

History 731
Violence in the Early Modern World
Term 2 2014/15
Fridays, 10:30-1:30

This course will explore recent work on the nature and causes of violence in the early modern world, which in our case extends roughly from 1500-1800. The main territorial focus will be an expanded Europe, which includes the Ottoman Empire and Russia. The term will be devoted to a number of themes: the question of historians & violence; justifications for religious violence; violence & the emerging state, and individual & communal violence. The subject is vast, but it is my hope that we can come to some understanding of the various ways historians confront and represent violence in their work.

Each student is responsible for the required readings and for participating in the weekly discussion. It is my expectation that students will acquire a mastery of some theoretical concepts and historical evidence, take charge of their own intellectual development of the subject at hand, and engage seriously in the rigors of research and discussion. Students will prepare a 1000 word summary (précis) on each set of readings for ten seminars (10 in total). The intent of the précis is for students to respond to the readings with a series of statements or questions which will serve as the focus of discussion. I will ask each of you to lead the discussion around the readings at least once over the term as part of your participation in the seminar. **Summaries are due at the end of every class.** A deduction of 3%/day will be levied on late assignments (including weekends). In lieu of an essay, the course will have a final exam.

PhD students who wish to take this course as a minor field will be asked to compile a historiography on their choice of topic in consultation with the professor (2500-3500 words; 10-15 pages)

Textbook: Julius R. Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe 1500-1800* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001; reprint 2004) (available in *Titles Bookstore*)
Select articles to be accessed from e-book in Mills library: *Shame, Blame and Culpability: Crime and Violence in the Modern State*, Judith Rowbotham, Marianna Muravyeva and David Nash, eds. (London; NY: Routledge, 2013).

All other readings are available on a usb stick from Debbie Lobban in the History Office.

Assessment:

summaries (Nine in total to be turned in at the end of each session)	40%
discussion	30%
final exam (take-home) – week of April 6	30%

A Note on Evaluation:

Attendance at seminars is mandatory. Students should retain a photocopy of any written work. Graduate students are expected to be well acquainted with the subject under discussion. The McMaster History Dept. takes structure, style and fluidity of presentation seriously. Lack of attention to those aspects of the process has an immediate impact on the final mark.

Academic Integrity and Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. Graduate Students are expected to know what constitutes plagiarism, and are not given any leniency on a first offense.

See: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/graduate/2003-2004/61.htm>

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy located at:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/>

The following illustrates only three of the various forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Other Policies:

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects

confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Schedule of Seminars and Readings

January 9: No class (I will be at conference in Greece Jan. 6-11)

In lieu of an Avenue to Learn site, I will communicate with the class via a collective McMaster email unless I hear otherwise from you.

Assignment: Please read the articles for January 16 and prepare a list of questions to bring to the seminar. How would you define violence?
You do not need to submit a summary for this set of readings.

January 16: Historians & Violence:

Readings:

- Julius R. Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe 1500-1800* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001; reprint 2004), 1-43.
- Norbert Elias, "On Transformations of Aggressiveness," *Theory and Society* 5:2 (1978): 229-42.
- Rod Aya, "Norbert Elias and the 'Civilizing Process,'" *Theory and Society* 5:2 (1978): 219-28)
- Neil L. Whitehead, "Violence & the Cultural Order," *Daedalus* (winter 2007): 40-50.
- Steven A. LeBlanc, "Why Warfare?" *Daedalus* (winter 2007): 13-21.
- Jeremy Waldron, "A Cheerful View of Mass Violence," review of Steven Pinker's *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined* *NYRB*, January 12, 2012. 9 pp.

