

History 196: Renaissance and Reformation Europe (PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS: SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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:

- Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).
- John Merriman, *Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon* (3rd edn; New York: Norton, 2009).
- Sandra Sider, *Handbook to Life in Renaissance Europe* (Oxford University Press, 2007).
- Evelyn Welch, *Art in Renaissance Italy, 1350-1500* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001).
- Ulinka Rublack, *Reformation Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
- Diarmaid McCollough, *The Reformation: A History* (New York: Penguin, 2005).

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