

Introduction to Early Modern History

Aim

This course is the first of the mandatory courses within the master programme in Early Modern History. The purpose of the course is to introduce you to early modern Europe and to a number of key historical processes that shaped the period. The purpose is also to present and problematize several important concepts that historians use to analyse the period. Another objective is to introduce practical reading and writing tools that can help you succeed with assignments and exercises.

Learning outcomes

A student who successfully completed the course will be able to:

- Describe different ways to define the early modern period and to assess the consequences of using the different definitions in research.
- Describe similarities and differences between the early modern period and previous and later periods in history. Thereby the student will be able to discuss the distinguishing features of the early modern period.
- Describe a number of key concepts and processes, which historians use to interpret the early modern period.
- Broadly describe economic, political, cultural and social developments in different parts of Europe during the early modern period and furthermore to describe variations in these developments.
- Use a number of practical tools to read and arrange scientific literature, and to write academic papers.
- Use an adequate reference system, and to describe the rules concerning plagiarism.

Content and instruction

The course focuses on different parts of early modern history in Europe, but also on providing students with a number of reading and writing skills or strategies that will strengthen their abilities to complete various assignments and exercises. The course consists of lectures and seminars and it will end with a written exam. You will meet several teachers, all specialists on different aspects of the early modern period.

To achieve the learning outcomes, you are required to attend lectures and seminars and to take active part in the discussions by prepared contributions and by constructive responses to other participants' contributions. Attending the lectures and seminars is mandatory; absence will require extra written assignments (2–3 pages).

The course starts with an introductory lecture and a seminar that focus on defining the early modern period and what separates it from both previous and later periods in

history. The lecture and seminar will also address and problematize the programme’s strong focus on European developments. Following the seminar, a number of lectures and seminars that detail a few central processes and concepts will provide a broad overview of the period. At the final seminar, students will work on and practice practical reading and writing skills. The course ends in early November with a written exam.

Assessment and grading criteria

Attending lectures and seminars is compulsory; in case the student is unable to participate, she or he has to submit a more extended written reflection on the topic (2–3 pages). Grades will be given in accordance with the Swedish grading system, using *Pass with honour* (VG), *Pass* (G), and *Fail* (U).

Grading criteria

Fail (U)

Does not meet the requirements of G.

Pass (G)

The student attends lectures and seminars, and presents assignments at the seminars. The student also does the written exam. The student can adequately explain in writing the meaning of key concepts and processes.

Pass with Honours (VG)

The student attends lectures and seminars, and presents assignments at the seminars. The student also does the written exam. The student can clearly explain in writing the meaning of key concepts and processes and is able to make comparisons between different cases.

Schedule

Date	Content	TEACHER	ROOM
Thursday 5 Sep. 10:15-12:00	INTRODUCTION	MH	
Wednesday 11 Sep. 10:15-12:00	SESSION I: CHRONOLOGY AND CAUSALITY	CE	
Wednesday 18 Sep. 10:15-12:00	SESSION II: RELIGION	MH	
Wednesday 25 Sep. 10:15-12:00	SESSION III: CULTURE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE	MÅ	
Wednesday 2 Oct. 10:15-12:00	SESSION IV: TRADE AND COMMERCE	MH	
Wednesday 9 Oct. 10:15-12:00	SESSION V: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	MÅ	
Tuesday 15 Oct. 15:15-17:00	EXTRA SESSION: WHAT DIFFERENCE DO WOMEN MAKE? LECTURE BY PROF. CARMEN SARASUA, UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA	GUEST	22-1017
Wednesday 16 Oct 10:15-12:00	SESSION VI: SERVANTS	MÅ	
Wednesday 23 Oct. 13:15-15:00	SESSION VII: FISCAL STATES AND WAR	MH	
Monday 28 Oct. 15:15-17:00	SESSION VIII: PLAGIARISM	MÅ	
Wednesday 30 Oct. 13:15-15:00	SESSION IX: READING AND WRITING HISTORY	MH	

TEACHERS

Course Coordinator:
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Sessions

There are a number of different sessions during the course. Some sessions start with a lecture where the teacher presents a broad overview of the topic and discusses different perspectives in the existing literature. There will also be small assignments that the students will work on and discuss with the teacher. Other sessions will focus on assignments that the students will work on before and then discuss during the sessions. The purpose of the assignments is to increase the students' comprehension of the literature and to foster their ability to relate the literature to general historical contexts. Some assignments may also include primary sources, which the students will analyse with the help of the literature. The final session focuses on the students' practical reading and writing skills.

Exam

The written exam focuses on some of the key concepts and processes that are crucial to understand the early modern period.

LITERATURE

Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, written by himself* (1789). Circa 300 pp.

