

**HIS 740: MICROHISTORY: THE FAMOUS AND THE FASCINATING IN  
EUROPEAN HISTORY, 1400-1800**

Fall Semester 2009  
Mondays 3:30-6:20 PM MHRA 3204

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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REQUIRED READING FOR COURSE:

Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller  
Natalie Zemon Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre  
Steven Ozment, The Bürgermeister's Daughter: Scandal in a Sixteenth-Century German Town  
Eamon Duffy, The Voices of Morebath: Reformation and Rebellion in an English Village  
Sara T. Nalle, Mad for God: Bartolomé Sánchez, The Secret Messiah of Cardenete  
David L. Ransel, A Russian Merchant's Tale: The Life and Adventures of Ivan Alekseevich Tolchenov, Based on His Diary  
Merry-Wiesner-Hanks, Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789 [recommended]

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore and have been placed on reserve at Jackson Library. Additional readings have also been placed on reserve.

COURSE SYLLABUS:

M	8/24	Introduction to Course Defining Microhistory
M	8/31	Carlo Ginzburg and Microhistory as Method  Carlo Ginzburg, "The Inquisitor as Anthropologist" in <u>Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method</u> 156-164 [reserve] Edward Muir, "Introduction: Observing Trifles" in <u>Microhistory and the Lost Peoples of Europe</u> eds. Edward Muir and Guido Ruggiero vii-xxii [reserve]

Giovanni Levi, "On Microhistory," in New Perspectives on Historical Writing, 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. ed. Peter Burke [reserve]  
Robert Darton, "Pop Foucaultism" New York Review of Books  
Oct. 9, 1986:15-16 [hand-out]

Carlo Ginzburg, Cheese and Worms 1-70

M 9/7 LABOR DAY

M 9/14 Cheese and Worms 70-128  
Reviews

The Famous: Galileo Galilei  
Peter Machamer, "Introduction," Richard Blackwell, "Could There be Another Galileo Case?" and Michael Segre, "The Never-Ending Galileo Story," in The Cambridge Companion to Galileo 1-26, 348-60, 388-407 [reserve]

M 9/21 Natalie Zemon Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre 1-61  
Reviews

M 9/28 The Return of Martin Guerre 62-125

The Famous: Catherine de' Medici  
R.J. Knecht, Catherine de' Medici esp. chs. 1,3,4,7, Conclusion [reserve]

M 10/5 Steven Ozment, The Burgermeister's Daughter 1-101  
Reviews

ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE

M 10/12 FALL BREAK

F 10/16 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

M 10/19 The Burgermeister's Daughter 104-194

The Famous: Martin Luther  
Heiko Oberman, Luther: Man Between God and the Devil  
esp. 3-12, 209-225, 298-324, 325-330 [reserve]

- M 10/26 Eamon Duffy, The Voices of Morebath 1-110  
Reviews
- M 11/2 The Voices of Morebath 111-190  
  
The Famous: Thomas More  
John Guy, Thomas More esp. chs. 1, 9, 10, 11 [reserve]
- M 11/9 Sara T. Nalle, Mad for God 1-92  
Reviews  
  
ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE
- M 11/16 Mad for God 93-168  
  
The Famous: Teresa of Avila  
Jodi Bilinkoff, "Teresa of Jesus and Carmelite Reform," in  
Religious Orders of the Catholic Reformation 165-178 [reserve]
- M 11/23 David Ransel, A Russian Merchant's Tale intro, chs.1, 3, 4  
Reviews (if available)
- M 11/30 A Russian Merchant's Tale chs.6, 7, 8, conclusion  
  
The Famous: Catherine the Great  
Simon Dixon, Catherine the Great esp. chs.1, 5, 6, 9 [reserve]  
  
ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE
- M 12/7 Reports, Wrap-Up, Suitably Festive End of Course
- F 12/11 ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S  
MAILBOX IN HISTORY DEPT OFFICE (MHRA 2118A)  
BY 2:00 PM. YOU MAY HAND IT IN EARLIER IF YOU WISH.

## GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. As this course only meets once a week, please make a strong effort to attend every class meeting. If you will not be able to attend a class, or must arrive late please call or e-mail me ahead of time. I will check my messages and e-mail just before the class begins.
2. Please read the material for a given class period before coming to class. It is **essential** to keep up with the syllabus. Please let me know if you misplace your syllabus and I will be happy to supply you with another copy. Course syllabi are also available on the History dept website: <http://www.uncg.edu/his>
3. Course grades will be based on the following factors, in this order of priority:

Four written assignments based upon the major readings for the course and included in the bibliography. I will describe these assignments in greater detail after the semester gets underway. All written work must be word processed, double-spaced, with 12-point fonts and standard margins, and spell-checked.

Each student will make 1-2 oral presentations to the class based upon the weekly reading assignments. I will make assignments and explain this in greater detail after our first meeting when I can gauge the number and preferences of students. Please organize your oral presentation(s) according to an outline or other written plan, which I will collect and use for comments and grades.

Class participation is **crucial** to a seminar-style course such as this; I do not intend to lecture. The frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussions will thus figure into your grade.