**Hist 121R, Research Seminar in Early Modern Europe, 1450-1700**

Prof. Hilary Bernstein (bernstein@history.ucsb.edu)

Spring 2020

Wednesdays, 1-3:50 p.m.

*Possible prerequisites*: Hist 106B, 121A, 121B, 121C, 121D, 121E, 121Q, 122, 129A, 129B, or permission of the instructor

This course is designed to guide each student through the process of writing a research paper in early modern European history. You may choose any topic for which there are adequate sources so long as it falls within the period of roughly 1450-1700 in Western Europe. Here, you will have the opportunity actually to practice history: You will choose a topic according to your interests, research it by consulting primary and secondary sources, and present your findings in a well-organized written paper as well as in an oral presentation. Along the way, we will discuss how to develop a workable topic, how to select primary sources and what kinds of questions they can answer (and not answer), and how to integrate your findings from primary sources with the information and approaches you will gain from secondary literature. While your paper will be your own, we will explore all of these issues as a group. Each member of the seminar will contribute his/her ideas to this process, so that through mutual help and constructive criticism, each student will produce a truly superlative work. Hopefully, we’ll also have fun.

History majors are required to take at least one research seminar to graduate, but students from any major who would like the experience of writing a research paper in early modern European history are also welcome to enroll.

History of Public Policy and Law majors may also use this seminar to satisfy their research requirement, so long as they choose a topic that addresses some aspect of public policy, law, and/or civil society.