

History 511bW-01 Self and Society in Europe, 1400-1700

Fall Semester 2001

Wednesdays 4:00-6:50 McIver 222

Jodi Bilinkoff McIver 211

Office Hours:

MWF 10:00-10:50 and by appointment

Phone Numbers:

Office/Voice Mail: 334-4646

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Please feel free to call me at home, if necessary I will accept a collect call or call you right back

e-mail: jodi_bilinkoff@uncg.edu

Required Texts:

Benvenuto Cellini, Autobiography

William Roper, The Life of Sir Thomas More

Christopher Columbus The Four Voyages

Madame de Sévigné, Selected Letters

Ozment, Steven, Magdalena and Balthasar

For reference I have ordered Zophy, Jonathan, A Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe or you may use any other Western Civ or European history text

These books are available at the UNCG Bookstore and are also on reserve at Jackson Library.

Description of Course:

We will be examining biographical and autobiographical texts, which were produced in abundance in Europe and its colonies in the period between 1400-1700. At the heart of our inquiry will be what scholars call "the construction of identities," how individuals perceive and present their own lives, or the lives of others. We will read and discuss together some representative texts from the period and identify analytical categories such as class, gender, geographical origin, profession, religious orientation, political persuasion, intended audience and genre. Students will then choose a text or group of texts to investigate and contextualize on their own. There is a wealth of material, both in English and in translation in Jackson Library. I have compiled a list of resources to aid you in making

your choices, and will, of course be available throughout the semester for consultation.

This is a research seminar, which means that the major enterprise of the semester will be producing a research paper, approximately 15-20 pages in length for undergraduates, 20-25 pages for graduate students. The paper itself will count for 60% of the final grade. During the course of the semester each student will prepare a research prospectus, detailed outline and annotated bibliography; together they will constitute 20% of the final grade. The remaining 20% of the grade will be derived from class participation and oral reports based on the common readings. These will be assigned after our first meeting. I do not intend to lecture at any length in this class, thus student participation is absolutely crucial to its success. Let me remind you that the Renaissance was a great age of verbal oratory as well as of written masterpieces!

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE: If you are unable to hand in any of your assignments on time or make your oral presentation because of illness or family emergency it is YOUR responsibility to contact me. If I am not contacted directly or by message I will not accept late assignments. See above for ways of contacting me.

Please make every effort to attend each class meeting, there is after all, only one each week. If you have to miss a class or come late, please contact me so we don't have to hold up the class for the other students.

Course Schedule:

- Aug 22 Introduction to Course; Constructing Identities, Writing about Identities; Italy and the Renaissance
- Aug 29 The Self as a Work of Art: Benvenuto Cellini
15-24, 32-92, 101-112, 120-124, 147-157
- Sep 5 Cellini
166-178, 188-231, 238-240, 251-272, 288-304, 334-350
384-397
- Sep 12 Personality, Politics, Reformation: Thomas More and his Circle
More on More; Margaret Roper on More (handout)
- Sept 19 Robert Bolt on More
Film "A Man for All Seasons"

Sep 26 William Roper on More
7-125
PROSPECTUS OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Oct 3 Discovering Columbus
Columbus
27-36, 82-92, 100-114, 115-122, 127-128,
158-199

Oct 10 Columbus
206-226, 241-253, 259-264, 265-276, 283-304, 318-320

Oct 12 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

Oct 17 Letters from the City: Magdalena and Balthasar
15-26, 27-88 (focus on letters)
PROGRESS REPORTS/DRAFT OF ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Oct 24 Magdalena and Balthasar
89-160 (focus on letters), 161-166
OUTLINES DUE

Oct 31 Letters from Court and Country: Madame de Sévigné
Intro, 29-30, 55-59, 61-62, 67-72, 75-81, 85-90
110-113, 124-131, 140-141, 154-158

Nov 7 Madame de Sévigné
164-166, 173-175, 179-180, 182, 185-186, 188-189
193-195, 196-197, 206-210, 216-218, 222-224, 228-231,
233-238, 246-248, 257, 264-265, 267-269, 271-272,
280-282, 289-291, 298-300, 304-306, 308-311, 311-314,
320
DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE, BRING 2 COPIES

Nov 14 Discussion of Drafts
BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

Nov 21 THANKSGIVING

Nov 28 Research Papers in Progress, NO CLASS

Dec 5 Final Discussion and evaluation of course, texts, papers
bibliographies; suitably festive end of term

Dec 17 RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S MAILBOX
IN HISTORY DEPARTMENT OFFICE 221 MCIVER BY 4 PM

