

HIST 4990
Reformation Europe
Spring 2007

2-3:15 TR
LeConte Hall 322
Course no. 07-602

Dr. Ehlers
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Office hours: Wednesday 10-11:30 and by appointment

This senior seminar will focus on the history of Reformation Europe. In the first section of the course, we will examine a series of primary and secondary sources, both as an introduction to early modern European history and as a means of discussing the nature of historical research. We will also discuss the process of historical writing, from the conception and organization of a senior thesis to the final stages of editing and revision. In the latter half of the semester, our focus will shift to your specific projects, and we will meet both individually and as a group to discuss your progress.

Note that this course will include a number of required assignments apart from the final draft of the thesis. A discussion of deadlines and grading follows the schedule of readings and assignments.

Required Texts

Janz, Denis, ed. A Reformation Reader. Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2002.

Rice, Eugene F. Jr., and Anthony Grafton. The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460-1559. Norton, 1994.

Turabian, Kate. A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Sixth revised Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing). University of Chicago, 1996.

Course Schedule

Week One: Introduction/ The Age of Discovery

9 Jan. Introduction to HIST 4990

11 Jan. Rice and Grafton, ch. 1
Columbus, Selections from Journal (1492), at Internet Medieval
Sourcebook, under Exploration:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>

Week Two: Conducting Research

16 Jan. Rice and Grafton, ch. 2
Janz, ch. 1, docs. 3-4

18 Jan. Library tour

Week Three: The Early Modern State

23 Jan. Rice and Grafton, ch. 3
Janz, ch. 1, doc. 13

25 Jan. Rice and Grafton, ch. 4
Machiavelli, The Prince (1513), excerpts:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/prince-excerpt.html>

Week Four: Martin Luther

30 Jan. Rice and Grafton, ch. 5

1 Feb. Janz, ch. 2, docs. 14-19, 21-23, 27-28. Book reviews due

Week Five: Calvin and the Radical Reformation

6 Feb. Janz, ch. 4, docs. 48-55, 61-65

8 Feb. Janz, ch. 3, docs. 30-39, 43-46

Week Six: The English Reformation

13 Feb. Rice and Grafton, ch. 6

15 Feb. Janz, ch. 5, docs. 66-74. Prospectus due

Week Seven: The Catholic Reformation

20 Feb. Janz, ch. 6, docs. 75-87

22 Feb. Janz, ch. 6, docs. 88-97

Week Eight: Writing Senior Theses

27 Feb. Turabian, 1-86

1 Mar. Turabian, 87-174.

Midterm withdrawal deadline

Week Nine: Research

6 Mar.

8 Mar. Outline and Bibliography due

12-16 Mar. Spring break

Week Ten: Research

20 Mar.

22 Mar.

Week Eleven: Research

27 Mar.

29 Mar. Rough draft due

Week Twelve: In-class Presentations

3 Apr. Thesis Presentations

5 Apr. Thesis Presentations

Week Thirteen: In-class Presentations

10 Apr. Thesis Presentations

12 Apr. Thesis Presentations

Week Fourteen: Revisions

17 Apr.

19 Apr.

Week Fifteen: Revisions and Final Draft

24 Apr.

26 Apr. Final draft due

Grading

Students will be assigned a letter grade based on their performance in the class. This final grade will be calculated in this manner:

Book Review	12.5%
In-class writing	12.5%
Discussion	12.5%
Presentation	12.5%
Thesis	50%

The book reviews will offer a critique of a secondary source relevant to your chosen field of investigation. These 3-4 page papers will provide you with the opportunity to assess the book's content, sources, and argument.

The in-class writing assignments will refer to the required readings in the first half of the course. These assignments will be designed to encourage you to read these sources critically and to draw connections between them.

Your discussion grade will depend upon your active and constructive participation in our open discussions of the required readings. Read the assigned materials prior to the class meeting indicated on the syllabus, and bring them with you to class. Note that your discussion grade will be reduced by one-half grade (e.g., from A to A-) for every two absences after your first two absences. A student with a discussion grade of B and four absences, for example, would receive a discussion grade of B-. It is your responsibility to arrive on time and initial the roll. Please do not bring food or outside reading materials to class; if you carry a cell phone or pager, turn it off before class.

In the final weeks of the semester, you will give a brief in-class presentation based on your thesis.

In preparing your theses, you will be following the writing and citation guidelines set out in Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). I will review and comment upon the assignments in the preliminary stages of thesis preparation (prospectus, bibliography, outline, rough draft), though I will not assign letter grades until the final draft. Note, however, that if you miss any two of the deadlines in this course, or any deadline by so much as one week, you will be dropped from the class roll. If this occurs after the midpoint of the semester (1 Mar.), you will be assigned a grade of WF. For this reason, proper organization and advance preparation will be essential to succeed in this course.

I will be meeting with you regularly over the course of the semester, and I encourage you to bring any questions you might have to my attention.