‘Aspects of Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe, c. 1450-1700’
SLS2HS208 (MA History: Comparative History cluster course)
Winter Semester 2018
Instructor: Denys P. Leighton
(Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 – 11 a.m.)

Course objectives:

- To obtain an understanding of the consolidation of Europe c. 1500 – 1700 C.E. as a distinctive socioeconomic, political and cultural formation.
- To explore ‘the idea of Europe’ and the emergence of pan-European consciousness during this period, and to understand the relation of this to consciousness of nation, class, religious belonging, etc.
- To comprehend the simultaneous ‘distancing’ of Europe from other civilizations and the modified reproduction of European-ness in other regions of the world through colonization.
- To understand the transformation of Europeans’ manners and morals, their changing understanding of relations between divine and human orders and between natural laws and supernatural powers.
- To understand some implications of the association of Europe with modernity (e.g., scientific method).
- To become acquainted with types of historical investigation (methods) that have been used by historians of early modern Europe and that have been applied or could be applied to the study of other times and places..

COURSE READINGS:
Chapter assignments from the following books...
C. A. Monson, *Nuns Behaving Badly: Tales of Magic, Music, Art and Arson in the Convents of Italy* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2010)
Julius Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800* (Cambridge UP, 2001)
Most other assigned readings are journal articles, referred to in the schedule below.

Students are encouraged to access the following web pages relating to topics of this course:
http://www.library.utoronto.ca/crrs/Databases/WWW/Bookmarks.html
www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook1.html and
www.fordham.edu/Halsall/sbook.asp
www.earlymodernweb.org/resources/
www.uffizi.org/artworks/
www.artlex.com → ‘Northern Renaissance Art’

ASSESSMENT PATTERN: 1 written assignment: (30%, DUE on 6 March); 2 oral presentations (@20%, late February, late March); 1 end-semester examination (30%). If students are not reading the prescribed texts, the instructor reserves the right to conduct
‘pop-quizzes’ @ worth 5 - 10% of the course grade (to be factored into the oral presentations portion of assessment).

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS.

16 January 2015: INTRODUCTION.

18 & 23 January: European identity to 1700 CE: Myths and the cultural inheritance.


25, 30 January & 1 February: Meanings of ‘Renaissance’. Italy and humanism; a scriptorial and visual revolution. The Renaissance in the North and East.


6, 8 & 13 February: oral presentations.


27 February & 1 March: Making the New World old; the Orient in the European world picture.

6, 8 & 13 March: Rituals of life and death; family, gender and social experience; a witchcraft ‘craze’. **Writing assignment due 6 March.**


15 March: Literacy, orality, and communication, c. 1500 – 1700.


20, 22 & 27 March: oral presentations. [29 March: gazetted holiday.]


17 April: Overview and Q&A.

[End-semester examination period: per SLS Semester Calendar.]