HIS 324 – 001: Renaissance and Reformation, 1350 – 1648
Fall 2019
Tues Thurs 3:30 – 4:45 pm
477 Ferguson

Robert Allen, History Department
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Office hours: Wednesday 10:30 am – noon and 2 – 3:30 pm, Friday 9:30 – 11:30 am, and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Analysis of the political, social, economic, and cultural developments in Europe during the Renaissance and Reformation. The course will examine Renaissance Humanism as it emerged in the city-states of Italy, especially Florence, before turning to the intense religious conflicts of the Reformation period. We will trace the expansion of monarchical power in Spain, France, and England and assess the impact of the persistent wars and global expansion that accompanied it. Attention will also be given throughout the term to the contours of daily life and to the impact of the new print culture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The assignments will consist of two class exams, a final exam, quizzes, and one paper. The class exams and the final exam will comprise mainly short answer and essay questions. The paper will be 7 – 9 pages in length (2100 – 2700 words) and will analyze the book by Robert Davis, The War of the Fists. The formal paper assignment will be handed out during the second week of class. The paper will be due on November 14.

GRADING POLICY

The semester grade will be broken into “fifths”: 20% of your semester grade will come from each of the three exams (the two class exams and the final exam), 20% from the average of your quizzes, and 20% from your paper.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is strongly recommended as a vital part of student learning but will not result in points deducted from the semester average. Roll will be taken each class by the instructor.
NOTE ABOUT BRIGHTSPACE (D2L)

This semester we will make use of Brightspace (D2L) to post grades and some course content. You can reach the website by going to d2l.sfasu.edu. Use the same user ID and password that you would use with MySFA. With “my courses,” you will see a list of your courses, and click on HIS 324.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Eugene F. Rice, Jr., and Anthony Grafton, The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460 – 1559

Julia Conaway Bondanella & Mark Musa, The Italian Renaissance Reader

Alister McGrath, Reformation Thought: An Introduction

Sir Thomas More, Utopia

Margaret Osler, Reconfiguring the World: Nature, God, and Human Understanding from the Middle Ages to Early Modern Europe

Robert Davis, The War of the Fists: Popular Culture and Public Violence in Late Renaissance Venice

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (A-9.1)

*** Any student who has an electronic device visible during an exam (in their lap, on their desk, or visible nearby) will receive a zero for their exam grade.

*** No student will be allowed to leave the room during an exam unless they finish and turn in their exam first. If you need to go to the restroom, do so before the exam starts.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any
information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

WITHHELD GRADES (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. Interpret the past in context.
2. Understand the complex nature of the historical record.
3. Engage in historical inquiry, research, and analysis.
4. Craft historical narrative and argument.
5. Practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship.

This section of this course will focus on PLOs 1, 2 and 4.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. The student will be able to explain the special problems that shaped the Renaissance.
2. The student will be able to explain why monarchies grew stronger in Western Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
3. The student will be able to explain the main characteristics and consequences of the Reformation in Europe.

EXPLANATION OF CREDIT HOURS AWARDED FOR COURSE:
This is an upper-level history course. Upper-level lecture courses in history meet for 150 minutes each week for 15 weeks and also meet for a 2-hour final examination. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, monographs, scholarly articles, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc). The level of reading is more advanced than that required in lower-level surveys, and the number of pages students are required to read is generally higher. Typical upper-level courses require students to take 2-3 essay exams per semester, in addition to the final exam, which is also generally a written exam. In addition, out-of-class writing assignments (book reviews, biographical sketches, research papers, etc) are typically required in upper-level courses. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom. Online sections of upper-level courses contain extensive written content within modules, and instructors hold "electronic office hours" to consult with students as needed, generally responding to student inquiries within twenty-four hours. Online course content includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least 150 minutes per week. Besides engaging the material in the modules, online students have outside reading assignments similar to those mentioned above for face-to-face students. Thus, for every hour an online student spends engaging the content in the modules, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

COURSE CALENDAR

Aug 27 Introduction, periodization, and background
Aug 29 The crisis of the fourteenth century

* Acquinas article (posted in Brightspace/D2L)

Sept 3 The Black Death

* Boccaccio in Italian Renaissance Reader, pp. 64 – 71, 90 – 99
* Rice & Grafton, ch. 2, pp. 45 – 76
Sept 5  First reading test: Dante, *Inferno*
Sept 10 The birth of Renaissance humanism
  * Rice & Grafton, ch. 3, pp. 77 – 109
Sept 12 Renaissance Florence
Sept 17 Renaissance Venice and Rome
Sept 19 The political culture of the Italian city-states
Sept 24 Renaissance art and society
Sept 26  *First exam*

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Oct 1 The crisis of the late Italian Renaissance
Oct 3 The “new monarchies”
Oct 8 Second reading test: More, *Utopia* (entire)
Oct 10 Explorations
  * Rice & Grafton, ch. 1, pp. 1 – 44
Oct 15 Northern humanism
Oct 17 Third reading test: Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*
Oct 22 Luther and the Reformation in Germany
  * McGrath, pp. 75 – 88
Oct 24 The spread and impact of Lutheran beliefs
  * Luther, “Freedom of a Christian” (posted in Brightspace/D2L)
Oct 29  *Second exam*
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Calvin’s Geneva and the Reformed Churches</td>
<td>* McGrath, pp. 91 – 113</td>
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<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Spain and the Catholic Reformation</td>
<td>* McGrath, pp. 191 – 204</td>
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<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Fourth reading test: Osler, <em>Reconfiguring the World</em> (entire)</td>
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<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>The Radical Reformation</td>
<td>* The Schleitheim Confession (posted in Brightspace/D2L)</td>
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<td>* McGrath, pp. 141 – 162</td>
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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>The Reformation in England and Scotland</td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>The Puritan Revolution</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Wars of Religion in France</td>
<td>* McGrath, pp. 115 – 138</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>The birth of absolutism</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Final thoughts</td>
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*Final Exam, Tuesday, December 10, 1:30 – 4:00 pm*

***Note: SFA has scheduled this time for our final exam. No exceptions will be allowed.