MMW 13: New Ideas and Cultural Encounters (6 credits)
Professor E. Chang, Track Spring 2015
Section A13 and A14

TA: Siobhan White
Office: MMW TA Suite, Desk # 12
Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-2:30
Email: prof.siobhan.white@gmail.com

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.

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 relevant material (including lecture notes, homework assignments, and readings) to the section each week. We will be working with this material hands-on in the classroom. This means any readings assigned, any prompts for assignments we’re working on, or any drafts/planning materials you’re working on.

In order to participate successfully, you will need to be prepared. Bring your lecture notes and assigned readings to section each week. For each section meeting, you will be responsible for readings and material assigned for all lectures that have already taken place.

Dialogue and even disagreement are encouraged, provided they are done so respectfully. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the class, see me and we can work out a way for you to share your ideas.

**Homework, Quizzes, In-Class Work:** I may assign homework to be completed by the beginning of the next section meeting. The purpose of the homework will be to prepare you for the writing assignments for this course. They will be discussed or workshopped during class and only rarely will they be collected. Therefore, late homework will not be accepted. Homework is generally graded on a credit/no credit basis. All homework should be typed and follow the MMW style sheet guidelines, including your name and section number. We will have short quizzes at the beginning of Friday’s section on an (almost) weekly basis, which will constitute roughly half of your section grade.

**Grading:**
Section counts for 10% of the overall class grade. It will be evaluated on the following:
5%: Your averaged score of all Friday’s reading quizzes.
5%: Preparation and participation, determined holistically by me at the end of the quarter, based on your ability to arrive prepared and contribute to the class activities regularly.

**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 mid-term and final exams 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. 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. Since we have a limited time for each section, avoid discussions that are unrelated to course material or section exercises. Cell phones are not permitted in class at anytime. Laptops will be permitted to go over course material via the official course website and to workshop drafts, but I reserve the right to ask you to put them away if I suspect misuse/distractions.

Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email:

- I encourage you to speak to me as much as possible, both in section meetings and during office hours. Student who seek out feedback and engage in the process of developing their academic ideas/arguments always do better on their essays, thus receiving better grades. You have to actively participate and engage in your own intellectual and academic development, not passively wait for an “ah-ha” moment.

- Office hours exist for your benefit. If you utilize this resource, you will benefit. That said, make sure you come to office hours with something specific to discuss. If you cannot come to office hours due to scheduling conflicts, please let me know via email about any questions or concerns you have about the work in this course. I am quite willing to discuss things via email, though I admit it is often not as productive as face-to-face conversations. We will have to do the best we can.

- In writing emails to a TA or professor, practice formal communication etiquette at ALL times (otherwise, you are sending a signal that you do not take the course, or their time, seriously). Please use the following format to send courteous emails when communicating with your TAs and professors:

  Subject: MMW 13 Section A0_
  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 this format back as a response (signaling that you must revise and re-send your email).

**Course Resources:**
Course Website:
UCSD Writing Center: [http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/](http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/)
The Cornell Note-taking System (in case you need help with note-taking):
[http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/Sidebars/Study_Skills_Resources/cornellsystem.pdf](http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/Sidebars/Study_Skills_Resources/cornellsystem.pdf)

**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 then 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. If you have any questions, ask me.