This course will expose graduate students to various kinds of primary sources and methods of research and analysis in cultural and intellectual history of the early modern period. The emphasis of the course will be on France 1500-1700, but students with the requisite background may write their research paper on a topic in another national context.

Prerequisite: reading knowledge of French and an initial idea for the seminar paper

**Requirements**

- Informed and active participation, weekly research reports (20%)
- Prospectus, outline and draft of seminar paper (20%)
- Seminar paper (60%)

**On order at the Coop:**


ordered for Hist 3010 preparation:

- Mack Holt, *The French Wars of Religion* (CUP) 0521358736
- Peter Burke, *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe* ISBN: 1859281028

Available at Schoenhofs:

- Rabelais, *Gargantua* and *Pantagruel* ed. Livre de Poche.
Syllabus

Part I: Working with primary sources

During the first part of the seminar students will be asked to do weekly research assignments and written reports on a primary source of their choice. The source must be physically available at Harvard (not a microfilm or photocopy). Students may change sources from week to week and may focus on another source for the seminar paper, but these exercises are designed to build expertise relevant to the seminar paper. I would encourage students to select relatively obscure works and authors, to make the exercises more challenging. A list of idea for sources is appended. Readings each week are designed to expose students to some important sources and examples of historical analysis illustrating the theme of the week.

Week I (Sept 19): choosing a primary source
What is cultural history? Kinds of history; kinds of sources. Methods for finding sources; reasons for choosing them.

Week II (Sept 26): the book as material object
*Meet in lobby of Houghton Library* Please plan to stay until 4:30*
Assignments:
- for MONDAY Sept 23: examine and set aside for the class meeting a source you are interested in at Houghton Library.
- for Thursday 9AM: submit a one-page description of your book to me (in my mailbox).
Reading: Philip Gaskell, A new introduction to bibliography (1999)
Natalie Davis, "Printing and the People," Society and Culture in Early Modern France
primary source: Compost et kalendrier des bergers (1493) facsimile edition from Widener to share.

Week III (Oct 3): the text in context--author and sources
**Meet in Widener--TBA??**
This session, held with Barbara Burg and Mary Beth Clack, Widener's reference librarians for History and Romance Languages respectively, will focus on the use of reference tools and library catalogues, modern and early modern.
Assignment: for Thursday 9AM in my mailbox: research report (2-4pp) on your author (biographical information, publication record) and on the sources your author used. Discuss the sources both quantitatively and qualitatively: do your best to follow up on 3-5 of these sources. Discuss how your author used these sources, and what you have learned from this research.
Reading: Rabelais, Pantagruel
Michael Screech, Rabelais, pp. 1-117.
Lucien Febvre, Rabelais and the problem of unbelief, prefatory note, ch. 4, conclusion and skim the rest.
Mikhail Bakhtin, *Rabelais and his World*, skim.

**Week IV (Oct 10): the reception of a text**

**Assignment:** research report (2-4pp) on the reception of your text, the nature of its historical impact. Include its publication history.

**Reading:**

**censorship:**
- Francis Higman, *Censorship and the Sorbonne*
- Paul Grendler, *Culture and Censorship in late Renaissance Italy and France*
- Bujanda, *Index de l'université de Paris, 1544 etc*

**book ownership:**
- browse auction catalogues: in facsimile from Widener and at Houghton; catalogue of the countess of Bridgewater in *Books and Reading in Early Modern England*; sample mss list of books owned (e.g. Gilly on Oporinus)
- *Histoire des bibliothèques françaises (1530-1789)*, introduction by Claude Jolly

**annotations:**
- Bill Sherman, "What did Renaissance Readers Write in their Books?” in *Books and Reading in Early Modern England*

**reception:**
- Robert Darnton, "Readers Respond to Rousseau,” *Great Cat Massacre*
- Roger Chartier, "Reading Matter and 'Popular' Reading,” *A History of Reading in the West*, pp. 269-83.

**Week V (Oct 17): the text in context: parallel genres**

**Assignment:** research report on other works that seem to form a context for a historical understanding of your text. Find at least 5 other works, representing a variety of ways of contextualizing your text (e.g. other works by the same author, works of similar type in other fields; works of different type on similar topic). Explain and describe your choices.

