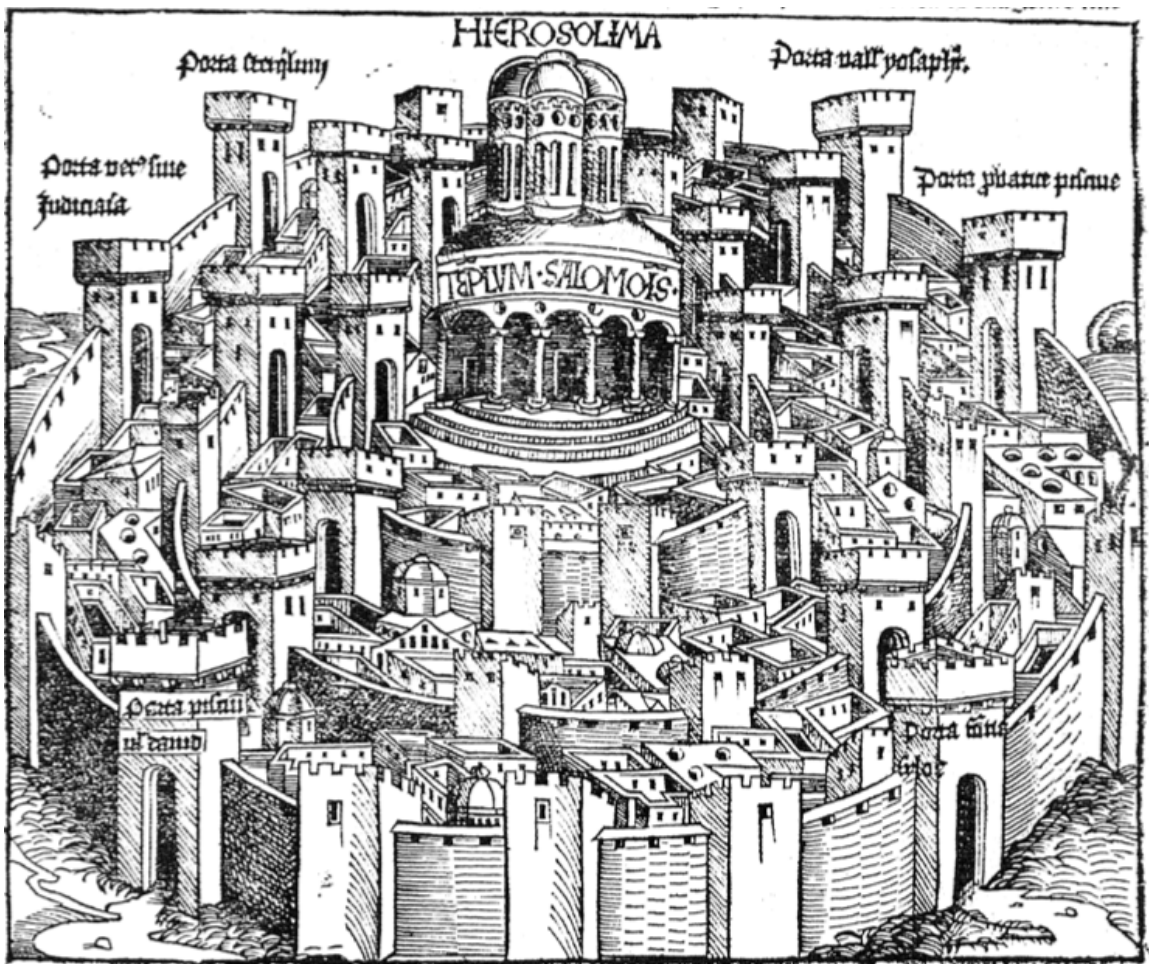


Rachel Fulton Brown
Department of History
The University of Chicago

HISTORY OF EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION I

Autumn 2023



This course is the first part of a two-part sequence. This part examines the period from approximately 500 to 1700 in European history. It challenges students to question two-dimensional, rigid narratives about the fall of Rome, the Dark Ages, the Renaissance and Reformation, and the early Enlightenment by reading historical sources with empathy and

