

HIST 407/507
European Artisans
Winter Term 2008

Professor George Sheridan
359 McKenzie Hall
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Wed 2:00 – 4:50 pm
209 Deady
CRN 25587/25588

Office Hours: Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 am in 359 McKenzie and by appointment

Introduction

This seminar is concerned with the historical experience of artisans in Europe, from the Middle Ages through the end of the nineteenth century. By “artisans” are meant manual workers who labored with their hands, largely in urban contexts and originally with materials, techniques and skills, learned through apprenticeship, that were regulated by custom and, very often as well, by law. Excluded from consideration in this seminar are workers in agriculture (normally called “peasants”), and wage-earning workers in factories. Thus the “artisans” studied in this seminar were handicraft workers with a strong sense of their craft or “trade.”

The seminar addresses a variety of features of artisan experience, including family, culture, and community as well as work. It does so in two very broad topical or context areas. These are (1) pre-industrial urban artisans organized in guilds, confraternities and independent associations (eg journeymen brotherhoods) and (2) “radical artisans” of the modern era. The seminar sessions and common readings are divided more or less equally between these two broad topical areas. In addition, for each topical area (1) and (2), two kinds of common readings are given. One set of readings addresses social, institutional and political history of artisans of several European countries considered thematically. For pre-industrial urban artisans, the book James R. Farr, *Artisans in Europe, 1300-1914* provides this overview; for radical artisans, several scholarly articles on radical artisan activity and experiences do the same. The second kind of reading concerns individual life stories of artisans. For the pre-industrial period, the book by Paul S. Seaver *Wallington's World* is the life story of an artisan of London, during the period of the Protestant Reformation, and its focus is on the religious beliefs and practices of this artisan as well as on other aspects of his life story and experience, such as family, work, community. For the “radical artisan” period, *The French Worker*, ed. Mark Traugott, a collection of autobiographical selections authored by French artisans, provides multiple windows on experience told as first-person narrative. The intention of the common readings for the seminar is to provide at once an overview/introduction to the main themes of artisan history under the two rubrics mentioned above, and some encounter with primary sources for observing and reflecting upon artisan experience.

Method of the Course

The course meets in one session each week (Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:50 pm). The readings assigned for that session will be discussed by seminar participants. This discussion will normally be preceded by open-ended reflection upon a specific theme or topic of the readings by one participant. Each participant will take a turn in doing this. This presentation will be the first of **two “oral reports” required of each student** in the seminar for the term. Another part of the seminar session will be devoted to one of the following: (1) guest presentations or visits to materials collections relating to artisan history or craft; (2) individual presentations by students on their research paper topics, based on at least one of the books the student will use in the paper. For each student this presentation will be the second of two required “oral reports.” Organization and scheduling of the two oral reports will be done in the first two sessions of the course.

As a aid to reflecting upon the readings of each week and for the purpose of assessing ongoing student performance in doing these readings, each student will keep a **personal journal or log** of notes and thoughts about those readings. In the journal entry, the student may develop any topic or topics she or he wishes on the readings. The journal in this sense is “personal” in terms of the approach taken, as long as the entries provide evidence of doing the reading each week. The journal will be brought to class and used to contribute to the common discussion in the seminar session. The journal will also be evaluated at mid-term and at the end of the term, as evidence of the student’s personal investment in reading the assigned course material.

The main individual project of each student for the term is the design, **research and writing of the seminar research paper**. Details of the paper are described below. The paper will be developed in separate stages. Each stage is required, and completion of each by the specified due date is expected. No paper submitted without completion of each stage will be accepted.

