MMW 13: New Ideas and Cultural Encounters (6 credits)  
Professor Rahimi, Track C  
Sections C13 (TTh 5-5:50, York 4060A) and C14 (TTh 6-6:50, York 4060A)

TA: Ian Jones  
Office: MMW TA Suite, Desk 28  
Office Hours: T, 1:00-3:00 (Also available by appointment)  
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**Course Objectives:** 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 Objectives:** Section has two main purposes: (1) to improve your understanding of the course content from lecture and readings and (2) to improve your critical thinking, reading, writing, studying, listening, and speaking skills.

Section will help you to:

- Articulate how new ideas and cultural encounters shape the development of the early modern world
- Engage in critical thinking and substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers
- Understand the process of analytical reading and respond to college-level texts with confidence
- Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context
- Make connections between course readings, assignments, and lectures, and focus on important points
- Use evidence and reasoning to support your arguments
- Conduct academic research and use library resources
- Understand the process of writing academic research papers and write coherent, compelling argumentative essays that address a significant issue and accurately use and cite sources
- Produce reflections on your course learning

I am here to answer your questions, facilitate discussion, provide you with information, and guide you through the process of writing an academic paper:
Luckily, I am a better instructor than T-Rex, but our success here is still primarily dependent on your participation. This is, after all, a discussion section.

**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.

Since section goals will primarily be accomplished through discussion, it is important that everyone participates — including you! This means that you must bring any assigned readings, relevant lecture notes, and assigned homework with you to class and, even more importantly, be prepared to discuss them, which means that you need to have read/completed them before section. Failure to these things will result in a loss of participation credit. You'll also need to contribute to discussions, both by talking and by listening attentively to what your classmates have to say. Remember, participation is a big part of your section grade (one might say it’s worth 60% of your section grade)!

Dialogue and respectful disagreement are strongly encouraged. I understand, however, that speaking in a group setting can be uncomfortable for some people. If this is the case for you, see me and we can come up with a way for you to share your ideas.
**Homework, Quizzes, In-Class Work:** Homework, in-class work, and quizzes will make up 40% of your section grade (and, therefore, 4% of your overall course grade; see below). Homework and in-class work will vary, but will generally consist of responses to readings, free-writing assignments related to broader course themes, or preparatory exercises for upcoming writing assignments. I prefer to avoid quizzes in section if possible, but reserve the right to modify that policy if reading responses and in-class discussions indicate that you aren’t doing the required reading.

**Grading:** Section counts for 10% of your overall grade in the course. That 10% will be broken up into 100 points. 60 of those points will be based on attendance and participating in discussion, and the other 40 will come from homework, quizzes and in-class writing exercises. If you have concerns about your grade, you should talk to me and address those concerns as early in the quarter as possible.

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

**Writing Assignments and Late Policy:** In MMW 13, you are required to write an academic research paper in 4 stages. The assignments will build your research skills and argumentative writing skills. Assignments will be covered in section, along with the handout “MMW Guidelines for Essays” 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 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:** Respectful discussion is expected during section. Remember that full participation in class discussions involves not only contributing, but also listening to the contributions of your classmates, and responding to those contributions once they have finished making them. There are 15 of you this quarter, and everyone should have a chance to contribute.

You are free to do in-class writing assignments on a laptop or tablet, provided it doesn’t prove to be a distraction. In other words, you are not free to check your e-mail, baseball scores, your Facebook feed, your favorite cat photo Tumblr, etc. If you need to take notes during section, however, you’ll find that you retain the information better if you take them on paper. (You’re
probably skeptical about this, but the research on this subject backs me up.\textsuperscript{1} Cellphones, smart or otherwise, (and sundry other small devices clearly not designed for academic work, e.g. smartwatches) should not be used during section at all.

**Course Resources:** The following links may be helpful and/or necessary this quarter.

MMW Website: [http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmw/courses/mmw13.html](http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/mmw/courses/mmw13.html)
UCSD Writing Center: [http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/](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://caps.ucsd.edu](http://caps.ucsd.edu)

**Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting accommodations for section due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: (858) 534-4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), [http://disabilities.ucsd.edu](http://disabilities.ucsd.edu) (website)

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offenses, with serious negative consequences for your academic career. Plagiarism includes both quoting someone without giving a citation and also using someone else's ideas without citing them. 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

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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.

If you have any questions about plagiarism or how to properly cite sources, don't hesitate to ask me. That's what I'm here for. For more information, see http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html

Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email: As you have no doubt seen, because I invited you all personally, we will be using Piazza this quarter. This will be the easiest way to get a very quick response, as both your classmates and I will have an opportunity to answer your questions, and I will likely be able to approve answers on Piazza more quickly than I can answer questions myself. If you prefer to ask me directly, you are of course welcome to e-mail me (you can also send me a private message on Piazza. It does everything!). Keep in mind, however, that it is easier for me (and usually more useful to you) to answer long questions and have discussions about the writing assignments or course material in person during my office hours.

When sending me an e-mail, please include your name and section number in the subject line, and include a salutation, body, and closing. You don’t need to call me “Mr. Jones” (“Ian” is fine — preferable, really). I will respond to all e-mails within 36 hours. I may send you a response much sooner than that, but it’s possible that I won’t, so you should still plan ahead.