attention to their authors' own perspectives. For example, we explore the entanglement of the political, economic, and religious by reading a chronicle written by a monk; we examine gender relations and daily life by reading men's and women's personal letters; and we investigate the earliest contacts between Europeans and the peoples of the Americas by reading eyewitness accounts of their interactions. In the process of recovering the lived experiences of medieval and early modern Europeans, the course engages with the sophisticated societies and cultures of premodern Europe, which many subsequent generations post-1700 would come to label backwards and uncivilized.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE SEMINARY CO-OP BOOKSTORE
(All books also on reserve in Regenstein Library)

- Beowulf*, Second Edition, trans. Roy Liuzza (Peterborough: Broadview, 2012) [ISBN 9781554810642]
- The Song of Roland*, trans. Dorothy Sayers (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1978) [ISBN 9780140440751]
- Abelard and Heloise, *The Letters and Other Writings: Selected Songs and Poems*, trans. William Levitan, Stanley Lombardo, and Barbara Thorburn (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2007) [ISBN 9780872208759]
- Jocelin de Brakelond, *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmonds*, trans. Diana Greenway and Jane Sayers (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989) [ISBN 9780199554935]
- Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy: Purgatory*, trans. Mark Musa (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1980) [ISBN 9780140444421]
- Alessandra Strozzi, *Selected Letters*, trans. Heather Gregory (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1997) [ISBN 978052203907]
- Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty*, trans. W. A. Lambert, rev. Harold J. Grimm (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003) [ISBN 9780800636074]
- John Locke, *Letter Concerning Toleration*, ed. James Tully (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983) [ISBN 9780915145607]
- Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters* (Toronto: Broadview, 2012) [ISBN 9781554810420]
- Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2003) [ISBN 9780141439822]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Careful study of the assigned readings.* As one of the main purposes of this course is to enable you to read different kinds of texts from different historical periods and to develop your confidence in approaching unfamiliar texts in the future, it is very important that you read each of the assigned selections as carefully as possible before coming to class each day. As you are reading, pay careful attention to what the author tells us (explicitly or implicitly) about why he or she was writing and for whom. Why was the author's subject so important that he or she considered it worth *writing* about? What does the author's interest in the subject tell us about the historical circumstances in which he or she was writing? Try, if you can, to imagine a context in which the text you are reading would have been of vital importance, so important that

an author felt the need to commit its contents to writing. What was the text that you are reading intended to *do*?

2. *Attendance and participation in class discussion* (15% of your final grade).
3. *Two textual analyses* (4-5 pages, double-spaced). First paper due **October 22** on Canvas (15% of your final grade). Second paper due **November 19** on Canvas (25% of your final grade). File format: YOUR_LAST_NAME TEXTUAL_ANALYSIS
4. *Final paper* (7-8 pages, double-spaced, 45% of your final grade). Paper due **December 8** on Canvas. File format: YOUR_LAST_NAME EUROCIV_FINAL

READING AND DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS

September 27 Why study history? Analogies, deep patterns, and roots

October 2 Teaching the faith I

Augustine of Hippo, *On the Catechizing of the Uninstructed* (AD 400), trans. S.D.F. Salmond, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, First Series, vol. 3, ed. Philip Schaff (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Company, 1887), pp. 277-314
[<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1303.htm>]

October 4 Monsters of God

Beowulf (earliest manuscript copied around AD 1000), trans. Liuzza [PR1583.L58 2013]
Appendix A, nos. 1-4, pp. 255-57
Appendix C, nos. 1-2, 4-5, pp. 275-77, 281-85
Appendix D, nos. 1 and 3, pp. 287-91, 297-99

October 9 Fighting for God I

The Song of Roland (twelfth century), stanzas 1-92, 112-15, 127-37, 142-51, 171-89, 209, 226-39, 253, 258-62, 266-68, 271-91 [PQ1521.E5S3]

