

HIST 330-01: The Politics of Food in Early Modern England

Grinnell College, Fall 1 2020 (August 24th-October 14th)

MTWThF @ 7:00-8:50 p.m., WebEx Meeting Room

<https://grinnellcollege.webex.com/grinnellcollege/j.php?MTID=ma666b74c432cdc117c8f269bfc04690a>

Syllabus subject to change

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Office Hours: MTWThF 9:00-10:00 p.m.

Course Description

'The culinary is political,' an early modern Englishman once said – or even if he hadn't, surely he would have concurred. Through an examination of the conflicts surrounding the purchase, consumption, and production of food, as well as the moral-political use of culinary puns, metaphors, and allusions, this class will offer an overview of the 'century of revolutions' in England beginning with Elizabeth I's reign in the 1550s and ending with the death of King William III in 1702. We chart England's transition from an early modern monarchy and economy, in which high politics centered on the person of the monarch and the Crown struggled to find a way to 'live of its own'; through the Civil War and Interregnum, when 'the world turned upside down' and royalists, Ranters, and radicals contended with one another over the ideal form of civil society; and finally, to the turn-of-the-century, when the Glorious Revolution ushered in party politics and a modernized commercial society.

Over the course of the quarter, we will address the following questions: 1) What can we learn about the ways in which English conceptions of the ideal society shifted (or remained the same) over the course of the early modern period, through a close reading of sermons, proclamations, pamphlets, songs, and satires concerning the consumption of food and the manner in which it was sold and supplied? 2) What can these sources tell us about the constituencies and communities that comprised early modern England, and how and why their interests aligned or came into conflict? 3) In addition, what can these sources teach us about the 'rules' governing the early modern English economy, and how such rules relate to common understandings about the duties of poor and middling Englishmen vis-à-vis their masters, and vice versa?

Although this seminar takes as its primary subject matter the consumption of food and the manipulation of culinary language and imagery, it is not a class on material culture. Rather, it seeks to understand the political, and religious conflicts of the day by exploring textual and visual sources on plenty and want, fasting and gluttony, drunkenness and temperance. Above all, this is a course designed to familiarize you with techniques and methodologies that historians use in order to analyze, contextualize, and synthesize primary and secondary source material. As a capstone, you will produce an original research paper addressing some of the major themes and questions of the course, based on archival and scholarly material that you have collected.

Required Books and Readings

Textbook

1. Robert Bucholz and Newton Key, *Early Modern England, 1485-1717* (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2009)

Course packet readings available online via P-web (hard copies also mailed to your address)

Additional readings may be posted on P-web as necessary

A note on the course schedule and readings

Given the compressed schedules for the fall (7 weeks versus 14 weeks), we will be meeting synchronously together Monday-Thursday for the first three weeks to discuss our assigned primary and secondary sources, with Fridays reserved for individual sessions and one-on-one feedback on your research progress and paper proposals. The last four weeks of the course (plus the shortened finals period) will be dedicated to discussions about your papers, including peer review and one-on-one meetings.

Lecture notes will be posted to P-web and as downloadable podcasts for you to listen to. The Bucholz and Key textbook is intended as a supplement. All other primary and secondary sources are uploaded to P-web in the form of a course reader; hard copies will also be mailed to your home address.

One of the terrific things about studying early modern England is that you can learn to access and read a wide variety of sources in the original, without mediation. We will practice learning to read – to our eyes! – funny and irregular spelling, densely printed type, manuscript handwriting, unfamiliar formatting, etc. **This may seem difficult at first, but the important thing is that you try!**

Week 1: August 31st-September 6th

Week 2: September 7th-September 13th

Week 3: September 14th-September 20th

Week 4: September 21st-September 27th

Week 5: September 28th-October 4th

Week 6: October 5th-October 11th

Week 7: October 12th-October 18th

Week 7.5 (finals period): October 19th-October 21st

Assignments and Grading Breakdown

Participation: 20%, including daily analyses of class readings and early paper scaffolding assignments

Annotated bibliography: 10% **(due Wednesday 09/23)**

Mock grant proposal: 10% **(due Wednesday 09/30)**

Rough drafts:

1000-word draft: 10% **(due Wednesday 10/07)**

3000-word draft: 10% **(due Wednesday 10/14)**

Final research Paper: 40% **(due Wednesday 10/21)**

Scale for individual assignments:

A: 97% B: 85% C: 75%
A-: 91% B-: 81% D: 62%
B+: 88% C+: 78% F: 50%

Scale for final grades:

A: 95%+ B: 84-86% C: 70%-76%
A-: 90-94% B-: 80-83% D: 60-69%
B+: 87-90% C+: 77-80% F: Below 60%

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Your success in (and enjoyment of!) this course will depend on your willingness to engage thoughtfully with the material and each other, in your conversation and your note-taking. We will learn a great deal from one another if we come to class prepared, ready to contribute and to take intellectual risks. Together, we will practice developing incisive questions, identifying significant passages, tracing common themes, providing evidentiary support for scholarly arguments, and responding productively to disagreements and critiques.