Amy Louise Erickson, “Common Law versus Common Practice: The Use of Marriage Settlements in Early Modern England”, *Economic History Review*, vol. 43, No. 1 (Feb., 1990)

Margaret Fell Fox, *Womens Speaking Justified, proved and allowed of by the Scriptures* (1666). 16 pp

Jacques Le Goff, *Must We Divide History into Periods?* (New York 2015). 132 pp

Peter Marshall, *Reformation: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford 2009). 99 pp

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Ithaca 2008), pp. 141–172

Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*, 3rd edition (Cambridge 2013), pp. 54–66, 67–83, 99–113.

Maarten Prak (ed.), *Early modern capitalism: Economic and social change in Europe 1400–1800* (2001), pp. 133–158

Hamish Scott (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History, 1350-1750*, Part I (Oxford 2015), pp. 269–294, 295–312, 369–397 671–693

Hamish Scott (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History, 1350-1750*, Part II (Oxford 2015), pp. 307–333

Bartolomé Yun-Casalilla & Patrick K. O’Brien (eds), *The Rise of Fiscal States: A Global History, 1500–1914* (Cambridge 2012), pp. 1–35, 39–66, 93–110, 304–331, 353–377, 410–441

Jane Whittle (ed.), *Servants in Rural Europe, 1400–1900* (Woodbridge 2017), pp. 1–18, 37–56, 113–130, 131–148

READINGS FOR EACH SESSION

THURSDAY 05 SEPT. INTRODUCTION TO EARLY MODERN HISTORY (MH)

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPT. SESSION I: CHRONOLOGY AND CAUSALITY (CE)

Jacques Le Goff, *Must We Divide History into Periods?*, pp. 1-132.

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPT. SESSION II: RELIGION (MH)

Peter Marshall, *Reformation: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford 2009), 99 pp. [pagination in the printed book is different from the e-book]

Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*, 3rd edition (Cambridge 2013), pp. 99–113

Tijana Krstič, “Islam and Muslims” in Hamish Scott (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History, 1350-1750*, Part II (Oxford 2015), pp. 307–333

Margaret Fell Fox, *Women’s Speaking Justified, Proved and Allowed of by the Scripture* (1666) 16pp.

WEDNESDAY 25 Sept. SESSION III: CULTURE (MÅ)

Amy Louise Erickson, “Common Law versus Common Practice: The Use of Marriage Settlements in Early Modern England,” *Economic History Review*, vol. 43, No. 1 (Feb., 1990)

Andreas Gestrich, “The Social Order” in Hamish Scott (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History, 1350-1750*, Part I (Oxford 2015), pp. 295–312

WEDNESDAY 2 OCT. SESSION IV: TRADE AND COMMERCIALIZATION (MH)

Janine Maegraith and Craig Muldrew, “Consumption and Material Life” in Hamish Scott, ed., *Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History, 1350-1750*, Vol. I, pp. 369-397.

Matthew P. Romaniello, “Trade and the Global Economy” in Scott, *Oxford Handbook*, Vol. II, pp. 307-333.

Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*, pp. 54-66 and 67-83.

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World*, pp. 141-172

Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative* (1799) (See study questions for parts you can skip or skim)

WEDNESDAY 09 OCT. SESSION V: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS (MÅ)

Maarten Prak (ed.), *Early modern Capitalism: Economic and Social Change in Europe 1400–1800* (2001), pp. 133–158

Regina Grafe, “Economic and Social Trends” in Hamish Scott (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History, 1350-1750*, Part I, pp. 269–294

TUESDAY 15 OCT. Special Session: Guest Lecture by Prof. Carmen Sarasua of the University of Barcelona “What Difference do Women Make? The Occupational Structure in a late Industrializing Country. Spain 1700-1914” (no additional readings)

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Master course, 2019, 7.5 credits

Margaret Hunt: Course Coordinator

WEDNESDAY 16 OCT. SESSION VI: SERVANTS (MÅ)

Jane Whittle (ed.), *Servants in Rural Europe, 1400–1900* (2017) pp. 1–18, 37–56, 113–130, 131–148

WEDNESDAY 23 OCT. SESSION VII: FISCAL STATES AND WAR (MH)

Bartolomé Yun-Casalilla & Patrick K. O’Brien (eds), *The Rise of Fiscal States: A Global History, 1500–1914* (Cambridge 2012), pp. 1–35, 39–66, 93–110, 304–331, 353–377, 410–441

MONDAY 28 OCT. SESSION VIII: PLAGIARISM AND HOW TO AVOID IT (MÅ)

No readings.

WEDNESDAY 30 OCT. SESSION IX: READING AND WRITING HISTORY (MH)

Readings to be announced