

**TOPICS IN EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY: CITIES AND URBAN LIFE
HISTORY 321W / 421**

COURSE INFORMATION

Communication: Please come speak with me if you have any questions or concerns about the class. I can be more understanding of your needs if you bring them to my attention before they become a serious problem. I am available during regular office hours without an appointment. If you cannot make posted hours, please contact me to schedule a better time. You may also speak to me by e-mail or phone.

Attendance: Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will lower your grade for the course by ½ letter grade (e.g. from a B to a B-); each further absence will result in an additional ½ grade deduction. I reserve the right to withdraw students who have missed six or more meetings from the class. If you must miss class for an unavoidable reason, please let me know in advance.

Accommodations: I encourage you to talk with me about any concern or situation that affects your ability to complete your academic work successfully. Students requiring classroom accommodations should contact the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 1-154 Dewey Hall, 585-275-9049. You can learn more about the accommodation process at: www.rochester.edu/college/cetl/undergraduate/disability.

Academic Honesty: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/. You are encouraged to discuss course readings/assignments with your colleagues. However, all written work must be done independently.

Writing Help: We will discuss each writing assignment in detail during class. I am also always willing to talk about writing assignments individually: to help you plan an essay, work through the process, or go over a past paper. I strongly encourage all students to take advantage of this by coming to office hours. Another very useful resource is the U of R Writing and Speaking Center, which is dedicated to helping

ASSIGNMENTS

Class Participation: This is a seminar, and a small one. If it is to be pleasant and productive, you must attend all class meetings and come having read the assigned texts and prepared to discuss them. Simple attendance is not enough; there is no such thing as passive participation. I expect and encourage a diversity of perspectives, as well as honest and respectful disagreement. If you are having difficulties speaking up in class, please come see me and we will develop some strategies together.

Discussion leadership: At least once during the course (but more likely twice), you will be in charge of leading the class discussion. Doing this effectively requires careful preparation. In addition to c

Spiro Kostof, "The Walled Edge" and "The Street," in *The City Assembled: The Elements of Urban Form through History* (Boston, 1992), 26-39 and 189-95.

F Sep 20: The senses

Mark Jenner, "Follow Your Nose? Smell, Smelling, and Their Histories," *The American Historical Review* 116.2 (April, 2011): 335-351.

Joseph Wheeler, "Stench in sixteenth-century Venice," in *The city and the senses: urban culture since 1500*, ed. Alexander Cowan and Jill Steward (Ashgate, 2007)

Niall Atkinson, "Sonic Armatures: Constructing an Acoustic Regime in Renaissance Florence," *Senses and Society*, 7.1 (2012): 39-52.

Ulf Strohmayer, "Engineering Vision in Early Modern Paris," in *The city and the senses: urban culture since 1500*, edited by Alexander Cowan and Jill Steward (Ashgate, 2007), 75-92.

F Sep 27: Home and Work (oral intro to city of your choice)

James Farr, *Artisans in Europe, 1300-1914* (Cambridge, 2000), entire

Philippe Ariès, "The Family and the City," *Daedalus* 106 (1977): 227-35.

Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt: the Great Cat Massacre on the rue Saint-Séverin," in *The Great Cat Massacre and other Episodes in French Cultural History* (Basic Books, 1999), 75-104.

Merry Wiesner Wood, "Paltry Peddlers or Essential Merchants? Women in the Distributive Trades in Early Modern Nuremberg," *Sixteenth Century Journal* 12.2 (1981): 3-13.

Extra:

Robert Davis. "Arsenal and *Arsenalotti*: Workplace and community in Seventeenth-Century Venice," in T. Safley and L. Rosenband, eds. *The Workplace before the Factory: Artisans and Proletarians, 1500-1800* (Cornell, 1993), 180-203.

Monica Chojnacka, *Working women of early modern Venice* (Baltimore, 2001), 1-25.

F Oct 4: Crime and Order (by now, you should have met with me to discuss topics)

Robert Jütte, *Poverty and Deviance in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge, 1994), entire

J.M. Beattie, "The Pattern of Crime in England 1660-1800" *Past and Present* 62 (1974): 47-95

Pieter Spierenburg. "Faces of Violence: Homicide Trends and Cultural Meanings: Amsterdam, 1413-1816," *Journal of Social History* 27 (No. 4, 1994), 701

Mary Elizabeth Perry, *Crime and Society in Early Modern Seville* (University Press of New England, 1980) <http://libro.uca.edu/perry/seville.htm>

Steven Hughes, "Fear and

F Oct 25: Women's Communities

Nicholas Terpstra, *Lost Girls: Sex and Death in Renaissance Florence* (Baltimore, 2010), entire.

Elizabeth Cohen, "To Pray, To Work, To Hear, To Speak: Women in Roman Streets c. 1600." *Journal of Early Modern History* 12 (September 2008): 289-311.

Laura Gowing, "Giving Birth at the Magistrate's Gate: Single Mothers in the Early Modern City." In *Women, identities and communities in early modern Europe*, ed. Susan Broomhall and Stephanie Tarbin (Ashgate, 2008), 137-52.

Extra:

Laura Gowing, "'The Freedom of the Streets': Women and Social Space, 1560-1640." In *Londinopolis: essays in the cultural and social history of early modern London*, ed. Mark S. R. Jenner and Paul Griffiths (Manchester, 2000), 130-53.

Amanda Flather, *Gender and space in early modern England* (Boydell & Brewer, 2007), 1-16, 17-38.

Sharon T. Strocchia, "Sisters in spirit: the nuns of Sant' Ambrogio and their consorority in early sixteenth-century Florence." *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 33 (2002): 735-767.

F Nov 1: Spectacle, Community, and Violence (primary source analysis)

Robert Darnton, "A Bourgeois Puts his World in Order: The City as a Text," in *The Great Cat Massacre and other Episodes in French Cultural History* (Basic Books, 1999), 107-143.

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F Nov 8: Information networks and the ‘Culture of the Street’

John Edwards, “The culture of the street: the Calle de la Feria in Córdoba, 1470-1520,” in *Mediterranean Urban Culture, 1400-1700*, ed. Alexander Cowan (Exeter, 2000), 69-82, 232-5.

James Grehan, “Smoking and “Early Modern” Sociability: The Great Tobacco Debate in the Ottoman Middle East (Seventeenth to Eighteenth Centuries),” *American Historical Review* 111.5 (2006): 1352-1377.

John Money, *Experience and Identity: Birmingham and the West Midlands, 1768-1800* (McGill, 1977), chap. 4, “Social and Cultural Aspirations: Music and the Stage,” pp. 80-97.

Rosa Salzberg, “Selling Stories and Many Other Things In and Through the City: Peddling Print in Sixteenth-Century Florence and Venice.” *Sixteenth-Century Journal* 42.3 (2011): 737-59.

Extra:

Alexander Cowan, “Seeing is Believing. Urban Gossip and the Balcony in Early Modern Venice,” *Gender and History* 23.3 (2011): 721-38.

APPENDIX

Nuts-and-bolts

These are articles that I've found (and many of my students have found) to be quite helpful when approaching both class readings and their own research. The 'Practical Lesson in How to Read a History Book' is, in my opinion, especially relevant for any advanced student. It'll come in useful when you read the full