Canvas)

Plan the REFORMATION DEBATE (see end of syllabus)

READ: “Letters to Thomas Muntzer from Conrad Grebel and Friends” (on Canvas)

Week 6 Reformation Implications

THE REFORMATION DEBATE

The Catholic Reformation and the Council of Trent

Discuss: the 7th and 25th sessions of the Council of Trent

READ: The canons and decrees of the Council of Trent,

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html>

read the 7th and the 25th sessions

Week 7 The English Reformation

English Politics and the English Reformation

Discuss: “The Supremacy Act of 1559”

Midterm exam

READ: “The Supremacy Act of 1559” on-line at

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/engref/er79.html>

Week 8 SPRING BREAK

Week 9 The Peace of Augsburg

Women and the Reformation

Discuss: *Leonarde’s Ghost*

READ: *Leonarde’s Ghost*

Week 10 The French Crises

The French Wars of Religion

Wednesday: Discuss An Account of the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre, The Edict of Nantes, and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes

No class Friday

READ: An Account of the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1572stbarts.asp>

The Edict of Nantes at <http://www2.stetson.edu/~psteeves/classes/edictnantes.html> AND "The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes" at

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/nonantes.html>

Start reading *A Man of Three Worlds*

Week 11 Non-Christians in a divided Christendom

Muslims in early modern Europe

Jews in early modern Europe

Discuss: *A Man of Three Worlds*

READ: *A Man of Three Worlds*

Week 12 Daily Life during the Reformation

The basics of early modern life

The Return of Martin Guerre

READ: no reading this week. Work on your witch trial paper

Week 13 Witchhunting

European Witchhunting

Discuss: *Trial of Suzanne Gaudry* (on canvas) and the excerpt from the Malleus Malificarum at <http://www.malleusmaleficarum.org/part-iii-second-head-question-vi/>

Plan the Witchtrial

READ: *Trial of Suzanne Gaudry* (on canvas) and the excerpt from the Malleus Malificarum <http://www.malleusmaleficarum.org/part-iii-second-head-question-vi/>

Week 14 Witchhunting

Monday Presentation of the Witchtrial day 1

NOTE: YOU MUST ATTEND BOTH DAY 1 and DAY 2 TO GET CREDIT FOR THIS EXERCISE

Wednesday Presentation of the Witchtrial day 2

Friday Witchtrial debriefing

READ: Start reading *Blood Work*

Paper #3 due Monday April 11

Week 15 The Scientific Revolution

Science and Reform

Wednesday: Discuss *Blood Work*

Friday NO CLASS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

READ: *Blood Work*

Reformation Debate

The Setting: An unnamed city in the Holy Roman Empire, ca. 1535. At the moment, the city council is Catholic, as is the population, but they are considering introducing a reformation.

The Question: Which form of Christianity should they introduce? Your mission: Present your case before the city council magistrates as to why they should convert to your form of the religion.

Debate teams:

(Pre-Tridentine) Catholic

Lutheran

Calvinist

Anabaptist (not the Münster kind)

Town Council

Teams will have 3-4 members each (depending on class size). You can structure your argument and team however you like – each playing a character, or taking a particular aspect of the religion, or even arguing amongst yourselves. It is up to you, so long as you base it on the sources and history you have learned thus far.

Issues to address:

1. Why is your religion superior to Catholicism?
2. Why are you superior to the other Protestant religions?
3. How will daily life change?

Format of debate: The Lutherans will go first and present their argument in roughly five minutes, followed by the Calvinists and the Anabaptists. Finally, the Catholics will argue why the council should remain with the Church. Each group should rebut and answer the points of the others, while also advancing its own arguments. The council will then address all arguments and ask any further questions. Then the council will vote which way to go.

Good arguing!