HIST 6315: EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN SOCIETY AND CULTURAL HISTORY:  
Tuesday 4:45-7:15

This course will explore significant themes in continental European religion, thought, and culture during the period from 1500-1700, focusing on the explosive consequences of early modern exploration and expansion. Religious transformation was at the center of most of these developments, and so the course will examine scholarship in both the traditional framework of Renaissance and Reformation and in newer approaches to European religion generally. The course will then focus on the relationship between exploration, commerce, and science, and the significance of that relationship for European intellectual and scientific culture on the eve of the Enlightenment.

Topics will include the Columbian exchange, exploration and empire, the impact of “discovery” on European religion and cultural life, particularly art and science, new approaches to Reformation history, and the significance of Dutch enterprise for European culture in the seventeenth century. I will expect students to produce 1) a critical book review of a significant modern text; 2) an extended historiographical or research project, including abstract, annotated bibliography, and final paper of @ 7500-10000 words

Among the books contemplated for this course are:

Charles C. Mann, 1493
Euan Cameron, Enchanted Europe: Superstition, Reason, and Religion, 1250-1750
Stuart Schwartz, All Can be Saved: Religious Tolerance and Salvation in the Iberian Atlantic World
Ulinka Rublack, Dressing Up: Cultural Identity in the Renaissance
Anne Goldgar, Tulipmania
Harold Cook, Matters of Exchange: Commerce, Medicine, and Science in the Dutch Golden Age
Pamela Smith, The Body of the Artisan: Art and Experience in the Scientific Revolution
J. R. McNeil, Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean
Liam Brockey, Journey to the East: the Jesuit Mission to China, 1579-1724
Stephen Greenblatt, The Swerve