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

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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 renascences, 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
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


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

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

5—10/13—**Medieval categories: intellectual history**


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


7—10/27—**Visual and verbal sources**


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


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


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


11—11/24—The Enlightenment ideal and reality

12—12/1—Who we are

13—12/8—Concluding discussion