Order and Disorder in Early Modern European Societies and Cultures, 1500-1800

This seminar explores two key themes in European history—social order and disorder, and popular cultures/print cultures—as tools to reveal both the practical and the mental world of early modern men and women. What are the benefits and problems of either identifying popular culture with plebeian culture and/or suggesting the withdrawal or separation of an elite culture? How can we apply the concept of Herrschaft outside German rural communities? How might we use print cultures to understand alternative societies and the world of non-elites?

Goals

- Understand the choices involved (arguments being advanced) in early modern periodization and in pursuing social and/or cultural history; be able to develop one’s own rationale for your own choices.
- Understand how overarching narratives based on political, religious, economic, or demographic arguments relate to early modern microhistories and other studies by social and cultural historians; be able to argue your own set of significant intersections in the early modern period between grand narrative and socio-cultural study.
- Understand the theoretical language and method (approach to primary sources) of early modern social and cultural historians; be able to use some of that language and method in your own work (and/or to critique some theory/method meaningfully).
- Know how to locate, “read” (analyze/use), and reference (cite) multiple types of primary print sources for study of the Anglophone early modern world.
- Be aware of specific strengths and weaknesses of print sources to plumb non-elite early modern culture(s); be able to use at least some of these sources “against the grain” to do just that.
- Understand the relation between ephemera and history; be able to find/use/cite ephemera historically.

Available from Textbook Services:

- **Wahrman, Dror Wahrman**, *Mr. Collier's Letter Racks: A Tale of Art and Illusion at the Threshold of the Modern Information Age* (Oxford University Press, 2012) [17.508]

week 1. 9 Jan. Early or Modern; Social or Cultural?

- **Key, “Crowdsourcing the early modern blogosphere”**

Der Trincker (c. 1610), British Museum AN248337001
Culture Wars

DISCUSSION THEME: What is the evidence for a reform of popular culture, or for the identity of popular culture with plebeian culture and the withdrawal of a separate élite culture? Alternately, can there be a popular Puritan culture?

week 2. 16 Jan. Politics Round the Village Pump
   –Underdown, 1-166 (pre-war Dorchester)
   –Hindle, “A sense of place?”

week 3. 23 Jan. (Un)Civil Wars & The Newsbook (EEBO)
   –Underdown, 167-260 (Dorchester in Civil Wars and after)
   –Burke, “The Discovery of the People” & “The Triumph of Lent”

week 4. 30 Jan. Restoring Community? & The Pamphlet (ESTC)
   –Sabean, Preface & “A Prophet in the Thirty Years’ War” (ch. 2)
   Culture Wars Papers Due

Order and Disorder

DISCUSSION THEME: Can we apply the concept of Herrschaft outside German rural communities? To what degree is the individual psyche social?

week 5 6 Feb. Herrschaft and Agency
   –Sabean, Introduction & “Communion and Community” (ch. 1)
   –Gray, ”Microhistory as Universal History”
   —Wrightson, “Two Concepts of Order”

week 6 13 Feb. Authority and Community & The Pamphlet (EEBO)
   –Sabean, “The Sacred Bond of Unity” & “Blasphemy, Adultery and Persecution” (chs. 3-4)
   –Thompson, “The Patricians and the Plebs”

week 7 20 Feb. Interrogating Popular Culture & The Pamphlet (Google Ngram Viewer)
   –Sabean, Preface & Conclusion
   –McKeon, “Introduction” & “The Devolution of Absolutism” (xvii-xxvii & 3-48)
   –Ginzburg, “The Inquisitor as Anthropologist”
   (Dis)order Papers Due
The Public and the Private

DISCUSSION THEME: Did privacy exist in early modern Europe? How might public and private relate to social as well as cultural history?

week 8. 27 Feb. The Hall & The Ballad (Bodleian)
–McKeon, "The Age of Separations" (Part One)
–Darnton, "Introduction," "Peasants Tell Tales," & "Workers Revolt" 
–Eley, "What is Cultural History?" (part)

1 March
–[Rare Book Room, University of Illinois, tentative]

week 9. 6 March Domestication & The Broadside (Bute)
–McKeon, "Domestication as Form" (Part Two)
–Harvey, "Men Making Home"

week 10. 20 March Public Secrets & Images (Lewis Walpole)
–McKeon, "Secret Histories" (chs. 10-12)
–Reay, "Orality, Literacy, and Print"

week 11. 27 March Publishing Interiority & The Newspaper
(Early English)
–McKeon, introduction & conclusion
–Cowan and Yetter, "Publicity and Privacy in Early Modern Europe"

Public/Private Papers Due

Print Culture as Popular Culture

DISCUSSION THEME: Was there a Print 2.0 or is it a trope? If so, when was it?; what was it? Does the print/image tell us about the author/artists or the reader/viewer?

week 12. 3 April The Audiences for Printing and Writing & The Pamphlet (Google Ngram Viewer)
–Wahrman, introduction & chs. 1-2
–Jenner & McShane, “Roasting the Rump”

week 13. 10 April Painting Prints & The Periodical (British Periodicals)
–Wahrman, chs. 3-7
–St. Clair, "The Political Economy of Reading"
–Burke, "Learned Culture and Popular Culture in Renaissance, Italy"

week 14. 17 April Art Trade and Artisan Knowledge
–Wahrman, chs. 8-12, & epilogue
–Reay, "Popular Cultures"

Print/Popular Culture Papers Due

week 15. 24 April/1 May Early Modern Society in Print
–Conclusion: Oral Reports (Essays due during finals)
For this course you should:

- **Write four brief** (two-to-three page, 600 words each max) **responses** (one for each section) to a quote (to be provided) in which you position yourself and at least one historian read for that section (that is, how you and that historians would react to the quote and why), use (quote from/analyze) a contemporary source or data to prove your point, suggest specific additional types of material that might help prove your point (20%);

- **Review three additional articles** or chapters (450-word max each, one each, chosen from below, for three sections) in which you point out the/an hypothesis, quote it, relate it to the relevant theme, and compare and contrast the article with a required reading (15%); for weeks in which you are reading an additional article you should initiate the D2L discussion by posting by Sunday a thought/question relating your additional reading to the assigned readings

- **Research and write a longer paper** on one aspect of print/popular culture and society (employing the method and views of the historians read), focusing on seventeenth-century English pamphlets, ballads, broadsides, and newspapers, in which you critique both the type of source and the methodologies, and in which you also point out what can be learned from such an interaction (10-12 pp., 40%);

- **Participate** in discussion and occasional in-class/D2L writings, presentations, including D2L discussion (25%, see below).

This is a graduate course; participation, not attendance counts. Each week you should come to class having completed the main readings, able to identify the purpose and thesis of each chapter or article assigned, able to describe the types of evidence used, and ready to evaluate/analyze the authors' findings/arguments in seminar. You must contribute at least once to online discussion by Tuesday evening (9 pm) before that week's seminar. You should also listen and respond to other views. In order to use your final research paper to "test" other historians' findings, in order to prepare for comprehensive MA exams, and in order to clarify your own thinking process, take notes during and outside the seminar itself.

Each student will present how to use a certain type of primary source. To prepare, s/he will read an extra secondary work (article or chapter), and a handful of the sources themselves, in addition to the broadside, ballad, newsbook, pamphlet already assigned (usually to be provided on D2L for the entire seminar). The presentation will be brief (5 minutes, 5-8 slides or handout pages) and be followed by discussion of a similar length. It will focus on how we might use this type of source to understand social order and disorder, or early modern popular cultures.

My office is 3725 Coleman Hall (e-mail = nekey@eiu.edu). I have scheduled office hours M, T, & Th, 10:30-11:30, and by appointment. You can reach me through D2L (preferred), email, http://eiu.academia.edu/NewtonKey, http://earlymodernengland.blogspot.com/.

Any revisions to this syllabus will be limited, will be for pedagogical reasons (changes in due dates, readings), and will be announced in advance and posted on the web. Please consult regularly the enhanced version of syllabus online (updated regularly) at http://ux1.eiu.edu/~nekey/syllabi/5400social.htm.

*The History of the Blind Beggar at Bednal-Green (1715?)*
Primary Source Collections
[Note: most of these collections have a lot of material post 1760; we are most interested in the 17th and early 18th centuries; see also links at http://tinyurl.com/bb624po]

1. Digital Image Collections
   a. Lewis Walpole Library Digital Image Collection
      http://www.library.yale.edu/walpole/collections/digital_collection_images.html (searching by call number researches by year, thus 760 = 1760; sparse before 1700.
   b. William Hogarth and 18th-Century Print Culture
      http://exhibits.library.northwestern.edu/spec/hogarth/main.html

2. Ballad Collections
   a. Bodleian Library Broadside Ballads http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads/ballads.htm
   b. English Broadside Ballad Archive http://ebba.english.ucsb.edu/

3. Broadsides
   b. The Word on the Street (Scottish broadsides) http://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/index.html

4. Newsbooks, newspapers, journals
   a. British Periodicals (EIU, go through Booth Library, History Databases)
      http://proxy.library.eiu.edu:4363/britishperiodicals/advanced?accountid=10705
   b. EEBO, Thomason Tract Periodicals (EIU, go through Booth Library, History Databases
      http://proxy.library.eiu.edu:2154/periodicals_date_browse/datebrowse.pl?EXPAND=&YEAR=R=&MONTH=
   c. Early English Newspapers (nos. 1170 Domestick Intelligence, 1679-81 & 1681-82; 1182 True Protestant Mercury, 1680-82; 1190 Loyal Protestant, 1681-83; 1095 Diverting Post 1704-07 [EIU Per AP3.E37x MFILM]
   d. London Gazette, 1665–present! http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/ (“search the archive”)

5. Pamphlets
   a. EEBO (printed books, pamphlets, broadsides, pre-1700, and a few later)
      http://eebo.chadwyck.com/search
   c. English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) http://estc.bl.uk/F/?func=file&file_name=login-bl-estc

Additional Readings
(For article review for Culture Wars, Order and Disorder, Public and Private, and Print Culture as Popular Culture sections; not these are not the required readings which are at end of syllabus)


Kaplan, Steven L., ed. Understanding Popular Culture: Europe from the Middle Ages to the Nineteenth Century. Berlin, 1984. [article by Lottes on 16th-century Germany, or Chartier or Revel on France] Disorder


