Course Overview:

Historians often refer to the period from roughly 1400 to 1800 as the “early modern” era. Between the beginning and end point of those four centuries, Europe was transformed from “just another part of the civilized world” to the single most powerful and influential part of the world, able to influence events everywhere. The early modern era laid the groundwork for the world as it is today. The institutions that developed, including the idea of “the state,” capitalism, scientific inquiry, and the public sphere all mark the era as modern. But modernity was mixed with elements inherited from the Middle Ages that would eventually be superseded. Thus the modifier “early.” Although this period laid the groundwork for modern institutions, the actual institutions that dominated in this era would mostly be unrecognizable today. The constant interplay of continuity and change/innovation and tradition will be a running theme of the course.

Assignments:

This course combines intensive reading, taking notes on lectures, close analysis of both primary and secondary sources, individual and group discussion, and some online reading.

The grade for this course will be based on five factors, weighted as indicated:

- A final exam (30%),
- A midterm exam (20%)
- Four short papers on topics provided through the term (40%)
- Regular attendance and participation in class discussions (10%)

More specific requirements for the paper, group in-class presentation, and class blog contributions will be distributed early in the semester, so you will have a long lead-time to work on it.

The Richard Stockton College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with documented disabilities who seek accommodations should make their request by contacting the Learning Access Program located in J204 or by calling 609-652-4988. In order to make sure that there is enough time to arrange accommodations, I suggest you give me the paperwork by the
end of the second week of the semester or as early as possible to arrange services in this class. Retroactive accommodations will not be granted.

Concerned that you have a disability that will affect your learning in this class, but don't know where to start? Please contact Robert Ross, Carol Quinn, or Fran Bottone in the Learning Access Program (J204; 609-652-4988) to learn about your options and the available resources for having your disability assessed. Additional information on the program may be obtained from Stockton website: http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=61&pageID=5

Required Reading:


Michael Baylor, The German Reformation and the Peasants War: A Brief History with Documents (New York: Bedford-St. Martin’s, 2012)

Rudolph Bell, Street Life in Renaissance Rome: A Brief History with Documents (New York: Bedford-St. Martin’s, 2012)

Hans Medick and Benjamin Marschke, Experiencing the Thirty Years War: A Brief History with Documents (New York: Bedford-St. Martin’s, 2013)

Schedule of Classes (Though I expect to cover the topics indicated on the days noted, I reserve the right to adjust topics). I will try to note any changes in the schedule at the class website:

Week One: Read Wiesner-Hanks 1-43
9/4 Introduction to the Course
9/6 On Periodization/Europe ca. 1400

Week Two: Read Wiesner-Hanks 44-77, Bell, 1-74
9/9 Overview: Europe ca. 1400-1600
9/11 The Facts of Life in the Early Modern Era
9/13 Social Structure and Social Order

Week Three: Read Wiesner-Hanks 78-115, Bell, 75-151
9/16 Urban and Rural Society
9/18 Film: The Return of Martin Guerre pt. 1
9/20 Film: The Return of Martin Guerre pt. 2

Week Four: Read Wiesner-Hanks 116-147
9/23 The Nature of Monarchy and Political Power
9/25 The Nobility
9/27 The Military Revolution

Week Five: Read Wiesner-Hanks 148-183, Baylor, all
9/30 The Renaissance in Italy
10/2 Christian Humanism and the Arts
10/4 Spirituality and the Church Before the Reformation

Week Six: Read Wiesner-Hanks 184-251
10/7 The Reformation Movement
10/9 Reformation and Social Change
10/11 The Wars of Religion

Week Seven:
10/14 European Exploration and Expansion
10/16 Capitalism
10/18 Review: Europe ca. 1400-1600

Week Eight: Read Wiesner-Hanks 252-283, Medick, all
10/21 MIDTERM EXAM
10/23 Social Discipline and Individual Experience
10/25 NO CLASS -- Conference

Week Nine: Read Wiesner-Hanks 284-325, Pincus, all
10/28 The Taming of Warfare
10/30 Balance of Power and Reason of State
11/1 Film: The Taking of Power by Louis XIV pt. 1

Week Ten: Read Wiesner-Hanks 326-401
11/4 Film: The Taking of Power by Louis XIV pt. 2
11/6 NO CLASS – Preceptorial Advising Day
11/8 Absolutism and Parliamentism: Competing Models

Week Eleven: Read Wiesner-Hanks 402-437
11/11 Witchcraft, Alchemy, and the Occult
11/13 The Scientific Revolution
11/15 The Enlightenment

Week Twelve: Read Wiesner-Hanks 438-483
11/18 The Coming of the Industrial Revolution
11/20 The European World and the Age of Revolution
11/22 Film: Farewell, My Queen, pt. 1

Week Thirteen:
11/25 Film: Farewell, My Queen, pt. 2
11/27 Class will not meet – Research Day
11/29 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Vacation

Week Fourteen:
12/2 The Meaning of the French Revolution and Napoleon for Europe
12/4 Review: Europe ca. 1600-1815
12/6 NO CLASS

Week Fifteen:
12/9 FINAL EXAM 8:30-11:00