January 23: Violence from Various Perspectives

Readings:

- James Turner Johnson, "Moral Traditions and Religious Ethics: A Comparative Enquiry," *The Journal of Religious Ethics* 25:3 (1997): 77-101.
- Matthew Bennett, "Legality, Legitimacy in War and its Conduct, 1350-1650," 264-77 **and**
- D. J. H. Trim, "Conflict, Religion and Ideology," 78-99, both in Frank Tallett & D. J. B. Trim, eds. *European Warfare 1350-1750* (Cambridge: CUP, 2010).
- Nicholas Blomley, "Law, Property and the Geography of Violence: The Frontier, the Survey and the Grid," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 93:1 (2003): 121-41.
- Simon Springer, "Violence Sits in Places? Cultural Practice, Neoliberal Rationalism and Virulent Imaginative Geographies," *Political Geography* 30 (2011): 90-98.

January 30: Religion and Violence

Readings:

- Andrew Cunningham & Ole Peter Grell, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Religion, War, Famine and Death in Reformation Europe* Cambridge: CUP, 2000, 1-10, 91-151.
- Dalia M. Leonardo, "'Cut Off This Rotten Member: The Rhetoric of Heresy, Sin and Disease in the Ideology of the French Catholic League,'" *Catholic Historical Review* 88:2 (2002): 247-62.
- Helen Vella Bonavita, "Key to Christendom: The 1565 Siege of Malta, its Histories, and Their Use in Reformation Polemic," *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 33:4 (2002): 1021-43.
- Malcolm Smuts, "Organized Violence in the Elizabethan Monarchical Republic," *History* (2014): 418-443.

February 6: Violence and the Emerging State

Readings:

- Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe*, 44-72.
- David Parrott, "War, State and Society in Western Europe, 1600-1700," 74-95.
- Barrington Moore Jr. "Ethnic and Religious Hostilities in Early Modern Port Cities," *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* 14:4 (2001): 687-727.
- Ariel Salzmann, "Is There a Moral Economy of State Formation? Religious Minorities and Repertoires of Regime Integration in the Middle East and Western Europe, 600-1614," *Theory and Society* 39 (2010): 299-313.
- Muravyeva, Marianna, "Vergüenza, Vergogne, Schande, Skam and Sram: Litigating for Shame and Dishonour in early Modern Europe," in *Shame, Blame and Culpability* (ebook), 55-84

February 13: Maritime Violence

Readings:

- Gillian Weiss, "Barbary Captivity and the French Idea of Freedom," *French Historical Studies* 28:2 (2005): 231-64.
- Paul Baepler, "The Barbary Captivity Narrative in American Culture," *Early American Literature* 39:2 (2004): 217-46.
- Maurits van den Boogert, "Redress for Ottoman Victims of European Privateering: a Case against the Dutch in the Divan-i Humayun," *Turcica* 323 (2001): 91-117.
- Will Smiley, "'After Being So Long Prisoners, They Will Not Return to Slavery in Russia,' An Aegean Network of Violence between Empires and Identities," in Virginia Aksan & Veysel Şimşek, eds. "Living Empire," a special issue of *Journal of Ottoman Studies* 44 (2014): 221-34.

February 20: mid-term break

February 27: Slavery & Labour

Readings:

- Yaron Ben-Naeh, "Blond, Tall, with Honey-Colored Eyes: Jewish Ownership of Slaves in the Ottoman Empire," *Jewish History* 20:3/4 (2006): 315-32.
- Brian J. Boeck, "When Peter I Was Forced to Settle for Less: Coerced Labor and Resistance in a Failed Russian Colony (1695–1711)," *Journal of Modern History* 80 (2008): 485-514.
- Géza Palffy, "Ransom Slavery along the Ottoman-Hungarian Frontier in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," in Géza David and Pál Fodor, eds., *Ransom Slavery along the Ottoman Borders (Early Fifteenth to Early Eighteenth Centuries)* (Leiden: Brill, 2007): 35-84.
- Gülay Yılmaz, "Becoming a Devşirme: the Training of Conscripted Children in the Ottoman Empire," In Gwyn Campbell, Suzanne Miers, and Joseph C. Miller eds. *Children in Slavery through the Ages* (Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2009), 119-134.

