

Age of Absolutism

Dr. Jennifer Palmer
LeConte 106
palmerjl@uga.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 2-4pm

History 3350
MWF, 11:15-12:05
LeConte Hall, room 135

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Course Description:

The rise of the modern European state and its impact on society and culture from 1600 to 1789. Themes include kingship and state formation, popular revolt, aristocratic culture, Enlightenment social thought, and the collapse of the Old Regime

Learning Objectives:

This class has two sets of learning objectives. First, you will demonstrate understanding of political, cultural, and social changes in early modern Europe. Second, you will improve your analytical thinking, reading, writing, and verbal expression, all critical elements in the study of history. You will develop and strengthen your ability to analyze, verbally articulate your viewpoints on, compare, and write about European history. You will consider what you can learn from primary and secondary sources, and you will work toward developing your own interpretations and arguments. You will express and defend your analyses and interpretations through written assignments.

Evaluation:

Participation (including attendance): 20%

Taking the Lead in Discussion: 10%

Paper 1: 20%

Paper 2: 25%

Peer Review: 10%

Final Exam: 15%

Participation: Classroom participation is an integral part of this course. You will be graded on your willingness and ability to contribute to class through large-group conversation, group work in small groups, and in-class writing assignments. Such active participation requires outside preparation. You will be expected to prepare for class discussions by carefully completing the reading and by engaging with the text to come up with thoughtful, persuasive interpretations that draw on the text itself and its relationship to other sources we have read in class.

It is expected that your ability to grapple with complex texts, both in discussion and in writing, will improve over the course of the semester.

Taking the Lead in Discussion: Every time class meets you should prepare for discussion by critically engaging with the readings before you enter the classroom. This means thinking about who the author is, the author's motivations for writing, what we can learn from the readings,

what the readings leave out, how readings relate to other assigned sources for the week or that we've already read, how they relate to the themes of the class in general, and what questions you have about the readings. Three times over the course of the term, you will be evaluated on your preparedness for and contribution to discussion. For these sessions you will need to rigorously prepare for class by analytically engaging with the readings, preparing analyses and interpretations, and formulating questions.

Peer Review: You will complete peer reviews of 3-4 of your classmates' papers in assigned groups for each paper. Review sheets will be provided.

Paper 1: You will write one 2-3000 word (5-7 page) paper on an assigned topic.

September 19- First Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers

September 21- Peer Reviews of Papers Due

September 26- Final Papers Due in Class

Paper 2: You will write one 5-6000 word (8-10 page) paper on an assigned topic.

October 24- Second Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers

October 26- Peer Reviews of Papers Due

October 31- Final Papers Due in Class

Final Exam: Monday, December 12, 12-3.

Please note that if you have a conflict with the exam you must make alternative arrangements with me no later than Monday October 17.

Late Papers:

One time over the course of the term you may have a "free pass" extension to turn in a paper up to 36 hours after the time it is due (at the end of the class period). You don't have to explain why your paper is late, and you will not be penalized for taking this extension. Use it carefully, though: you only have one, and if you have already used your free pass I will not accept another late paper. (Exceptions: I can arrange emergency extensions if you provide proper documentation.) This includes extensions for turning in papers to your peers, and for peer reviews.

Academic Honesty:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Required Texts:

Published texts are available at the UGA Bookstore. Many of our readings are available on-line, either through links posted on eCL or through library electronic reserves. ***You must bring all assigned readings to class every day.*** You may use electronic devices (laptop, iPad) to bring the electronic readings to class, or you may print them out.

William Beik, *Louis XIV and Absolutism: A Brief Study with Documents.*

John Merriman, *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present* OR *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon*.
Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*.
Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*.
Steven Ozment, *The Burgermeister's Daughter*.

Password for online reserves: absolutism

Class Schedule:

WEEK 1

August 15: Introduction

Life in Early Modern Europe

August 17: Medieval to Early Modern

Merriman, Chapter 1: Medieval Legacies and Transforming Discoveries

August 19: Cities and Towns

George Huppert, "The Freedom of the City," chapter 2 in *After the Black Death: A Social History of Early Modern Europe*, 2nd ed, p 14-29.

WEEK 2

August 22: Cities and Towns

John Strype, *A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster* (1698). Book 5, Chapter 3: The Endeavours Used in the City for the Restraining of Vice.

- Book 5, Chapter 8: The Aldermen of London;
- Book 5, Chapter 29: The Laws and Customs of the City;
- Appendix I, Chapter 1: A Discourse Commentory of the City of London.
- All at: <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/strype/index.jsp>.

August 24: Rural Life

Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, pp. 1-50.

August 26: Marriage and Family Life

Merry Wiesner-Hanks, "The Female Life Cycle," from *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*.

WEEK 3

August 29: Marriage and Family Life

Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, pp. 51-125.

Early Modern Events

August 31: The Renaissance

Merriman, Chapter 2: The Renaissance.

September 2: The Renaissance

Carole Levin, Chapter 6, "Women in the Renaissance," in *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*, 153-174.

Letters of Alessandra Strozzi to Filippo degli Strozzi, in *Readings in Western Civilization*, Vol. 5, pp. 104-117. (on eLC)

WEEK 4

September 5: LABOR DAY- NO CLASS

September 7: The Renaissance

Baldissare Castiglione, selections from *The Courtier*.

