MMW 13: New Ideas and Cultural Encounters (6 credits) Professor Strasser

TA: Ekhlas Fajardo, email: ekfajardo@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:20am-10:50am & 12:20pm-12:50pm at Goody’s Café

Course Objective:

MMW 13 provides a framework for understanding developments in the global past from 1200 CE to 1750 CE and the transition from the medieval to the early modern world. This course is the second of two writing-intensive quarters in the MMW sequence.

Section Objective:

The purpose of section is to improve your understanding of and engagement with the course content by giving you an opportunity to exercise critical thinking, writing, reading, studying, listening, and speaking skills in a small, supportive group led by a knowledgeable guide.

When you successfully complete this course, you will be better able to:

- Articulate how new ideas and cultural encounters shape the development of the early modern world
- Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context, developing ideas in dialogue with course readings and lectures
- Conduct academic research and use library resources
- Write coherent academic argument essays that address a significant issue; ask a specific, open-ended, arguable question; answer the question by making a claim and backing it up with sufficient, relevant, specific, compelling evidence; consider and rebut counterarguments; demonstrate significance of the argument; and accurately cite sources in MLA format
- Know the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use them in academic writing
- Engage in substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers

Letter Grade Requirement: You must take MMW courses for a letter grade. If you have selected Pass/No Pass as a grading option for MMW 13, you should immediately change your option to letter grade, or you will not fulfill the ERC General Education Requirement and will have to take MMW 13 again.
Attendance, Participation, and Section Requirements:

Regular attendance and participation in section is mandatory. Students who miss 5 sections—excused or unexcused—will fail section. Students who miss 7 sections—excused or unexcused—will fail the course. Any absence can lower your grade. If you come to section, but are disruptive and are not contributing to discussion, you may also fail the course, per your requirement to pass section with at least 60% of your grade.

You must arrive on time and be prepared to discuss and write about course material. Consistent tardiness will lower your grade.

You are REQUIRED to bring all readings (except for the Traditions and Encounters textbook), notes, and assignments to the section each week, according to the syllabus. We will be working with this material hands-on in the classroom. As stated on the syllabus, you must bring a printed copy of the assigned reading to each section in order to receive participation credit for the day. Failure to bring the printed reading will result in a 0 (zero) for section participation for that day.

Homework, Quizzes, In-Class Work: The purpose of section is to create a bridge between the content discussed in the lecture and the material presented in the weekly assigned readings. In order to connect the two, I will sometimes assign in-class, such as writing assignments, brainstorming activities, or source analyses. Another purpose of section is to develop the students’ critical thinking, analytical, and presentation skills. Homework assignments will include (but are not limited to) rough drafts, paper editing, brainstorming discussion questions, and outlining.

Because the in-class assignments are closely tied to the material presented in lecture for that day, there is no opportunity to make up the activity. Homework will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade for every late day, according to MMW policy.

Grading:
Section counts for 10% of the overall class grade. Your grade is determined by participation in the class activity for the day as well as homework as it is assigned. Participation is graded on a credit/no credit scale (100 or 0). This is to encourage participation in discussion and asking questions, even if you are unsure of the answer. You do not have to be right, but you do have to try. Homework, on the other hand, will be taken periodically for a grade and will be factored into your overall section grade. If you ever have questions about your grade, you can ask me directly in office hours or email, but it should not be in the classroom setting.

All assignments will be graded and returned within a two-week time period from the due date.

Writing Assignments and Late Policy:

In MMW 13, you are required to write an academic research paper in 5 stages. The assignments will build your research skills and argumentative writing skills. Assignments will be covered in
section, along with the MMW “Style Sheet” for guidelines on how to format and submit your papers. Failure to meet ALL criteria for writing assignments will result in the loss of points.

All papers must be turned in directly as a hard copy to me in section, lecture, or office hours, in addition to an electronic copy uploaded to www.turnitin.com. Papers left in my mailbox or the MMW office will not be graded. You will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late (including weekends). If you are unable to attend section the day the paper is due, you must make other arrangements to submit your work. In addition to taking the final exam and attending section regularly, you must submit ALL writing assignments (both as a hard copy to me and to turnitin.com) in order to pass the course.

Classroom Environment:

1. Section exercises are aimed at developing strong critical thinking, reading, and comprehension, and writing skills that you will use throughout your academic and professional career. By reading critically, you will better understand the major themes of the course, as well as gain experience working with primary materials to explore the historical context in which they were produced. In addition, section meetings will simulate a “workshop” environment in which you will be guided through the process of academic, argumentative-based writing and have the opportunity to develop original hypotheses and discuss your insights about the course material with your peers.

