

HIST 335 – Order and Disorder in Early Modern Europe

Grinnell College, Fall 2023

MW 2:00-3:50 p.m., HSSC S3333

Syllabus subject to change

Assistant Professor Catherine Chou (choucath@grinnell.edu)

Office Hours: TTh 2:30-4:30 p.m. and by appointment, HSSC N3162. [Sign up here!](#)

Course Description

How did early modern Europeans envision the ideal society? How did they attempt to enact or enforce these visions, and with what results? The first part of this seminar will be spent working collaboratively on case studies of lawsuits, revolts, raptures, crimes, resistance, and other types of disturbances to the social order in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe. For each case study, students will be presented with a collection of primary sources. From there, they will learn how to conduct research for their own papers by practicing how to read different genres of primary sources week-to-week, finding secondary sources to contextualize them, developing analytical questions that can be answered by the sources, and organizing a central argument in a logical flow. Prerequisite: HIS 100 and 232, 233, 234, or 283.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance and daily participation: 15%

Source presentations (2x each): 10%

Revised introductions and theses, plus section one: 10% - due 11/01

Revised introductions and theses, plus sections one and two: 10% - due 11/11

Complete rough draft: 10% - due 11/27

Final draft: 45% - due 12/15

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is compulsory. Since the lessons and group discussions are concentrated in the first part of the semester, you are expected to make every class before Fall Break.

We are in this journey together. “Class” is the students coming together to analyze the readings: developing incisive questions, identifying significant passages, tracing common themes, providing evidentiary support for your arguments, and responding productively to critiques. There is no replacement for class, no substitute for showing up together in community.

Source Presentations

Please prepare for each class by completing the **research template for the week**. **You will work individually (uploading a final copy of your answers to P-web) and collectively (sharing your answers with your classmates through platforms like Microsoft Teams and Google Docs)**. At the beginning of the semester, I will split you up into groups for shared research and writing time. You will pick times to meet outside of class to complete the research templates and, later in the term, to work on your final papers.

Two times during the semester (weeks four through seven), you and your group will be responsible for leading the class conversation about the sources for the week. Your grades for the source presentations will

be determined individually, based on your written submissions to P-web and what you contribute to the in-class discussion.

Late Assignment Policy

Every student is entitled to two 24-hour grace periods to use on the drafts. You must notify me if you plan to take an extension. Once you have used your grace periods, late assignments will be docked by 1/3 of a grade the first day, and another 1/3 of a grade each week thereafter.

Honor Code

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

Accommodations

If you have any documented needs that require accommodation, please do not hesitate to let me know. [More details are available here.](#)

Readings and Topics

Week Two

Monday, August 28th – Introduction; structure of the class

Hand out primary source packet #1: Murder pamphlets

Wednesday, August 30th – 1st Discussion of primary source packet #1: Murder pamphlets

Week Three

Monday, September 4th – 2nd Discussion of primary source packet #1: Murder pamphlets

Hand out primary source packet #2: Religious radicalism

Wednesday, September 6th – 1st Discussion of primary source packet #2: Religious radicalism

Week Four

Monday, September 11th – 2nd Discussion of primary source packet #2: Religious radicalism

(Group 1 Presents)

Hand out primary source packet #3: Quarter session records

Wednesday, September 13th – 1st Discussion of primary source packet #3: Quarter session records

Week Five

Monday, September 18th – 2nd Discussion of primary source packet #3: Quarter session records

(Group 2 Presents)

Hand out primary source packet #4: Petitions to the Bank of England

Wednesday, September 20th – 1st Discussion of primary source packet #4: Petitions to the Bank of England

Week Six

Monday, September 25th – 2nd Discussion of primary source packet #4: Petitions to the Bank of England
(Group 1 Presents)

Hand out primary source packet #5: Clarendon Codes

Wednesday September 27th – 1st Discussion of primary source packet #5: Clarendon Codes

Week Seven

Monday, October 2nd – 2nd Discussion of primary source packet #5: Clarendon Codes
(Group 2 Presents)

Wednesday, October 4th – Individual meetings to determine primary source bases

Week Eight

Monday, October 9th – Meetings to discuss analytical questions and secondary sources

Wednesday, October 11th – Meetings to discuss analytical questions and secondary sources

Fall Break (!)

Week Nine

Monday, October 23rd – Class writing time; peer work sessions
Introductions, preliminary thesis, and outlines due

Wednesday, October 25th – Class writing time; peer work sessions

Week Nine

Monday, October 30th – Preliminary presentations

Wednesday, November 1st – Class writing time; peer work sessions
Revised introductions and theses, plus section one due

Week Ten

Monday, November 6th – Class writing time; peer work sessions

Wednesday, November 8th – Class writing time; peer work sessions

Saturday, November 11th – Revised introductions and theses, plus sections one & two due

Week Eleven

Monday, November 13th – Class writing time; peer work sessions

Wednesday, November 15th – Class writing time; peer work sessions

Week Twelve

Monday, November 20th – Class writing time; peer work sessions

Wednesday, November 22nd – No class, time off early for Thanksgiving break

Week Thirteen

Monday, November 27th – Class writing time; **complete rough drafts due**

Wednesday, November 29th – Class writing time; peer work sessions

Week Fourteen

Monday, December 4th – Second-round presentations

Wednesday, December 6th – Individual meetings

Exam Week

Thursday, December 14th – **Final papers due**