Seminar Research Paper

The major assignment of the seminar is the completion of a research paper of **approximately 3000 to 3500 words (12- 15 pages)**. The paper may address any topic, any period, of any European country or region, relevant to the broad theme of the course: European artisans. The number and nature of sources used for the paper will vary depending on the topic and the sources used. A minimum for all papers is the use of at least **two book-length scholarly studies** from which an extensive share of the paper is drawn (for knowledge of the topic, thesis or argument of the paper, background to the topic). **In addition, other sources are required** – historical documents or other original sources, articles in scholarly journals, visual materials, other books or chapters in books. The number of these depends on the topic and sources. For instance, a paper planning to make significant use of documents or other original text materials (including autobiographies), or of materials in foreign languages, may involve either a smaller number of additional sources or fewer pages of the latter. Both the topic of the research paper and the sources used for it require the instructor’s approval. For this purpose the

statement of the topic and the gathering of sources constitute essential stages in the process of developing the paper, each stage to be completed by the due date as specified below.

Bibliographies pertaining to various aspects of the history of European artisans will be distributed to assist in the development of a topic and identification of relevant sources. In addition, bibliographical references in James R. Farr, *Artisans in Europe, 1300-1914* provide further sources for topics of the early modern (guild) era. All of these are guides and do not exhaust available materials on possible topics. In fact, all students should plan to invest extensive time, in the first few weeks of the course, exploring on their own collections in two libraries on campus – Knight main library, and the AAA library in Lawrence Hall -- to identify topics and sources of possible interest for their course paper. An orientation to online search instruments and online sources will be given at the library in the initial session of the seminar. Students are encouraged to make use of these in locating both secondary studies and primary sources for their paper.

The following are the required stages for developing and writing the research paper, with submission dates for each stage. **A research paper is not complete unless each stage of the process is completed.** Delays in completing the relevant stage are also grounds for refusal to grant a student's request for an incomplete at the end of the term in circumstances where this might otherwise be justified.

Jan. 23: Topic statement for research paper (one or two paragraphs) and the author, title, and publication date of at least one major book on the topic

Feb. 6: Detailed bibliography with annotations on each bibliography item listed; the annotations should indicate briefly the relevance of the item to the topic, such as how that item will be used in developing the topic. Revised topic statement based on that bibliography. The bibliography must include the two books (minimum) that will constitute core research for the topic, as well as other items (including original sources) that are likely to be used as well. Any special problems or issues relating to sources should be described with as much precision as possible.

Feb. 27: First draft of paper due (entire paper or as much of the paper as student can complete by this date).

March 20: Final (revised) copy of paper due in Professor Sheridan's office (359 McKenzie): slip under door if Professor Sheridan is not there. Note: Be sure to keep a personal copy of your paper to avoid problems if mislaid!

Course Grade

The grade for the course will be based on all requirements as described above, including attendance and participation in each week's seminar session. The grade on the seminar paper will weigh most heavily in the final grade for the course; this will be at least 60% of the grade and possibly more. (The higher weighting of the paper beyond 60% will always be to the advantage of the student, but this higher weighting is not guaranteed.) The journal (evaluated at mid-term and at the end of the term), the two oral reports, and class attendance and participation will count for the remainder of the grade for the course. In cases where a student's participation in class discussion is minimal or superficial (that is, not based on diligent reading of the week's common reading), the journal will be especially important in the assessment of this component of the course grade.

Summary of Requirements:

- Research Paper (due March 20), including completion of all stages specified above.
- Oral reports (2)
- Personal log/journal, evaluated at mid-term (due Feb. 6) and at the end of the term (due March 12)
- Attendance and participation in seminar sessions

Course Materials and Communications

The three books from which most common readings are assigned, listed in the "Weekly Readings" section of this syllabus, are all available for purchase in the textbook section of the U of O Bookstore. In addition, one copy of each book is available for consultation on Reserve at the Knight Library.

A packet of photocopied materials will be made available for purchase from the U of O Bookstore. These materials are indicated on the syllabus as **Course Packet**. The course packet will not be available on Reserve in Knight Library.

