This seminar will teach students to write a substantial research paper on a historical topic of their choosing related to the European Renaissance and Reformation. The first weeks of the seminar will survey a variety of approaches and historiographies involved in studying Renaissance and Reformation history: intellectual history, social history, political and economic history, religious history, the history of women and gender, the history of science and medicine, and the history of art. We will also discuss ways to find primary and secondary sources and how to develop a research question; we will also visit Special Collections at Tufts and Houghton Library at Harvard. Students will then choose a topic and spend the rest of the semester researching, writing, and discussing their papers.

No Required Books. Detailed bibliographies will be handed out for each topic, available on reserve from Tisch Library or online.

Recommended Books for Background Reading:
- John Merriman, Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon (3rd cdn; New York: Norton, 2009).

Assignments and Grading Breakdown
- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Weekly Discussion Responses: 20%
- Paper stages (proposal, bibliography, rough draft): 20%
- Final paper: 40%

Topics
Week 1: Introduction to Renaissance and Reformation History
Week 2: Political and Economic Backdrop
Week 3: Intellectual and Religious Changes
Week 4: Social History and Daily Life
Week 5: History of Women and Gender
Week 6: Art and Science
Week 7 and thereafter: guided research