

**HIST 504a**  
**Religion and the State in Europe, 1400-1700**  
**September-December 2011**

Instructor: Dr. Beam  
Class meetings: Wednesdays 2:30-5:30  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3  
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**General Description**

This course investigates the relationship between political power and sacred authority in early modern Europe. Throughout this period, political power was sustained through its association with Christianity: there were no “secular states” on the European continent before the French Revolution. Nevertheless, as a result of humanism, religious change and the proliferation of increasingly secular rationales of power, the relationship between religion and the political authority was reworked during the early modern period. This gradual reorganization of political power had wide-ranging implications not only for the triumph of the modern state over the European-wide authority of the papacy, but also for religious toleration and the reinforcement of hierarchy at all levels of society.

**Readings and Class Schedule**

Readings indicated by an asterisk are available for purchase at the UVic Bookstore. All books are on reserve at McPherson Library.

September 7, Opening Discussion

September 14, The “Corruption” of the Papacy  
-\*Charles Stinger, Renaissance in Rome

September 21, Religion and Political Life in the Italian City States  
-\*Lauro Martines, Fire in the City  
-Edward Muir, Civic Ritual in Renaissance Venice

September 28, Imagining Political Power  
-\*Ernst Kantorowicz, The King’s Two Bodies  
-\*Machiavelli, The Prince

October 5, Religion Translated and Transformed

-John Bossy, Christianity in the West

-Susan Karant-Nunn, The Reformation of Ritual

October 12, Persecution

-\*Brad Gregory, Salvation at Stake

-\*Lyndal Roper, Witch Craze

October 19, The Confessional State

-Ronnie Hsia, Social Discipline in the Reformation

-\*Ulrike Strasser, State of Virginity: Gender, Religion and Politics in an Early Modern Catholic State

October 26, Tolerance and Assimilation

-Keith Luria, Sacred Boundaries: Religious Co-existence and Conflict in Early Modern France

OR

-Barbara Diefendorf, Beneath the Cross: Catholics and Huguenots in Sixteenth-Century Paris

November 2 Prosperity and Calvinism

-Simon Schama, The Embarrassment of Riches: An Interpretation of Dutch Culture in the Golden Age

November 9 Reading Break

November 16 Reason of State

-\*Benjamin Kaplan, Divided by Faith

November 23 Reinventing Monarchy

-\*Paul Kleber Monod, The Power of Kings

November 30 Research Presentations

## Evaluations

### Marking Scheme

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 30% |
| Two book reviews    | 20% |
| Research Paper      | 50% |

### Discussion Questions

Each week one or two students will develop six to eight discussion questions for each discussion. These questions will be circulated to the group via Moodle at least twenty-four hours before class time (i.e. by 1:00 pm each Tuesday before class). Students who develop the questions will provide some explanation for the questions and will lead the discussion.

### Book Reviews

Students are expected to submit two 750-1000 word book reviews of texts we read together in class. The reviews are due on the day those readings are to be discussed. Reviews should be modeled on professional book reviews (like those found in major journals such as the American Historical Review): you are expected to provide a critical assessment of the text in the light of the current historiography. Both reviews are due no later than November 2, 2011.

### Final Research Paper and Presentation

A historiographical paper analyzing the state of research in a particular area/subject no longer than 8000 words in length.

This assignment also involves the circulation of a five-page draft of the paper to the class and a brief five-minute presentation of your research on the last day of class, November 30. Each student will also respond critically to the draft of another student. The drafts are to be circulated on Moodle at least twenty-four hours before the presentations—ie by 2 pm on November 29. Hard copies of the final paper are due in the History Department office by 4 pm on Friday December 9, 2011.