Erasmus, "On Good Manners for Boys." (on eLC)

September 9: Reformations

Merriman, Chapter 3: The Two Reformations

WEEK 5

September 12: Reformations

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

September 14: Reformations

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

September 16: Reformations

Martin Luther, "Against Catholicism" (1535):

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1535luther.html>

St. Ignatius Loyola, "Spiritual Exercises": <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/loyola-spirex.html>

John Calvin, "On Predestination" from *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/calvin-predest.html>

WEEK 6

September 19: Religious Warfare

Merriman, Chapter 4: The Wars of Religion

First Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers (You will need to bring at least three copies.)

September 21: Peer Reviews

Peer Reviews of Papers Due

September 23: Religious Warfare

Steven Ozment, *The Burgermeister's Daughter*

WEEK 7

September 26: Religious Warfare

Steven Ozment, *The Burgermeister's Daughter*

Final Papers Due in Class

September 28: Religious Warfare

De Thou, "The Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day" (1572):

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

The Destruction of Madeburg (1631): <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/magde.html>

September 30: Religious Warfare

Witchcraft Documents: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/witches1.html>

WEEK 8

October 3: Voyages of Discovery and the Atlantic System

Merriman, Chapter 5: The Rise of the Atlantic Economy

October 5: Voyages of Discovery and the Atlantic System

Christopher Columbus: Extracts from Journal (1492)-

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus1.html>

Bernal Díaz, *Chronicles* (c. 1560) (eLC)

The Guinea Coast (1525): <http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/Guinea.html>

October 7: Voyages of Discovery and the Atlantic System

Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda, *Democrates Secundus* (1544) (eCL)

Bartolomé de Las Casas, *In Defense of the Indians* (1551), trans. and ed. Stafford Poole (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1992), Chaps. 1-4 (pp. 25-49) (eLC)

WEEK 9

October 10: Voyages of Discovery and the Atlantic System

Code Noir: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/335/>

Stephanie Smallwood, "Turning African Captives into Atlantic Commodities," Chapter 2 from *Saltwater Slavery*, 33-64.

October 12: England and the Netherlands

Merriman, Chapter 6: England and the Dutch Republic in the Seventeenth Century

October 14: England and the Netherlands

Jean Bodin, *Six Books of a Commonweale* (1576), 222-267.

James I- A True Law of Free Monarchies (1598) and A Speech to Parliament (1610)-

<http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/JamesI.html>

Absolutisms

WEEK 10

October 17: Absolutism

Merriman, Chapter 7: The Age of Absolutism, 1650-1720

October 19: Absolutism

Lossky, Andrew. "The Absolutism of Louis XIV: Reality or Myth?" *Canadian Journal of History* 19: 1 (1984), 1-16.

Beik, Documents Book, Introduction

October 21: Absolutism in Theory

Jean Domat, On Social Order and Absolute Monarchy (1697)-

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1687domat.html>

Nicholas Henshall, *The Myth of Absolutism: Change and Continuity in Early Modern European Monarchy*. Introduction, p. 1-5; Chapter 8, p. 176-198.

WEEK 11

October 24: Absolutist Kings and Queens

Accounts of Louis XIV: <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/louisxiv.html>

Descriptions of Peter the Great: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/petergreat.html>

Description of the Empress Maria Theresa (1749):

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1749gottschén-mariatheresa.html>

Frederick II of Prussia, *Political Testament* (1752):

<http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/Frederick%20the%20Great.html>

Second Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers (You will need to bring at least three copies.)

October 26: Peer Reviews

Peer Reviews of Papers Due

October 28: FALL BREAK- NO CLASS

WEEK 12

October 31: Critiques of Absolutism

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 13-14 (1651):

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/hobbes-lev13.html>

Final Papers Due in Class

November 2: The Social Order

Charles Loyseau, *A Treatise on Orders*, Foreword and Of Order in General, from *Readings in Western Civilization*, Vol. 7, 13-19.

Robert Darnton, "A Bourgeois Puts His World in Order: The City as a Text," from *The Great Cat Massacre*, Ch 3, pp. 107-144.

Extended Case Study: Louis XIV's France

November 4: Confronting French Society during the Fronde

Beik, pp. 19-49.

WEEK 13

November 7: The King and the Aristocrats at Court

Beik, pp. 50-81.

November 9: The King and the Aristocrats at Court

Abby Zanger, Chapter 2, "Lim(b)inal Images," in *From the Royal to the Republican Body*, ed. Sara Melzer and Kathryn Norberg, 32-63.

November 11: The King and the Aristocrats at Court
Duc de Saint-Simon, *The Court of Louis XIV*-
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/17stsimon.html>
Letter from the Duchesse d'Orleans (1704)-
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1704duchess.html>

WEEK 14

November 14: The King and the Aristocrats at Court
BNF/Library of Congress online exhibit: *Creating French Culture*:
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/bnf/bnf0005.html>

November 16: Managing France
William Beik, *Absolutism and Society in Seventeenth-Century France*, Chapter 10,
"Channels of Personal Influence," 223-244.
Kettering, Sharon. "Patronage and Kinship in Early Modern France." *French Historical Studies* 16, no. 2 (1989): 408-435.

November 18: Managing France
Beik, pp. 82-107.

THANKSGIVING BREAK- NO CLASS November 21-25

WEEK 15

November 28: Reforming the Provinces: The Grands Jours d'Auvergne
Beik, 108-120

November 30: Reforming the Provinces: Interaction with Burgundy
Beik, 121-155

December 2: Social Unrest
Beik, 156-162

WEEK 16

December 5: Absolutism and Churches
Beik, pp. 166-198.

December 6: The King's Own Words
Beik, pp. 204-222

Final Exam: Monday, December 12, 12-3