One of the assigned readings is available on electronic reserve. To access this, go to the UO Libraries home page [<http://libweb.uoregon.edu>], and click on the link "Course Reserves" under the column *Library Services*. Type in instructor's name [Sheridan, G], then click on the following link:

- HIST 407/507 European artisans for the Jan. 16 reading by Paul Greenhalgh

You will then be asked to provide a USERID and a PASSWORD. These are not yet available. They will be posted on the Blackboard site.

Blackboard for this course will be used for occasional postings (including initially the course syllabus and bibliographies), as well as for announcements pertaining to the course and of University events of possible interest. Please consult the Blackboard site on a regular basis (at least once a week) to take note of these announcements.

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Weekly Readings

References:

Artisans in Europe: James R. Farr, *Artisans in Europe, 1300-1914*

The French Worker: Mark Traugott, *The French Worker: Autobiographies from the Early Industrial Era*

Wallington's World: Paul S. Seaver, *Wallington's World: A Puritan Artisan in Seventeenth-Century London*

Course Packet

Jan. 9 Introduction to Topic, Course, and Library Research Tools

Jan. 16 What Is an Artisan?

Artisans in Europe: Introduction, The Meaning of Work, The Craft Economy (intro, chs 1-2 pp. 1-94)

Paul Greenhalgh, "The history of craft" in Peter Dormer ed., *The Culture of Craft: Status and Future*, ch. 2 [*electronic reserve*]

Jan. 23 Artisan Work

Artisans in Europe: The Workplace (ch. 3, pp.95-158)

Wallington's World: chs. 1-3

DUE: Topic statement for research paper

Jan. 30 Artisan Guilds, Confraternities and Brotherhoods

Artisans in Europe: Authority and Resistance (I): Artisans in the Polity (ch. 4 pp. 159-190) and Communities (ch 6, pp. 222-257)

Wallington's World: chs. 4-5

Feb. 6 Artisan Culture

Artisans in Europe: Ceremonies, Festivals, Taverns, and Games (ch. 7, pp. 258-275)

Wallington's World: chs. 6-7

**DUE: Detailed bibliography and revised topic statement for paper
Submit journal for mid-term evaluation**

Feb. 13 Radical Artisans: Corporate Identities

Artisans in Europe: Epilogue ch. 8 (pp. 276-299)

The French Worker: Jacques Etienne Bedé

Course Packet: William H. Sewell, Jr. "Artisans, Factory Workers, and the Formation of the French Working Class, 1789-1848," in Working-Class Formation: Nineteenth-Century Patterns in Western Europe and the United States, eds. Ira Katznelson and Aristide R. Zolberg, pp. 45-70

Feb. 20 Radical Artisans: Women

The French Worker: Suzanne Voilquin, Jeanne Bouvier

Course Packet : Joan Wallach Scott, "Work Identities for Men and Women: The Politics of Work and Family in the Parisian Garment Trades in 1848," in Gender and the Politics of History, pp. 93-112

Feb. 27 Radical Artisans: Class

Course Packet : Geoffrey Crossick, "The Labour Aristocracy and its Values: A Study of Mid- Victorian Kentish London," in Victorian Studies, vol. 19, no. 3 (March 1996), pp. 301-328.

Course Packet: Alastair Reid, "Intelligent artisans and aristocrats of labour: the essays of Thomas Wright," in The Working Class in Modern British History: Essays in Honour of Henry Pelling, ed. Jay Winter, pp. 171-186

The French Worker: Martin Nadaud

DUE: First draft of research paper

March 5 Radical Artisans: Traditions

Course Packet: Jurgen Kocka, "Craft traditions and the labour movement in nineteenth-century Germany," in The Power of the Past: Essays for Eric Hobsbawm, eds. Pat Thane, Geoffrey Crossick, and Roderick Floud, pp. 95-109.

The French Worker: Agricole Perdiguiet

March 12 Radical Artisans: Life Experience

The French Worker: Norbert Truquin,

DUE: Submit journal for end-of-term evaluation

March 20: FINAL COPY OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE