

HIST 407/507
European Artisans
Fall Term 2012

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Tuesday 2:00 – 4:50 pm
475 McKenzie
CRN 17137/17139

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:45 – 12:30

Introduction

This seminar addresses the historical experience of artisans in Europe since the late Middle Ages and through the nineteenth century. While the common readings focus on artisans in England and France, students may devote their independent work to other European countries as well, and may even include non-European areas as long as a significant European content is included. The topic of the research paper may also extend into the twentieth century.

By “artisans” are meant manual workers who labored with their hands, largely in urban contexts and originally with materials, techniques, and skills learned through apprenticeship and regulated by custom and frequently also by law. The seminar is less concerned with wage-earning workers in factories, though the experience of the latter is sometimes relevant to issues concerning artisans. Moreover, artisans often applied their skills in factories as wage-earners.

The seminar addresses a variety of features of artisan experience, including culture and community as well as work, organization, and militancy. The approach taken combines historical studies of artisan life, values, and initiatives with first-hand testimony by individual artisans in diaries and autobiographies.

Method of the Course

The course meets in one session each week. Seminar participants discuss readings assigned for that session, with one or more students initiating the discussion through an oral report. Each student will sign up to deliver an oral report for one session. This **first oral report** (10-15 minutes) will address an aspect of the readings assigned for that session. In the last few weeks of the term, each student will also make a **brief presentation (second oral report) on the topic of his/her research paper** for the course. Organization and scheduling of the first oral report will be done in the second session of the course (October 2); that of the second oral report will be done towards the end of the term.

All students are expected to participate in each seminar session. For this purpose, each student will draft a **one or two paragraph reflection** on at least one of the assigned

secondary readings for the week AND on one of the assigned autobiography readings. The instructor will call upon individual students to share their reflections in each seminar session. Failure to respond when called upon will impact negatively on the grade for participation. Students are encouraged to keep these reflections in a journal or log for reference in discussion throughout the course of the term.

The **research and writing of the seminar research paper** is the single most important requirement for each student in the seminar. Details of the paper are described below. The development of the paper requires completion of certain tasks at each stage. **Completion of each stage is required** by the specified due date. No research paper will be accepted that fails to complete each stage.

Seminar Research Paper

The major assignment of the seminar is the completion of a **research paper of approximately 3000 to 3500 words (12-15 pages)**. The paper may address any topic of any European country or region, relevant to the broad theme of the course. The number and nature of sources used for the paper will vary depending on the topic and the sources used. All papers must use **at least two book length scholarly studies** and draw extensively from these studies knowledge of the topic, thesis or argument of the paper, or background to the topic. In addition, other sources are required – historical documents or other original sources, articles in scholarly journals, visual material, other books or chapters in books. The number of these will vary according to the on the nature of the topic and the nature and availability of sources. For instance, a paper making significant use of documents or other original text materials, such as autobiographies, or of materials in foreign languages, may not require the same quantity of source material as a paper relying exclusively on secondary studies in English. Materials from websites are acceptable only if these are original sources (primary sources or documents), scholarly books, or online versions of scholarly articles. Use of material from generic non-scholarly online sites such as *Wikipedia* is not acceptable. Students with questions about acceptability of specific online materials should consult the instructor.

Both the topic of the research paper and the sources used for it require the instructor's approval. For this purpose the statement of the topic and the gathering of sources are essential stages in the development of the paper. Each stage is to be completed by the due date specified below.

Bibliographies pertaining to various aspects of European artisans will be provided to assist in the development of a topic and initial identification of relevant sources. All students should plan to invest extensive time, during the first few weeks of the course, exploring collections in the two libraries on campus most relevant to the topic of this course – the main library (Knight Library) and the AAA library in Lawrence Hall. An orientation to various collections of library materials will take place in the first session of the seminar. Throughout the term, **John Russell, Social Science Librarian**, is available for consultation at the UO Knight Library. Feel free to contact him at the following email address for assistance: johnruss@uoregon.edu

Following are the required stages for development and completion of the research paper, with due dates for each stage. **A research paper is not complete unless each stage of the process is completed.** Delays in completing the relevant stage are also grounds for refusal of a request for an incomplete in circumstances where this might otherwise be justified.

October 9: **Topic statement** for research paper (one or two paragraphs) and citation of at least one major book on the topic, with specification of author, title, and publication date of the book.

October 23: **Detailed bibliography** with annotations on each bibliography item listed. The annotations should describe briefly the relevance of the item to the topic, such as how that item may be used in developing the topic. **Revised topic statement** based on that bibliography. The bibliography should include a **minimum of two books** that are likely to be used for core research on the topic, as well as other items (notably original sources) that are likely to be used. Students are encouraged to submit more than the minimum, so that the instructor can provide meaningful feedback on alternative approaches to the topic. The bibliography along with the revised topic statement should identify any special problems or issues with as much precision as possible, such as hesitation between two different approaches to a topic. This will enable feedback of greater quality and usefulness to the student.

