Readings in Early Modern European History
Fall 2015, Th 4:30-7:30pm, VD 011
Dr. Tuna Artun (tuna.artun@rutgers.edu) VD 002A

Syllabus

Readings: Book chapters and articles that are available on SAKAI as PDF files are marked [*]. All other items can be found in Graduate Reserve at Alexander Library. Recommended readings for select weeks are marked [r].

Assignments & Evaluation:

Students are required to write a short (2-4 pp.) response paper on weekly readings, which should be posted on Sakai by 11 PM every Wednesday. These response papers and the participation in weekly discussions will constitute 75% of the final grade for the course. As their final paper for the course, the students must write a review article on Nathalie Rothman’s *Brokering Empire: Trans-Imperial Subjects between Venice and Istanbul* (Ithaca, 2012).

Week 1 (9/3)
General introduction to the course.

Week 2 (9/10) The origins and diversities of early modernity
- Björn Wittrock, “Early Modernities: Varieties and Transitions,” *Daedalus* 127:3 (Summer, 1998).*

Week 3 (9/17) Ethno-religious transformations: Iberia, Anatolia, and the Balkans
- Aleksandar Vezhenkov, “History against Geography: Should We Always Think of the Balkans as Part of Europe?” in Alice MacLachland and Ingvild Torsen, eds., *History and Judgment* (Vienna, 2006).*
Week 4 (9/24) Reformation and Counter-Reformation in Western Christendom
• Mary Laven, “Encountering the Counter-Reformation,” Renaissance Quarterly 59 (2006).*

Week 5 (10/1) Law and gender
• Natalie Zemon Davis, Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and Their Tellers in Sixteenth-century France (Stanford, 1987).
• Khaled El-Rouayheb, Before Homosexuality in the Arab-Islamic World, 1500-1800 (Chicago, 2005).

Week 6 (10/8) Printing, vernacularization, and cultural identities
• Peter Burke, Languages and Communities in Early Modern Europe (Cambridge, 2004).

Week 7 (10/15) Popular culture
• Dana Sajdi, Barber of Damascus: Nouveau Literacy in the Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Levant [r]

Week 8 (10/22) Epistemic iconoclasms I: The Microcosmos
• Charles Webster, Paracelsus: Medicine, Magic and Mission at the End of Time (New Haven, 2008).
• Lawrence M. Principe and William Newman, “Some Problems with the Historiography of Alchemy” in William Newman and Anthony Grafton,
eds., Secrets of Nature: Astrology and Alchemy in Early Modern Europe (Cambridge, MA, 2001).*


Week 9 (10/29) Epistemic iconoclasm II: The Macrocosmos


Week 10 (11/5) Expanding horizons


- Brian J. Boeck, *Imperial Boundaries: Cossack Communities and Empire-Building in the Age of Peter the Great* (Cambridge, 2009). [r]

Week 11 (11/12) Consumption and commercial networks


Week 12 (11/19) Royal authority


Week 13 (11/26) Thanksgiving Recess, no class.

Week 14 (12/3) Ecology and the environment

• Sam White, *The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire* (Cambridge, 2011). [r]

Week 15 (12/10) Magic and witchcraft

• Anthony Grafton, *Magic and Technology in Early Modern Europe* (Washington, DC, 2005).*