

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
FALL 1983

HISTORY 119

EARLY MODERN EUROPE

MR. FISHMAN

Syllabus

The aim of this course is to help you to think clearly and deeply about the European world when it was several hundred years younger--to share a sense of how people were born and reared, how they worked and played, and how they were governed. We shall read, see, and hear what some of the most articulate and sensitive figures of the age have bequeathed to us. As this is a survey course, it must be highly selective and cannot include everything, but hopefully will whet your appetite for further specialized study.

The course will consist of three lectures a week interspersed with sessions devoted to slides, movies, and music. There will also be one regular discussion section each week, the time and place to be assigned. You will be expected to complete weekly reading assignments prior to discussion sections. There will be two one-hour examinations and a one-hour final examination. If you are taking this course for four credits, you will be expected to write a paper based on a careful analysis of several books on a subject chosen by you in conjunction with me or your teaching assistant. Students taking this course for Honors will be expected to write a significant research paper.

Each student should purchase the following paperbacks:

R.R. Palmer and Joel Colton, A History of the Modern World
(Alfred A. Knopf).

Herbert Butterfield, The Origins of Modern Science (A Free
Press Paperback).

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince (Appleton-Century Paperback).

Pierre Beaumarchais, "The Marriage of Figaro" (Penguin
Paperback).

Voltaire, Candide (Appleton-Century Paperback).

Additional readings will be assigned in Philippe Ariès, Centuries of Childhood and Franklin Le Van Baumer, Main Currents of Western Thought.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Week of August 29 - September 2:

Being Born and Reared in Early Modern Europe.

Philippe Ariès, Centuries of Childhood (on reserve in Helen C.
White Library - HQ/792/F8/A12) Part one, Chapter V and
Part Three, Chapter II.

Week of September 5-9:

The Renaissance: Scholarship and Creativity.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter II, Sections 5, 6, and 7.

Week of September 12-16:

Renaissance Politics and the New Monarchies.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter II, Section 8.

Machiavelli, The Prince, Chapters XII, XV-XIX, XXI, and XXVI.

Week of September 19-23:

The Great Religious Schism.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter II, Section 9.

Franklin Le Van Baumes, Main Currents of Western Thought,
pp. 185-198 (on reserve in Helen C. White Library -
CB/245/B37).

Week of September 26-30:

The Catholic Reformation and the Wars of Religion.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter II, Section 10 and Chapter III,
Sections 14, 15, and 16.

Week of October 3-7:

The Expansion of European Commerce and Culture.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter III, Sections 11, 12, and 13.

October 10: HOUR EXAMINATION

Week of October 12-21:

Theory and Practice of Limited and Unlimited Political Power.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter IV.

Week of October 24-28:

The Growth of Modern Science and Reason.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter VII.

Herbert Butterfield, The Origins of Modern Science,
Introduction and **Chapters 1-6.**

Week of October 31 - November 4:

The Rise of Prussia, Russia, and Austria.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter V.

Week of November 7-9:

The Struggle for Wealth and Power.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter VI.

November 11: HOUR EXAMINATION.

Week of November 14-18:

The Enlightenment.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter VIII, Sections 35, 36, and 37.

Voltaire, Candide.

Week of November 21-23:

The Eve of the French Revolution.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter VIII, Sections 38 and 39.

Week of November 28-December 2:

The French Revolution.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter IX.

Pierre Beaumarchais, "The Marriage of Figaro."

Week of December 5-9:

The Napoleonic Era.

Palmer and Colton, Chapter X.

The final examination for this course will take place at 2:45 on Wednesday, December 14 (room to be announced). Papers will be due on November 30.