March 6: Violence, Individuals & Law:

Readings:

- Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe*, 73-116.
- Antonella Bettoni, "Fama, Shame Punishments and the History of Justice in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," in *Shame, Blame and Culpability* (ebook), 85-106.
- James Grehan, "The Mysterious Power of Words: Language, Law, and Culture In Ottoman Damascus (17th-18th centuries)," *Journal of Social History* 37.4 (Summer 2004)
- Thomas V. Cohen, "Three Forms of Jeopardy: Honor, Pain, and Truth-Telling in a Sixteenth-Century Italian Courtroom," *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 29: 4 (Winter, 1998): 975-998.: 991-1016.
- Robert B. Shoemaker, Robert B. "The Decline of Public Insult in London 1660-1800," *Past & Present*, 169 (Nov. 2000): 97-131.

March 13: Interpersonal Violence, cont.

Readings:

- Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe*, 117-160.
- Robert Cover, "Violence and the Word," *Yale Law Journal* 95:8 (1986): 1601-29.
- Julie Hardwick, "Early Modern Perspectives on the Long History of Domestic Violence: The Case of Seventeenth-Century France," *Journal of Modern History* 78 (March 2006): 1-36.
- Eva Lacour, "Faces of Violence Revisited. A Typology of Violence in Early Modern Rural Germany," *Journal of Social History* 34:3 (Spring, 2001): 649-667.
- Robert B. Shoemaker, "The Taming of the Duel: Masculinity, Honour and Ritual Violence in London, 1660-1800," *Historical Journal* 45:3 (2002): 525-45.

March 20: Communal Violence - Protest

Readings:

- Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe*, 184-215.
- James Grehan, "Street Violence and Social Imagination in Late-Mamluk and Ottoman Damascus," *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 35 (2003): 215-36.
- Karen Barkey, "Rebellious Alliances: The State and Peasant Unrest in Early Seventeenth-Century France and the Ottoman Empire," *American Sociological Review* 56:6 (1991): 699-715.
- Rudolf N. Dekker, "Women in Revolt: Popular Protest and Its Social Basis in Holland in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries" *Theory and Society* 16:3 (May, 1987): 337-362.
- William Beik, "The Culture of Protest in Seventeenth-Century French Towns," *Social History* 15:1 (January 1990):1-23.

March 27: Communal violence – Banditry, Mafias

Readings:

- Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe*, 216-47.
- Graham Seal, "The Robin Hood Principle: Folklore, History, and the Social Bandit," *Journal of Folklore Research* 46: (January-April 2009): pp. 67-89.
- Bruce Grant, "The Good Russian Prisoner: Naturalizing Violence in the Caucasus Mountains," *Cultural Anthropology* 20:1 (2005): 39-67.
- T. W. Gallant, "Greek bandits: Lone Wolves or a Family Affair?" *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 6:2 (1998):269-90.
- Katerina Mousadakou, "Shame and the Crime of Rape in the Greek Revolution (1821-1828)," in *Shame, Crime and Culpability* (ebook): 289-310.

April 3: No class – Good Friday – moved to Monday April 6, time TBA

April 6: Violence and Historians Once Again – in lieu of April 3

Readings:

- Ruff, *Violence in Early Modern Europe*, 248-53;
- Reread Waldron on Pinker – from Jan. 16.
- Eric Dunning, "Violence and Violence-Control in Long-Term Perspective: 'Testing' Elias in Relation to War, Genocide, Crime, Punishment and Sport," 227-49 in S. Body-Gendrot & P. Spierenberg, eds. *Violence in Europe* (Springer-Verlag, 2008) (e-book)
- Dariusz Kolodziejczyk, "The 'Turkish Yoke' revisited: The Ottoman Non-Muslim Subjects between Loyalty, Alienation and Riot," *Acta Poloniae Historica* 93 (2006): 177-95.
- Rachel Hope Cleves, "On Writing the History of Violence," *Journal of the Early Republic* 24:4 (Winter, 2004): 641-665.