

Matthew Vester	Office: 302A Woodburn
History 204	Hours: TR 9:45-10:45 and 2:00-2:30; also by appointment
Spring 2008	
matt.vester@mail.wvu.edu	Phone: 293-2421 ext. 5232

History 204: Renaissance & Reformation

Description

What changed in Europe between the end of the Middle Ages and the year 1600 or so? What was ‘the Renaissance’ and how did it come about? How did it change political, social and cultural life in Europe? What was the nature of the relationship between ‘the Renaissance’ and the groundbreaking religious changes that took place over the course of the sixteenth century? Was there one ‘Reformation’ or many? How and why did they occur? What did ‘Renaissance’ and ‘Reformation’ mean for common people in Europe from 1400 to 1600? This course will introduce students to different kinds of historical sources (histories of social structures, of cultural and intellectual developments, of village society, of individual lives, and of economic practices) based on research carried out in various European countries. It will give students experience in analyzing primary sources (including visual sources), and in writing short historical essays. It will also require students to read historical monographs carefully, discuss them, and integrate their findings with material presented in lectures and discussions.

LSP / GEC credit

This course is part of the GEC curriculum (under the objectives “The Past and Its Traditions” and “Western Culture”).

Readings available for purchase

Margaret King, *The Renaissance in Europe* (McGraw Hill, 2005)

Steven Ozment, *The Age of Reform 1250-1550: An Intellectual and Religious History of Late Medieval and Reformation Europe* (Yale, 1980)

Readings available at E-Reserves [go to <http://ereserves.lib.wvu.edu/>; to consult, enter **vester** as username and **726** as password]

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Against the Gentiles* (ca. 1260) (selections)

The Epistle of Prayer (late 14th c.)

Jean Gerson, *Concerning Ecclesiastical Power* (1417) (selection)

Poggio Bracciolini, *In Praise of the Venetian Republic* (ca. 1450)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (ca. 1517) (selection)

Margaret of Navarre, *Heptameron* (ca. 1530) (selection)

Luther, “Appeal to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation” (1520) (selection) and “The Large Catechism” (1530) (selection)

Erasmus, *Forward to the Third Edition of the Latin New Testament* (1522)

John Calvin, “Draft Ecclesiastical Ordinances” (1541) (selection) and “Catechism of the Church of Geneva” (1545) (selection)

Requirements and grading

Attendance and participation	20%
Pop quizzes	20%
Midterm	25%
Final	35%

- Attendance will be taken at the start of each class; participation grades (which will be based not only on attendance but also on engagement in class discussions) will begin to suffer after more than three absences or tardies. Beginning with the fourth absence, students’ final course grades will drop one-half percentage point for each absence or instance of tardiness.

2. Pop quizzes will consist either of a small number of short-answer questions, or of a short essay response to a question, and will be given at the beginning of class. They will be based on that day's reading assignment, unless otherwise announced ahead of time. There will be no make-ups for pop quizzes, but your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. There will be approximately 8-10 pop quizzes over the course of the semester.
3. The midterm and the final will consist of short answer, identification, and essay questions based on lectures and assigned readings. You must bring an exam booklet for these tests. More specific information about these tests will be distributed later in the semester.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<p>The post-Roman medieval context</p> <p>15 Jan – 17 Jan – <i>King, chap. 1</i>; <i>Ozment, chap. 1</i></p>	<p>Renaissance art and social life</p> <p>19 Feb – <i>King, chap. 4</i> 21 Feb – <i>King, chap. 5</i>; view “<i>Piero della Francesca</i>”</p>	<p>Humanism and the Reformation</p> <p>1 Apr – <i>Ozment, chaps. 8-9</i>; <i>primary source: Erasmus</i> 3 Apr – No class</p>
<p>Scholasticism</p> <p>22 Jan – <i>Ozment, 22-72</i> 24 Jan – <i>King, 174-79</i>; <i>Ozment, 73-98</i>; view “<i>A New Saint</i>”</p>	<p>Renaissance politics</p> <p>26 Feb – <i>King, chap. 7</i>; <i>primary source: Poggio Bracciolini</i> 28 Feb – <i>King, 225-40</i>; view “<i>Raphael</i>”</p>	<p>Radical reformers and Calvin</p> <p>8 Apr – <i>Ozment, chap. 10</i> 10 Apr – <i>Ozment, chap. 11</i>; <i>primary source: Calvin</i></p>
<p>Mysticism</p> <p>29 Jan – <i>Ozment, 98-134</i> 31 Jan – <i>Primary sources: Aquinas and The Epistle of Prayer</i></p>	<p>New power structures</p> <p>4 Mar – Midterm 6 Mar – <i>Ozment, 182-201</i>; <i>primary source: Machiavelli</i></p>	<p>View “The Return of Martin Guerre”</p> <p>15 Apr – part 1 17 Apr – part 2</p>
<p>Government</p> <p>5 Feb – <i>King, chap. 2</i>; view “<i>The City</i>” 7 Feb – <i>King, 167-74</i>; <i>Ozment, 135-55</i></p>	<p>Religious culture, ca. 1500</p> <p>11 Mar – <i>King, 187-92</i>; <i>Ozment, 204-22</i> 13 Mar – <i>Primary source: Margaret of Navarre</i></p>	<p>Family structures, Catholic reforms</p> <p>22 Apr – <i>Ozment, chap. 12</i> 24 Apr – <i>Ozment, chap. 13</i>; <i>King, 240-54</i></p>
<p>Conciliarism and humanism</p> <p>12 Feb – <i>Ozment, 155-81</i>; <i>primary source: Jean Gerson</i> 14 Feb – <i>King, chap. 3</i></p>	<p>Luther</p> <p>18 Mar – <i>Ozment, chap. 6</i> 20 Mar – <i>Ozment, chap. 7</i>; <i>primary source: Luther</i></p>	<p>Renaissance and Reform in the Atlantic world</p> <p>29 Apr – <i>King, 287-97, 312-15</i>; <i>Ozment, chap. 14</i> 1 May – <i>King, chap. 11</i></p>

Final exam: Wednesday, 7 May, 3:00 PM