

History 297 A Thursday 1-3:50 Bunche 5281

Fall 2007 History Research Seminar in European history and the History of Science

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Aspects of Early Modern European Thought: Encounters with the Non-Western, Western Science and Religion, 1600-1800

The purpose of this two quarter research seminar is to examine aspects of Western thought relevant to the emergence of Europe's hegemonic power late in the eighteenth century. We begin with cultural contacts of the non-West by Western travelers, traders and merchants and their perception of the peoples whom they encountered. The accounts will be from European sources. We want to examine how this flood of information - much of it biased or ill-informed - nevertheless worked to encourage empirical ventures. We will then examine some of the classics of 17th and 18th century science for what they can tell us about an expanded Western imagination and we will also discuss the role of science in overseas conquest and exploration. All of these forces for change singularly vexed religious beliefs, the Christian understanding of nature and humankind. We end with an exploration of how the secular emerged in the period after 1650. Students will be encouraged to write on themes that interest themselves, but I hold out hope that some of the themes examined in the first part of the seminar will make their way into the papers which will be discussed in the spring quarter when we become a writers' workshop.

There is a course reader available from Academic Publishing at the UCLA Bookstore. Please come to class on Sept. 27th prepared to discuss:

Week I Joan-Pau Rubiés, *Travel and Ethnology in the Renaissance. South India through European Eyes, 1250-1625*, Cambridge University Press, 2000, preface, pp. 1-34; 85-123; pp. 388-98. Found in the course reader. And Hernando Ruiz de Alarcón, [*Treatise on the Heathen Superstitions that live among the Indians Native to this New Spain*](#), 1629 (now found at class website)

Harold J. Cook, *Matters of Exchange. Commerce, Medicine, and Science in the Dutch Golden Age*, Yale University Press, 2007, chapters one and two (course reader).

On Sept 27th at 2:30 we will meet with Ellen Broidy at Young Research Library: East Classroom (YRL 21536).

In addition each student will be asked to take one chapter from Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *Indo-Persian Travels in the Age of Discoveries, 1400-1800*, Cambridge, 2007 - to be distributed in class. In week 3, Prof. Subrahmanyam will join the class at 2:30.

[Introduction and Chapter 1](#)

[Chapter 2](#)

[Chapter 3](#)

[Chapter 4](#)

[Chapter 5](#)

[Chapter 6](#)

[Chapter 7](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

Week II José de Acosta, *Natural and Moral History of the Indies*, ed. By Jane E. Mangan, [1590] Duke University Press, 2002, pp. iv-xxx (and maps), pp. 8-74, pp. 253-267, 329-335; Pieter van den Broecke's *Journal of Voyages to Cape Verde, Guinea and Angola (1605-1612)*, ed. and trans. By J.D. La Fleur, The Haklyt Society, 2000, picture and title page, and pp. 1-40; Jan Huygen Linschoten, *His Discourse of Voyages into the East and West Indies*, 1563-1611, first English edition, 1598 available on line from EBBO and also in course reader, edition of 1988 based on 1598 translation, vol. 1, pp. 217-252, (chapters 32-36.)

Week III Bacon, *The New Atlantis and the Great Instauration* - to be bought from Crofts Classics (about 5.99); second half of seminar a discussion of the travel literature with Prof. Subrahmanyam

Amir Alexander, *Geometrical Landscapes. The Voyages of Discovery and the Transformation of Mathematical Practice*, Stanford, 2002, chapter three, AMathematical Empires@ (course reader)

Week IV Descartes

The Discourse on Method, 1637 Penguin edition (to be bought); Harold Cook, chapter on Descartes (course reader).

Jacob, *Strangers nowhere in the World*, Penn Press, 2006, chapter 6 (course reader)

Week V Isaac Newton, selected readings found in course reader

Jacob and Jacob, [The Anglican Origins of Modern Science: The Metaphysical Foundations of the Whig Constitution](#). *ISIS*, 1980, vol. 71, pp. 251+

<http://www.jstor.org/view/00211753/ap010207/01a00040/0?currentResult=00211753%2bap010207%2b01a00040%2b0%2cFFFF01&searchUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jstor.org%2Fsearch%2FBasicResults%3Fhp%3D25%26si%3D1%26gw%3Djtx%26jtxsi%3D1%26jepsi%3D1%26artsi%3D1%26Query%3DJames%2BR.%2BJacob%2Band%2BMargaret%2BC.%2BJacob%26wc%3Don>

Week VI readings from Samuel Clarke, *A Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God: More Particularly in answer to Mr. Hobbs, Spinoza, And their Followers*, London, 1705, preface, table of contents, pp. 1-74; and John Toland, *Letters to Serena*, London, 1704, the fifth letter; in course reader; also *Treatise on the Three Impostures*, from Jacob, *The Enlightenment. A Brief History with Documents*, pp. 94-114 and found in course reader; Jonathan Israel, *Radical Enlightenment*, pp. 1-22; 242-257; 375-92, course reader; Picart and Bernard, opening discourse to *Ceremonies and Religious Customs of All the Peoples of the World*, 1723 (course reader) and on line in ECCO.

Week VII B Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*, Edinburgh, 1767, pp 1-43; 112-141.

Week VIII - Jacob, *Scientific Culture and the Making of the Industrial West*, New York, 1997, part two in course reader. Begin student presentations.

Week IX student presentations. The major assignment of the quarter will be the preparation by each student of a proposal for a paper complete with at least ten primary and secondary sources relevant to the topic. The paper will be researched and at least 5 pages written during the winter quarter; in spring we will become a writer's workshop. The goal is a potentially publishable paper of between 30-40 pp.

Week X class attends the opening day of the conference: "At the Interface of Religion and Cosmopolitanism: Bernard Picart's *Cérémonies et Coutumes Religieuses de Tous les Peuples du Monde* (1723-1743) and the European Enlightenment," held at 9 AM at the Getty; lunch will be served. Wijnand Mijnhardt to give opening address at 3PM. In the morning 4 graduate students will give original papers.