2. University education is about more than learning subject material. It is also about learning how to successfully and respectfully engage ideas, both your own, and those of others. In this section we will engage in discussion, and at times debate, about ideas, issues, and cultures that may range from personally sensitive to completely alien in our own views of the world. You will be expected to act in a respectful manner to your classmates, to me, and to the subject matter. We are all here to learn how to think beyond ourselves, and we need to do so respectfully. I encourage note taking and times may require it. Electronic devices will be permitted ONLY to go over course material via the official course website.

3. Having an open environment for discussion will help to develop a deeper level of understanding of course materials. A friendly, positive, and mutually respectful atmosphere is necessary for effective learning. You are required to be respectful to all views and opinions expressed in class and avoid making offensive comments or being disruptive. The TA reserves the right to expel a student from section if he or she is being too disruptive or respectful. If this occurs, the expulsion will count as an absence in the course and a 0 for the day’s participation grade.

4. Since we have a limited time for each section, avoid discussions that are unrelated to course material or section exercises. I encourage asking questions in section, but some questions are better suited for email or office hour discussion. If you have a question about your grade or a comment on an assignment, wait until after class, office hours, or via email to ask it. Try to only use section time for questions that will benefit the entire group and facilitate learning.

Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email/Piazza:
The best way to communicate with me is in office hours or by appointment. This allows for a conversation and can resolve issues more quickly than an extensive email dialogue. I will respond to emails within TWO (2) business days, and my expectation for YOU is to check your campus email at least every TWO (2) business days as well so that we are able to keep an open line of communication.

Emails should be professional. Below is a sample of an appropriate email to your professors, TAs, or fellow students.

Subject: MMW 13 Section # Dear/Hello/Greetings [name]

[Text of your message: The text should conform to standard English, meaning you should write in complete sentences with the first letter of each sentence capitalized and with appropriate punctuation to signal the end of a sentence, introduce a new clause, or separate items on a list]

Sincerely, Cheers, Best, Thanks,
Your First and Last name (your name is not always clear from your email address)

Keep it concise! Your teachers are very busy; they will appreciate it if you can get to the point quickly and do not ask vague, open-ended questions. If your email does not follow these guidelines, you can expect to receive a reply to resend your email according to these guidelines. Professional correspondence is an important skill that will help you in your future academic and professional careers, and is part of the MMW writing program.

We will be using Piazza for class discussion and to help you get answers to your questions and concerns fast and efficiently. I will sometimes send out class-wide communications via piazza, so you must register for the website. It is also a helpful forum for communicating and collaborating with other students on homework or assignments. When you have a question or are struggling to understand a concept or assignment, ask questions on Piazza. Your classmates may be able to help you sooner than I can. I will check the site every 48 hours, which is the same time span I require to answer emails, but your classmates may have already answered your question. You may even edit each other’s questions and answers.

If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.

Course Resources:

MMW13 Homepage: http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmw/courses/mmw13.html UCSD Writing Center: http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):
College life can be stressful, and it is normal to feel overwhelmed at times. UCSD has a staff of professionals that are available for confidential meetings to discuss any personal concerns you might have. Feel free to contact CAPS at anytime to set up an appointment: [http://psychservices.ucsd.edu/#students](http://psychservices.ucsd.edu/#students)

Academic Integrity: You are responsible for the honesty and integrity of your academic work at UCSD. The University has a strict policy prohibiting cheating of any kind. If you are suspected of cheating, you will be required to meet with an academic coordinator, who will discuss your case with the professor. If the professor charges you with misconduct, the professor will determine the penalty for your grade in the course, which can range from deductions to failing the paper, section, or the course. Then you will have to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs, who will determine additional penalties, which can range from failing the course and taking an academic integrity seminar to suspension to expulsion.

Throughout this process, a hold will be put on your grade. Even a first offense can result in a quarter’s suspension, and the standard sanction for a second offense is suspension or permanent dismissal from the university. Any instance of academic misconduct can be recorded in a student’s file. Such a record might interfere with a student’s acceptance into law, medical, or graduate school, or might make that student ineligible for positions requiring a security clearance, such as a government internship.

In brief, the University’s Policy on Integrity of Scholarship states that students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor’s standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:

1. No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions, or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.
2. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination nor assignment for another person.
3. No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for himself or herself by another person.
4. No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own work.
5. No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.
6. No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for regrading.
7. No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.

Please read the full Policy: [http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html](http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html). If you have any questions, ask me.