For each synchronous class session, please complete a brief analysis of one (or more) of the primary sources assigned (approximately 250-300 words) based on questions/tips from the class Google Doc.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UVldkp5MGKoS4JqI42Gghu4boAEfKy6vtafX81gXji4/edit?usp=sharing>

Come to class! This is an upper-division seminar required for the major and we are meeting as a whole class only for the first part of the quarter. We only have a handful of synchronous meetings. Each one is valuable.

Annotated bibliography: 10% (due 09/23)

Annotated bibliographies are one of the most effective tools available for organizing your initial research ideas. This one will consist of a 500-word introduction, laying out your central research questions and offering an overview of the historiography and resources available on the subject; four foundational secondary sources, arranged in order of how the scholarly conversation has unfolded, each annotated with a 250-word paragraph summarizing the main approaches and arguments and relating the sources back to one another; and four significant primary sources, each annotated with a 250-word paragraph offering a contextual introduction, potential ways of reading the source, and what it reveals about how best to approach your overall topic.

Grant Proposal: 10% (due 09/30)

Grant proposals are one of the primary ways that historians share work-in-progress with their peers. Your 1000- to 1250-word mock grant proposal will be the earliest complete statement of your research goals and your plans for accomplishing them, as well as your initial arguments and findings.

All the formal writing you produce for this class should be footnoted in Chicago-style format. For more information on footnoting, see: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/03/>

Research Paper

Rough drafts

1000-word draft: 10% (due Wednesday 10/07)

3000-word draft: 10% (due Wednesday 10/14)

Final draft: 40% (due Wednesday 10/21)

The goal of the class is to train you to write a short research paper, approximately 3600-4000 words (12-15 pages). The scaffolding assignments are designed to help you develop an effective research question, find useful primary and secondary sources, and build a logical and substantive argument. **The drafts (in increments of 1000 and 3000 words) are worth 10% each.** Your specific topic may be drawn from any of our class discussions, or from your own outside reading and interests, as long as it falls broadly under the umbrella of 'early modern England'. **Your paper is due via P-web on Wednesday, 10/21, by 5 p.m.**

Late Assignment Policy

Every student is entitled to a 48-hour grace period **on the annotated bibliography, grant proposal, or drafts**. You must notify me if you plan to take the extension. Once you have used your grace period, late assignments will be docked by 1/3 of a grade each day.

Honor Code and Accommodations

Please familiarize yourself with the Grinnell Student Handbook honesty policies and abide by them.

If you have any documented needs that require accommodation, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Details at: <https://www.grinnell.edu/about/offices-services/accessibility-disability/disability-services>

Readings and Topics

Week One

Monday, August 31st – Bread, Beer, Beef: Social Class in Tudor and Stuart England

1. 'Preface' and 'An Exhortation to Obedience', from *Certain Sermons or Homilies Appointed to be Read in Churches*, 1559
(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qj7sdkjin5ftz46u/An%20Exhortation%20concerning%20Good%20Order.docx?dl=0>)
2. Thomas Fuller, 'To the Reader', 'The Good Yeoman', and 'The True Gentleman', from *The Holy State*, 1648-1663 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240991361>)

Tuesday, September 1st – The Eucharist, Fasting, and the Development of a Protestant National Identity

1. 'A briefe note of the benefits that growe to this Realme by the observation of Fish-daies', 1595
(<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240907205>)
2. Thomas Tuke, 'Concerning the Holy Eucharist and the Popish Breden-God', 1625 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240952945>)

Wednesday, September 2nd – The Structure of Government and the Elizabethan Succession Crisis

1. Thomas Smith, 'Of the Parliament and Authoritie thereof' and 'Of the Monarch, King or Queene of England', from *De Republica Anglorum*, published 1584
(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gtctc0h3ckwlvw9/Of%20the%20Parliament%20and%20the%20authoritie%20thereof%2C%20from%20De%20Republica%20Anglorum%20%281%29.docx?dl=0>)
2. Walter Mildmay? 'A Briefe Discourse Against Succession Knowen', 1584
(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nbnzc26nh5dfq1r/A%20Brief%20Discourse%20Against%20Succession%20Knowen.docx?dl=0>)

Thursday, September 3rd – Monopolies, Purveyance, and the Problematic Tudor Fiscal Legacy

1. Parliamentary debates on monopolies and the Queen's response, excerpted from Townsend's Journal, 1601

(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ogvv5wt8nu9kco1/1601%20Parliamentary%20Debate%20on%20the%20issue%20of%20Monopolies-2-3.docx?dl=0>)

2. Pauline Croft, 'Parliament, Purveyance, and the City of London, 1589-1608', *Parliamentary History*, vol. 4 (1985), p. 9-34 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/1300111728>)

