

The University of Texas at Tyler
Spring Semester 2020
HIST 5352 – Renaissance Europe
Professor: Dr. Edward Tabri
etabri@uttyler.edu. Office: CAS 121
Office Hours: T, H 1-3pm or by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives:

In our focus on Renaissance Europe, we will be giving particular attention to trans-global contacts between Europeans and peoples in the Americas, Africa and South Asia. Going beyond the familiar theme of European conquest/colonization, we will explore how cultural interaction was expressed through such categories as ethnography, cartography, ecology and economics. This graduate readings course is aimed at improving students' ability to interpret recent and classic historiography, thereby enhancing their analytical and writing skills.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

Your grade will be based mainly on written reviews of the books we are reading. Each paper is worth 10% of your total grade (six reviews totaling 60%), a comprehensive essay will be worth 30% and finally 10% for attendance and participation. Papers should be roughly 4-6 pages in length and should address the book's thesis and how well it proves its case. The comprehensive essay will be a retrospective comparison of all six books. Late papers will not be accepted unless there is official documentation of a family or medical emergency.

Final Withdrawal Date: March 30

Required Books:

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, *Before Columbus*

Stephen Epstein, *Genoa and the Genoese*

Carl Ortwin Sauer, *The Early Spanish Main*

Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *The Career and Legend of Vasco da Gama*

Surekha Davies, *Renaissance Ethnography and the Invention of the Human*

J.H. Elliott, *Empires of the Atlantic World*

Calendar of Meetings and Assignments:

Jan. 16 Introduction

- Jan. 23 Discussion *Before Columbus*; 1st book review due
- Jan. 30 Discussion of *Genoa and the Genoese*, pages xiii-139 and JSTOR article:
D. Hughes, "Urban Growth and Family Structure in Medieval Genoa"
Past & Present, 66 (Feb., 1975) 3-28.
- Feb. 6 Discussion of *Genoa and the Genoese*, pages 140-323; 2nd book review due
- Feb. 13 Discussion of *The Early Spanish Main*, pages 1-160 and JSTOR article:
Noble David Cook, "Sickness, Starvation, and Death in Early Hispaniola"
Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 32 (Winter, 2002) 349-386.
- Feb. 20 Discussion of *Early Spanish Main*, pages 161-295; 3rd book review due
- Feb. 27 Discussion of *Vasco da Gama*, pages 1-163 and JSTOR article:
David Northrup: "Vasco da Gama and Africa: an Era of Mutual Discovery"
Journal of World History, 9 (Fall 1998) 189-211
- Mar. 5 Discussion of *Vasco da Gama*, pages 164-368; 4th book review due
- Mar. 12 No meeting – Spring Break
- Mar. 19 Discussion of *Renaissance Ethnography*, pages 1-147
- Mar. 26 Discussion of *Renaissance Ethnography*, pages 148-301; 5th book review due
- April 2 No meeting
- April 9 Discussion of *Empires of the Atlantic World*, pages xiii-114 and JSTOR article
Andrew Sluyter, "The Ecological Origins and Consequences of Cattle
Ranching in Sixteenth-Century New Spain." *Geographical Review*, 86
(Apr., 1996) 161-177.
- April 16 Discussion of *Empires*, pages 117-251 and JSTOR article: T.H. Breen, "English
Origins and New World Development: the Covenanted Militia"
Past and Present, 57 (Nov. 1972) 74-96
- April 23 Discussion of *Empires*, pages 255-411; 6th book review due
- April 30 Comprehensive Essay Due; No meeting, email as pdf

Additional University Policies

<https://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>