

History 600: European Historiography to the Enlightenment

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Prof. Brian W. Ogilvie

Fall Semester 1998

Tuesday, 9:00–11:30 AM, Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies

Office: Herter 617

Telephone: (413) 545-1599 / 585-1051 (home, **before 10 PM**)

E-mail: ogilvie@history.umass.edu

Hours: MTu 1:30-3:00 PM, and by appointment.

This syllabus is also available online at the following URL:

<<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~ogilvie/courses/fall98/600/index.html>>.

Updates to the syllabus, handouts, and assignments will be posted to this web page.

Brief course description

This seminar is focused on classic and recent historical writing on Europe from classical antiquity through the eighteenth century. We will consider methodological issues, such as types and uses of sources, and philosophical issues, including the nature and scope of historical explanation. Intellectual, political, cultural, economic, and social history will all be addressed.

Requirements

1. Participation in discussions.

This requirement is self-explanatory. Each student should come to class having completed the readings and taken notes on them. In addition, each student should find and read at least one review of the book(s) being discussed beyond those assigned in the syllabus.

2. In-class presentation.

Each student will be required to make two in-class group presentations of the material for the week's discussion. Each presentation will be made by two students. The presentation should set out the context, main themes, and important historiographic points of the week's readings, and they should be aimed at provoking discussion.

3. Two essays.

Each student will be required to write two essays: one short (1200-1500 word) book review and one longer (3500-4500 word) term paper.

Books for course

The following books are available for purchase at Food for Thought Books (106 N. Pleasant, Amherst). They are also on reserve in the DuBois Library. Titles marked with an asterisk are especially important because of their historiographical perspective or reflections. **N.B.** The three copies of Panofsky, *Renaissance and renaissances*, in the library are not on reserve but in the Art Library on the 9th floor of the library. The art collection is non-circulating, so if you don't buy Panofsky you will have to read him in the Art Library.

Baron, Hans. *The crisis of the early Italian Renaissance*. Rev. ed. \$30

*Braudel, Fernand. *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean world in the age of Philip II*, vol. 1. \$25

- *Briggs, Robin. *Witches and neighbors*. \$16
 Carruthers, Mary. *The book of memory*. \$25
 Daston, Lorraine J. *Classical probability in the Enlightenment*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988. \$20
 Goldthwaite, Richard. *The building of Renaissance Florence*. \$20
 *Grafton, Anthony. *The footnote: A curious history*. \$23
 *Momigliano, Arnaldo. *The classical foundations of modern historiography*. \$14
 Panofsky, Erwin. *Renaissance and renaissances in western art*. \$24
 *Reynolds, Susan. *Fiefs and vassals*. \$20
 *Trexler, Richard C. *Public life in Renaissance Florence*. New York: Academic Press, 1980. Reprint. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991. \$20

Some of the course readings are, unfortunately (but perhaps fortunately for your budget), out of print. They will be available on reserve at the DuBois Library, and their call numbers have been indicated.

All reserve readings are on 24-hour reserve. Please be considerate to your fellow students and return material to reserve as soon as you are done with it. The library is not an ideal place to work, but if you are able to read and take notes there, it will help ensure that everyone has a chance to complete the weekly readings.

Copies of articles and print reviews will be available in the envelope on my office door, Herter 617. Please return articles within two hours of borrowing them. You may make copies at the copy center on the first floor of Herter (or in the History Department copy room if you are a history grad student).

Course schedule and readings

1—9/15—Organizational meeting

Introduction to course structure and schedule; plan presentations.

2—9/22—Past and present

Friedrich Nietzsche, "On the usefulness and disadvantages of history for life," in *Untimely meditations*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983, new ed. 1997). **Reserve: B3313.U52 E5 1983; B3313.U52 E5 1997**

Arnaldo Momigliano, *The classical foundations of modern historiography* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990). **Reserve: D13 .M638 1990**

3—9/29—History, geography, and climate

Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean world in the age of Philip II*, vol. 1 (New York: Harper & Row, 1972). **READ PART 1 ONLY! Reserve: DE80 .B7713 v.1**

4—10/6—Ancient history: evidence and models

M. I. Finley, *The ancient economy* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1973). **Reserve: HC31.F5**

Richard P. Saller and Brent D. Shaw, "Tombstones and Roman family relations in the Principate: Civilians, soldiers and slaves," *Journal of Roman Studies* 74 (1984): 124-156.

5—10/13—Medieval categories: intellectual history

Mary Carruthers, *The book of memory: A study of memory in medieval culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990). **Reserve: BF371 .C325 1990**

6—10/20—Medieval categories: social and legal history

Susan Reynolds, *Fiefs and vassals: The medieval evidence reinterpreted* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994). **Reserve: D117 .R49 1994**

F. L. Cheyette, review of Reynolds, *Fiefs and vassals*, *Speculum* 71 (1996): 998-1006.

7—10/27—Visual and verbal sources

Erwin Panofsky, *Renaissance and renaissances in western art* (Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1960). **Art (9th floor): N6370 .P195 (3 copies)**

8—11/3—Political-intellectual history of the Renaissance

Hans Baron, *The crisis of the early Italian Renaissance: Civic humanism and republican liberty in an age of classicism and tyranny*, rev. ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966). **Reserve: DG537 .B37 1966**

Riccardo Fubini, "Renaissance historian: The career of Hans Baron," *Journal of Modern History* 64 (1992): 541-574.

Rabil, "Civic humanism," in *Renaissance humanism: Foundations, forms, legacy*. **Reserve: B778 .R43 1988 v.1**

9—11/10—History, anthropology, and economics

Richard C. Trexler, *Public life in Renaissance Florence* (New York: Academic Press, 1980). **Reserve: DG737.4 .T66 c.2**

Richard Goldthwaite, *The building of Renaissance Florence: An economic and social history* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980). **Reserve: HD9715.I83 F563**

10—11/17—Local and global phenomena: The witch craze(s)

Robin Briggs, *Witches and neighbors: The social and cultural context of European witchcraft* (New York: Viking, 1996). **Reserve: BF1584.E9 B75 1996**

Alison Lurie, "Bothered and bewildered" [review of Robin Briggs, *Witches and neighbors*, and Diane Purkiss, *The witch in history*], *New York Review of Books*, Oct. 23, 1997, pp. 48-53.

Charlotte C. Wells, "Review of Robin Briggs, *Witches and Neighbors: the Social and Cultural Context of European Witchcraft*," H-France, H-Net Reviews, February, 1998. <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=158889132860>.

11—11/24—The Enlightenment ideal and reality

Lorraine Daston, *Classical probability in the Enlightenment* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988). **Reserve: QA273.A4 D37 1988**

Anthony J. La Vopa, "Conceiving a public: Ideas and society in eighteenth-century Europe," *Journal of Modern History* 64 (1992): 79-116.

Michael Sonenscher, "Enlightenment and revolution," *Journal of Modern History* 70 (no. 2, June 1998): 371-383.

12—12/1—Who we are

Donald R. Kelley, *The foundations of modern historical scholarship: Language, law, and history in the French Renaissance* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1970).

Reserve: D13.2.K43

Anthony Grafton, *The footnote: A curious history* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997). **Reserve: PN171.F56 G73 1997**

13—12/8—Concluding discussion

Hayden White, *Metahistory: The historical imagination in nineteenth-century Europe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973), introduction. **Reserve:**

D13.W565