**Reading:**
- *canards* (from reprints in Widener), considered in the context of contemporary medicine and of other ephemeral genres (e.g. the political pamphlet and early newspaper)
- monsters in early modern culture:
- *Les songes drôlatiques de Pantagruel*
- Ambroise Paré, *Des monstres et prodiges*
- Roger Chartier, "La pendue miraculeusement sauvée. Etude d'un occasionnel,” in *Les usages de l'imprimé*, pp. 83-127 (also available in English in *The Uses of Print*)
- Jean-Pierre Vittu, "Instruments of political information in France" in *The politics of information in early modern Europe* (2001)
on political pamphlets: Jeffrey Sawyer, Printed poison: pamphlet propaganda in early 17th-c France (1990); Christian Jouhaud, La Fronde des Mots

Week VI (Oct 24): close reading of a text
Assignment: copy out a short selection from your source (about one page) and write a short paper (2-4pp) of commentary on this passage, considered in its context. DUE Monday 5pm to allow for pre-circulation to everyone in the seminar.

Reading: Montaigne, Essays, au lecteur, I, 1 (par diverses fins...), 31 (cannibales); II, 33 (histoire de Spurina--for Garavini), III, 6 (des coches), 9 (vanité--for Hoffmann), 11 (des boyteux)
Fausta Garavini, "Montaigne et le Theatrum Humanae Vitae"

Part II: writing the seminar paper

Week VII (Oct 31): Paper prospectus
Assignment: Paper prospectus due MONDAY for pre-circulation to the class. The prospectus must include a bibliography of primary and secondary sources, the problem or question to be investigated, and a brief discussion of its historical significance.
Reading: read and be prepared to respond orally in class to the prospectuses of your peers (1-2pp).

Week VIII (Nov 7): taking notes and making thesis statements
Assignment: written report on the kinds of notes you are taking and on tentative ideas about a thesis statement.
Reading: Jacques Barzun and Henry Graff, The Modern Researcher, pp. 3-198;
Appleby, Hunt and Jacob, Telling the Truth about History, pp. 198-237.

Week IX (Nov 14): outlining a paper
Assignment: paper outline due, for pre-circulation to the class
Reading: Barzun and Graff, pp. 201-316.

Week X (Nov 21): a glimpse at archival sources
Assignment: revised bibliography of primary and secondary sources. Try your hand at paleography (photocopies of some documents to be distributed); see Gerard d'Arundel de Condé, Apprendre à lire les archives and Lire le français d'hier on archives, browse the AN guide du chercheur; and:
Arlette Farge, Le goût des archives
Joel Felix, Économie et finances sous l'ancien régime, guide du chercheur 1523-1789.
Reading: Barzun and Graff, pp. 317-end.

Week XI: *Thanksgiving*
Week XII-XIII (Dec 5-12): drafts
These two weeks are set aside for class discussion of pre-circulated drafts of the papers.

FINAL PAPERS DUE Jan 17. This is a FIRM deadline!
History 2320
Readings to be photocopied:


*Histoire des bibliothèques françaises* (1530-1789), introduction by Claude Jolly.


Bill Sherman, "What did Renaissance Readers Write in their Books?" in *Books and Reading in Early Modern England*

Robert Darnton, "Readers Respond to Rousseau," *Great Cat Massacre*.


Roger Chartier, "Reading Matter and 'Popular' Reading," *A History of Reading in the West*, pp. 269-83.

Roger Chartier, "La pendue miraculeusement sauvée. Etude d'un occasionnel," in *Les usages de l'imprimé*, pp. 83-127 (also available in English in *The Uses of Print*)


Jean-Pierre Vittu, "Instruments of political information in France" in *The politics of information in early modern Europe* (2001)


Fausta Garavini, "Montaigne et le *Theatrum Humanae Vitae*" in *Montaigne et l'Europe*
For library meeting:

- Bring facsimiles of old ref books: Gesner; Zedler on line; Moreri in stacks
- Historical language dictionaries
- Bound European library catalogues
- Catalogues and guides to French archives.