November 13: **First draft of paper** due (entire paper or as much of the paper as student can complete by this date). A detailed outline of the paper may be submitted in lieu of a first draft, but in this case an introductory paragraph is required.

December 5: **Final (revised) version of paper** due in Professor Sheridan's office (359 McKenzie) – slip under door if Professor Sheridan is not there. This must be a hard (paper) copy. **DO NOT SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF PAPER.** **Note:** Be sure to keep a personal copy of your paper to avoid problems if the paper is misplaced.

Course Grade

The grade for the course will be based on all requirements as described above, including attendance and participation in each week's seminar session. The research paper will count most heavily in the course grade, at least 60% and usually more. Other grade components include the two oral reports and attendance and contribution to discussion in weekly seminar sessions. Negligence in attendance will severely and negatively impact the grade, regardless of performance on other assignments. Failure to respond when called upon in discussion of readings will be taken as evidence of not having completed the reading for the session and will have a negative impact on the grade for the course.

Note concerning illness: If you are forced to miss a seminar session due to illness of any kind, report the illness immediately by means of an email or telephone message to

Prof Sheridan. This is especially important in the event of serious illness requiring the missing of more than one seminar session. Otherwise you will risk being penalized for the absence. Immediate reporting of such illness does not require confirmation of the illness by a note from a health provider. Students should note that missing a substantial number of sessions for whatever reason, including illness or accident, will usually require withdrawal from the course, since the seminar sessions are an essential element of the course.

Course Materials and Communications

Most common readings will be assigned from the three books listed below as **Artisans in Europe, Radical Artisans** and **The French Worker**. These books are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore, and one copy of each book will be made available for consultation on Reserve at Knight Library.

A packet of photocopied materials will also be available for purchase from the UO Bookstore. Readings from these materials are specified on the syllabus as **Course Packet**. The packet will not be available on Reserve in Knight Library.

The course has a **Blackboard** site on which additional materials are posted. The site will also be used for communications throughout the term from the instructor, as well as for additional postings of readings, bibliography, or other references. These will include announcements of events of interest.

Weekly Readings

References:

Artisans in Europe: James R. Farr, *Artisans in Europe, 1300-1914*

Radical Artisans: Iorwerth Prothero, *Radical Artisans in England and France 1830-1870*

The French Worker: Mark Traugott, *The French Worker: Autobiographies from the Early Industrial Era*

Course Packet

Blackboard

Sept 25: Introduction to Topic, Course, and Library Presentation

October 2: Artisans Medieval and Modern

Artisans in Europe: Introduction, The Meaning of Work, The Craft Economy
(intro, chs 1-2 pp. 1-94)

Radical Artisans: Introduction, ch.1

October 9: Artisan Work

Artisans in Europe: The Workplace (ch. 3, pp.95-158)

Blackboard: Paul S. Seaver, *Wallington's World*, ch 5 (“The Particular Calling”)

DUE: **Topic statement for research paper**

October 16: Artisan Guilds, Confraternities and Brotherhoods

Artisans in Europe: Authority and Resistance (I): Artisans in the Polity (ch. 4 pp. 159-190) and Communities (ch 6, pp. 222-257)

Course Packet: Jacques-Louis Ménétra, *Journal of My Life*, pp. 97-104, 204

October 23: Artisan Militancy and Culture

Artisans in Europe: Authority and Resistance (II): masters and journeymen (ch. 5, pp. 191-221); Ceremonies, Festivals, Taverns, and Games (ch. 7, pp. 258-275)

Course Packet: Jacques-Louis Ménétra, *Journal of My Life*, pp. 129-31

DUE: **Detailed bibliography and revised topic statement for paper**

October 30: Radical Artisans – Traditions and Identities

Radical Artisans: chs 2-5

Artisans in Europe: Epilogue ch. 8 (pp. 276-297)

The French Worker: Jacques Etienne Bedé, Agricole Perdiguier

November 6: Radical Artisans – Ideologies and Mobilization

Radical Artisans: chs 6-8

Course Packet: William H. Sewell, Jr. “Artisans, Factory Workers, and the Formation of the French Working Class, 1789-1848,” in *Working-Class Formation: Nineteenth-Century Patterns in Western Europe and the United States*, eds. Ira Katznelson and Aristide R. Zolberg pp. 45-70

The French Worker, Introduction (pp. 1-15)

November 13: Radical Artisans – Experiences and Culture

Radical Artisans: chs 9-11

The French Worker: Norbert Truquin

Blackboard: *Master and Artisan in Victorian England*, selections

DUE : First draft of research paper due

November 20: Women Artisans; Oral Reports on Research Paper

The French Worker: Suzanne Voilquin, Jeanne Bouvier

November 27: Oral Reports on Research Paper

Dec. 5 (Wednesday): FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE