History 1942: Historiography of Renaissance & Reformation Europe: 1350–1750
Th 2:00–4:00

History 1942 reads and discusses three generations of research on the Renaissance and the Reformation. Students read in areas of their own choosing and share their assessments with the class in written and oral reports. The course surveys what (1) have been, (2) presently are, and (3) promise to be the major trends and issues in the study of the four centuries between 1350 and 1750. History 1942 is the story of the transition from the Middle Ages to Early Modern Europe and provides a long historical perspective on modern Europe as well. It is especially recommended to undergraduates preparing for general exams or writing theses, and to beginning graduate students preparing for field exams.

Readings marked * are on reserve in the History Library in Robinson Hall. Periodicals are available in both the History Library and Widener. It is recommended that each student read a survey of the period. Four histories are available in the Harvard Coop and Harvard Book Store:

- Euan Cameron, The European Reformation (1991)
- Steven Ozment, The Age of Reform: An Intellectual and Religious History of Late Medieval and Reformation Europe (1981)

**Requirements**

Students must present for discussion at least two written reviews of monographs or collections of articles. These may be chosen from the bibliography below, or from recommended collections, but in either case in consultation with the instructor. History 1942 provides the opportunity to read and analyze foundational and classic works on major events and issues of Renaissance and Reformation Europe. Students may from time to time be asked to report on a timely article of analysis pertinent to a particular discussion. The course grade will be based on the quality of those reports and participation in discussion. A calendar of reports will be provided after the initial weeks of general historiographical orientation.

**Orientation**

Sept. 22 COURSE INTRODUCTION (Mr. Ozment)

Sept. 29 CHANGING HISTORIOGRAPHICAL CURRENTS


Oct. 6  REFORMATION/EARLY MODERN DEBATES

*Bernd Moeller, “Imperial Cities and the Reformation,” in Moeller, Imperial Cities and the Reformation, ch. 3.

Summary & Assessment

*A.G. Dickens and John Tonkin, The Reformation in Historical Thought (1985), chs. 11–12.


Steven Ozment, The Reformation in the Cities: The Appeal of Protestantism in 16th Century Germany & Switzerland (1975), ch. 3: “The Original Protestant Message”.

Historiographical Reports

Oct. 13  RELIGION AND SOCIETY ON THE EVE OF THE REFORMATION

*Summary & Assessment*


Oct. 20 LITERACY, PRINTING, AND PROPAGANDA

Summary & Assessment


Nov. 3 THE RADICAL REFORMATION

Claus-Peter Clasen, Anabaptism: A Social History (1972).
ibid., The Anabaptists (1997).
James Stayer, Anabaptists and the Sword (1976).

Summary & Assessment


Nov. 10 BIOGRAPHY

Theodore Beza, Johannis Calvini Vita (1575; English, 1836); Jerome Bolsec, Histoire de la vie, moeurs, actes, doctrine, constance et mort de Jean Calvin (Lyons, 1577; 1875).
Eric Ives, Anne Boleyn (1988).
Giles MacDonogh, Frederick the Great (2000).
John O’Malley, *The First Jesuits* (DATE?).

**Nov. 17**  
**RULERS**

Thomas A. Brady, Jr., *Protestant Politics: Jacob Strum (1489-1553) and the German Reformation* (1995).
Karl Brandi, *Charles V* (DATE?).

**Nov. 24**  
**THANKSGIVING**

**Dec. 1**  
**RELIGION IN TOWN AND COUNTRYSIDE**


**Summary & Assessment**


**Dec. 8 POPULAR CULTURE**

Natalie Z. Davis, Society and Culture in Early Modern France (1975).
Deviants and Outcasts in German History (1988).
Lucien Febvre, The Problem of Unbelief in the Sixteenth Century (1942; 1982).
Craig Harline, Miracles at the Jesus Oak: Journeys in the Otherworld of Reformation Europe (2003).
H.C. Erik Midelfort, Witchhunting in Southwestern Germany (1972).

Summaries & Assessments

Dec. 15 WOMEN, SEX, AND FAMILY

Klaus Arnold, Kind und Gesellschaft im Mittelalter und Renaissance (1980).
Samuel K. Cohn, Jr., Women in the Streets: Essays on Sex and Power in Renaissance Italy (1996).
Richard J. Evans, ed., The German Underworld.
Joel Harrington, Reordering Marriage in Reformation Germany (1993).


**Summary & Assessment**


**Period Overviews & Historiographical Aids**


Euan Cameron, *The European Reformation*.


Dickens & Tonkin, *The Reformation in Historical Thought*.


**Handbooks and References**