October 11 Love letters I

Abelard (d. 1142), *Historia calamitatum (The Calamities of Peter Abelard)*, in *The Letters and Other Writings*, trans. Levitan, pp. 1-46 [B765.A21 L48 2007]
Abelard and Heloise (d. 1163/4), *Letters 1-4*, trans. Levitan, pp. 49-104

October 16 Life in the monastery

Jocelin de Brakelond, *Chronicle of the Abbey of Bury St. Edmonds* (1173-1202) [BX2595.B78J630 1989]
Aelfric, "Life of St. Edmund" (c. 995), in Liuzza, ed., *Beowulf*, pp. 292-96.

October 18 Defining Christendom I

Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215)
[<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/lateran4.asp>]
Eyewitness Account of the Fourth Lateran Council (RWC 4, pp. 369-76) [on eReserve]

October 23 Keeping count I

The Manor of Alwalton (1279) [<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/alwalton.asp>]

*****First textual analysis due October 22 by 11:59pm on Canvas*****

October 25 Teaching the faith II

Dante Alighieri (d. 1321), *The Divine Comedy II: Purgatorio* [PQ4315.M97]

October 30 The Black Death

Rosemary Horrox, *The Black Death* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1994), pp. 14-26, 67-73, 111-12, 158-63, 177-82, 184-93, 221-22, 271-73, 285-87, 344-46 [RC178.A1B580 1994] [on eReserve]

Jonathan Daly, *The Rise of Western Power: A Comparative History of Western Civilization* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014), chapter 2, pp. 29-51 [on eReserve]

November 1 Love letters II

Alessandra Strozzi (d. 1471), *Selected Letters* [DG737.58.S7A5 1997]

November 6 Teaching the faith III

Martin Luther, "95 Theses" (October 31, 1517)

[http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/95_Theses]

_____, *On Christian Liberty* (1520) [BR332.S6 G7 2003]

Twelve Articles of the Peasants (1525) (RWC 5, pp. 333-38) [on eReserve]

Martin Luther, *Admonition to Peace* (1525) (RWC 5, pp. 339-57) [on eReserve]

November 8 Defining Christendom II

Ignatius Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises* (1522-1524)

[<http://spex.ignatianspirituality.com/SpiritualExercises/Puhl>]

The Canons and Decrees of the Sacred Council of Trent, ed. and trans. J. Waterworth (London: Dolman, 1848) [<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/trent.html>]

- Bull of Indiction (1542)
- First, Second, Third, Fifth, and Sixth Sessions (1545-1547)

November 13 Fighting for God II

Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (1542, published 1552), trans. Nigel Griffen (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1992), pp. 3-13, 42-56, 127-30 [F1411.C315130 1992] [on eReserve]

Bernal Diaz del Castillo (d. 1584), *The Conquest of New Spain*,

Volume 1, chaps. LXXIV-XCIII, CXXV-CXXVI, pp. 175-247, 333-45

[<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/32474/32474-h/32474-h.htm>]

Volume 2, chapters CCVII-CCXI, pp. 387-401

[<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/32475/32475-h/32475-h.htm>]

November 15 A New World Order

Francis Bacon, *The New Atlantis* (1627) [<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2434/2434-h/2434-h.htm>]

*****Second textual analysis due November 19 by 11:59pm on Canvas*****

November 20-22 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 29 Teaching the faith IV

John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (1689) [BR1610.L823 1983]

Russel Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America* (New York: Vintage, 2004), chapter 5, pp. 93-109 [F128.4 S56 2005] [on eReserve].

December 1 What is civilization?

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters* (1716-1718), letters 6-7, 10, 12-13, 21, 24-25, 27-36, Appendix B: Letter 3, 40, 43, 45, and 50 [DA501.M7A40 1993]

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), pp. 5-108 (up to "I cannot say that after this, for five years, any extraordinary thing happened to me") [PR3403.A2 R53 2001]

*****Final paper due December 8 by 11:59pm on Canvas*****