Friday, September 4th – Individual Meetings

Complete Primary Source Scavenger Hunt prior to meeting

Week Two

Monday, September 7th – The 'Moral Economy' and Early Modern Welfare State

1. Jonathan Healey, 'The Development of Poor Relief in Lancashire, 1598-1680', *Historical Journal*, vol. 53, no. 3 (September 2010), p. 551-572 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/40865669.pdf>)
2. 'Women Receiving Poor Relief, Braintree Parish, Essex (1619-21)', in *Sources and Debates in English History, 1485-1714*, eds. Newton Key & Robert Bucholz (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), p. 123-4 (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ky4qEaMg2pMBTHud1grhLGnk74XUbb5-o3glVCLp6O0/edit?usp=sharing>)

Tuesday, September 8th – Dearth and Food Riots

1. John Walter and Keith Wrightson, 'Dearth and the Social Order in Early Modern England', in *Rebellion, Popular Protest, and the Social Order in Early Modern England*, ed. Paul Slack (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984) (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/650352.pdf>)
2. Richard Browne, Sheriff of Kent, letter to the Privy Council, 1630
3. Anonymous libel from the town of Wye, 1630
4. John Hales, letter to his father Sir Edward Hales, May 1631

Wednesday, September 9th – Levellers, True Levellers, and Radical Revolution in the English Civil War

1. William Everard and Gerrard Winstanley, 'The True Levellers Standard Advanced', 1649 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240903700>)
2. Gerrard Winstanley, 'The Law of Freedom in a Platform', 1652 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2248532829>)

Thursday, September 10th – Cookbooks as Civil War Era Propaganda

1. Walter Montagu, *The Queens Closet Opened: Incomparable Secrets in Physick, Chirurgery, Preserving, Candyng, and Cookery, As they were presented to the Queen*, 1655 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240955208>)
2. Anonymous, *The Court & Kitchin of Elizabeth, commonly called Joan Cromwel the wife of the late usurper*, 1664 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240956369>)

Friday, September 11th – Individual Meetings

Complete Initial Secondary Source Analysis prior to meeting

Week Three

Monday, September 14th – Restoration, or the Roasting of the Rump

1. Mark S.R. Jenner, 'The Roasting of the Rump: Scatology and the Body Politic in Restoration England', *Past and Present*, no. 177 (November 2002), p. 84-120 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/3600879.pdf>)
2. Alexander Brome, 'Rump, or an Exact Collection of the Choycest Poems and Songs Relating to the Late Times', 1662 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2248545551>)

Tuesday, September 15th – Coffeehouses and the Development of a Public Sphere

1. Brian Cowan, Introduction and Chapter One, *The Social Life of Coffee* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005) (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/j.ctt1npc0p.6.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Adfb2846bddcc2523d6b50691cf7d1205>) and (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/j.ctt1npc0p.7.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Adfb2846bddcc2523d6b50691cf7d1205>)
2. 'A Character of Coffee and Coffee Houses', 1661 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240859329>)

Wednesday, September 16th – The Protestant Orange and his Glorious Revolution

1. Jonathan Scott, 'Invasion, 1688-9', *England's Troubles* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) (https://www-cambridge-org.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/6A980C823C4A6D0FBADD9C7B2B000921/9780511605741c9_p205-226_CBO.pdf/invasion_16889.pdf)
2. Anonymous, 'England's Memorial', c. 1688 (https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/P_1855-0114-192)

Thursday, September 17th – Sugar, Trade, and the West Indies: The Beginnings of the British Empire

1. Anonymous, *The Present Case of a Barbados Planter, and Reasons Against Laying a Further Duty on Sugar*, c. 1690 (<https://search-proquest-com.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/docview/2240889022>)
2. Barbara Bush-Slimani, 'Hard Labour: Women, Childbirth, and Resistance in British Caribbean Slave Societies', *History Workshop*, no. 36 (Autumn 1993), p. 83-99 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/4289253.pdf>)

Friday, September 18th – Individual Meetings

Complete Annotated Bibliography Draft prior to meeting

Week Four

Monday, September 21st – Thursday, September 24th

Communal research and writing time, log on to WebEx at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23rd – Annotated Bibliography due

Friday, September 25th – Individual Meetings

Week Five

Monday, September 28th – Thursday, October 1st

Communal writing time, log on to WebEx at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30th – Grant Proposal due

Friday, October 2nd – Individual Meetings

Week Six

Monday, October 5th – Thursday October 8th

Communal writing time, log on to WebEx at 7:00 p.m.

NB: Yom Kippuris on Monday, September 28th this year

Wednesday, October 7th – 1000-word draft due

Friday, October 9th – Individual Meetings

Week Seven

Monday, October 12th – Thursday, October 15th

Communal writing time, log on to WebEx at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14th – 3000-word draft due

Friday, October 16th – Individual Meetings

Finals Week

Wednesday, October 21st – Final drafts due