

HISTORY OF SCIENCE 623 / HISTORY 323

Studies in Early Modern Science

Spring 2009

3:30-4:20pm W

6304 Social Science

instructor: Florence Hsia
office: 7137 Social Science
office hours: 11:00am-1:00pm Wednesday and by appt.
phone: 262-3971
email: <fchsia@wisc.edu>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Fulfill requirements for History of Science/History 323, and attend an additional "weekly" seminar. You'll be asked to take turns presenting the materials assigned for HoS 623 (the number of presentations will depend on the number of seminar participants). A typed summary/critique (1 page in length) should accompany each of your presentations; please make copies for all seminar participants.

In lieu of the midterm and final exercises for HoS 323, you should complete 15-20 pages of prose writing in connection with this course, e.g.: a research paper, based on primary sources in early modern European science; a critical discussion of some historiographical issue in the secondary literature; two or more book reviews (situate the book with respect to existing scholarship and critique the author's use of source material); or a bibliographic survey in preparation for a prelim field. Please see me as early as you can in the semester to discuss how you propose to fulfill the writing requirement.

You should be prepared to present a prospectus and preliminary bibliography to the seminar on **April 15**. We will discuss written work-in-progress on **May 6** (please email your draft to all seminar participants by **April 29**.) All of your written work is due **Tuesday, May 12, by 2:00pm**. Grading will be based on class participation (~25%), presentations (~25%), and the written work (50%).

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND MEETINGS

- Jan. 21 **introductions**
- Jan. 28 **historiographical perspectives**
- Mario Biagioli*, "The Scientific Revolution is undead," *Configurations* 6, no. 2, (1998): 141-48
 - Margaret J. Osler, "The canonical imperative," in *Rethinking the scientific revolution*, ed. Osler (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 1-22
- Feb. 4 **visual evidence**
- Owen Hannaway*, "Laboratory design and the aim of science: Andreas Libavius versus Tycho Brahe," *Isis* 77 (1986): 585-610; reprinted in *The scientific enterprise in early modern Europe*, ed. by Peter Dear (Chicago, 1997)
 - Jole Shackelford*, "Tycho Brahe, laboratory design, and the aim of science: reading plans in context," *Isis* 84 (1993): 211-30
- Feb. 11 **Kuhnian paradigms**
- Robert S. Westman*, "Two cultures or one? A second look at Kuhn's *The Copernican revolution*," *Isis* 85 (1994): 79-115
 - Robert S. Westman*, "The Melanchthon circle, Rheticus, and the Wittenberg interpretation of the Copernican theory," *Isis* 66 (1975): 165-93; reprinted in *The scientific enterprise in early modern Europe*, ed. by Peter Dear (Chicago, 1997)

- Feb. 18 **scientific patronage**
 • Richard S. Westfall*, "Science and patronage," *Isis* 76 (1985): 11-30; reprinted in *The scientific enterprise in early modern Europe*, ed. by Peter Dear (Chicago, 1997)
 • Mario Biagioli, "Galileo's system of patronage," *History of science* 28 (1990): 1-62
- Feb. 25 no meeting
- Mar. 4 Special Collections: Sacrobosco
- Mar. 11 **the Merton thesis and scientific institutions**
 • Gary A. Abraham*, "Misunderstanding the Merton thesis: a boundary dispute between history and sociology," *Isis* 74 (1983): 368-87; abridged in *Puritanism and the rise of modern science: the Merton thesis*, ed. I. Bernard Cohen, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1990, pp. 233-45
 • Robert K. Merton, "Motive forces of the new science [1938]," reprinted in *Puritanism and the rise of modern science: the Merton thesis*, ed. by I.B. Cohen (Rutgers, 1990), pp. 112-31; skim the appendix (pp. 373-89), which outlines Merton's *Science, technology and society in seventeenth-century England* (1938)
 • Steven J. Harris, "Transposing the Merton thesis: apostolic spirituality and the establishment of the Jesuit scientific tradition," *Science in context* 3 (1989): 29-65
- Mar.18 spring break
- Mar. 25 **scientific communities**
 • David S. Lux and Harold J. Cook, "Closed circles or open networks?: communicating at a distance during the Scientific Revolution," *History of science* 36 (1998): 179-211
 • Steven J. Harris*, "Long-distance corporations, big sciences, and the geography of knowledge," *Configurations* 6 (1998): 269-304
 • Londa Schiebinger*, "Maria Winkelmann at the Berlin Academy," *Isis* 78 (1987): 174-200; reprinted in *The scientific enterprise in early modern Europe*, ed. by Peter Dear (Chicago, 1997)
- April 1 **scientific audiences**
 • Stephen D. Snobelen, "'God of gods, and lord of lords': the theology of Isaac Newton's General Scholium to the *Principia*," *Osiris* 16 (2001): 169-208
 • Steven Shapin*, "Of gods and kings: natural philosophy and politics in the Leibniz-Clarke disputes," *Isis* 72 (1981): 187-215
- April 8 no meeting
- April 15 presentations of prospectus and preliminary bibliography
- April 22 no meeting
- April 29 no meeting; please email your draft to all seminar participants
- May 6 discussion of drafts
- May 12 (Tu) **All written work is due by 2:00pm**