

TEXTS CONTEXTS AND CULTURES

MODULE AH8001 Renaissance Intellectual and Cultural History: Words and Things in the Early Modern World

Instructor: Brendan Dooley

Between the fifteenth and the eighteenth centuries, European culture was radically transformed; and among the chief instruments for bringing about such a transformation were language and texts. From the Renaissance to the Reformation, from the age of discovery to the so-called scientific revolution, from the civilizing process to the modern state, from the emergence of the bourgeois public sphere to the emergence of the modern self, texts have been central to the European experience. The seminar examines texts from a variety of points of view, as vehicles for ideas and sentiments, and the speech acts contained in them it analyzes as agents of change. Over the past 20 years, cultural historians have developed new comparative and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of texts, deriving insights from anthropology, communications theory, literary criticism, psychology, philosophy and the theory of knowledge, and more. The seminar attempts to combine a survey of these approaches with a close study of a number of texts to which the scholarship has so far been applied. Current scholarship may include (but is not limited to) works by Peter Burke, Martha Nussbaum, Guido Ruggiero, Carlo Ginzburg, Natalie Davis, Simon Schama, John Elliott, David Quint, Laurence Fontaine, Françoise Waquet, Mario Biagioli, Paula Findlen, Tony Grafton, Nancy Siraisi, Moti Feingold, Karl Weintraub, Caroline Walker Bynum, etc.)

For credit in this course, participants are required to prepare and attend the sessions, engage in discussion, and complete a seminar paper of 5000 words circa, on a relevant theme chosen jointly with the instructor.

The following is the current topic list of the course. Topics correspond to a week of work or more.

1. Introduction
2. Love your words: the language of the sentiments in early modern Europe
3. Wars of words: warfare and text
4. Texts of nature: new approaches to the natural world
5. Word pictures: describing visual experience
6. Speech texts: oral experience as conveyed by manuscript and text
7. The word made flesh: language and the body
8. Texts in translation: cross cultural transfer
9. Texts in transition: word and structure in early modern communications
10. Everyone a text: the formation of the modern self

For each session, a main reading and a number of subsidiary readings will be suggested (usually, chapters in books or else articles. If an entire book is recommended, you may

choose from among the chapters). You should read the main reading and one subsidiary reading. For the latter, it is possible to team with other course participants.

TOPIC 1: Love your words: the language of the sentiments in early modern Europe
MAIN READING:

B. Dooley, "Love and War"
available at <http://www.faculty.iu-bremen.de/bdooley/ARTICLE%20DOWNLOADS/INTRODUCTION%207.doc>

to be examined along with:
<http://www.faculty.iu-bremen.de/bdooley/ARTICLE%20DOWNLOADS/love%20and%20war1.doc>

Subsidiary readings:

Barbara H. Rosenwein, "Worrying about Emotions in History," *American Historical Review* 107 no. 3 (2002): 821-45

The epistles of Ovid (make a selection, be prepared to comment)
(http://www.chlt.org/sandbox/perseus/ovid.her_eng/index.html)

A Medieval Case: Heloise and Abelard
<http://faculty.molloy.edu/smayer/Letters%20of%20Heloise.htm>

The Mirrour of complements, or, A Manuall of choice, requisite, and compendious curiosities wherein gentlemen, ladies, gentlewomen, and all others may practise complemental and amorous expressions, in speaking or writing letters, upon any subject or occasion : exactly performed with addition of witty songs, sonnets, poems, epigrams, essays, characters, &c., London : Printed by T.H. and are to be sold by F. Coles, R. Harper, and W. Gilbertson at their shops,

Date: 1650

Bib name / number: Wing / M2223

(consult <http://eebo.chadwyck.com/search> from your network)

Jehuda Leon Abravanel (Leone Ebreo), *Dialoghi d'amore* choose a section to view
http://www.bibliotecaitaliana.it:6336/dynaweb/bibit/autori/l/leone/dialoghi_d%27amore/@Generic__BookTextView/2;pt=124;lang=de

Tasso, Jerusalem Delivered, Canto 1
at <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/392>

Descartes, *Les passions de l'âme*,
http://hypo.ge.ch/athena/cartes/desc_pas/desc_pas_frame0.html

sections I-LXX

in English (from EEBO—get it on your library database):

[http://eebo.chadwyck.com/search/full_rec?SOURCE=pgimages.cfg&ACTION=ByID&ID=99868119&SEARCHCONFIG=config.cfg&HIGHLIGHT_KEYWORD=param\(HIGHLIGHT_KEYWORD](http://eebo.chadwyck.com/search/full_rec?SOURCE=pgimages.cfg&ACTION=ByID&ID=99868119&SEARCHCONFIG=config.cfg&HIGHLIGHT_KEYWORD=param(HIGHLIGHT_KEYWORD)

