Medieval and Renaissance archives are filled with long paper trails of criminal activity. As European states grew more powerful, centralized and bureaucratized so too did their ability to more closely control criminality, record the judicial process and dispense punishment. It was through this criminal process that many individuals who would normally never appear in a medieval record emerge onto the historical stage. Not surprisingly, historians have mined these criminal records to illuminate all aspects of Medieval and, later, Renaissance life as the criminal records reveal information that goes beyond crime and into aspects of social, religious, cultural, and gender history among others. The goal of this class is twofold. First, to introduce students to the history of Medieval and Renaissance crime, law, justice and punishment. Second, to highlight the use of criminal records as highly valuable historical sources that allow us a window into a past too often silent.

**Required Books**


Trevor Dean, *Crime in Medieval Europe* (New York, 2001)


James Given, *Inquisition and Medieval Society* (Ithaca, 1997)

Mitchell Merback, *The Thief, the Cross and the Wheel: Pain and the Spectacle of Punishment in Medieval and Renaissance Europe* (Chicago, 1999)


Mary Elizabeth Perry. *Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville* (Princeton, 1990)


**Additional Readings available on e-reserve (password: Dostoyevsky)**

**Grades**

Class Participation: 10% (missing classes will affect this part of the grade. I expect every student to participate in every class)
Book Reviews: 2 X 15% each, 1000-1250 words. One book review will be based of the above secondary sources (due the day we discuss the book in class); the second book review will be based on a book directly related to your final paper (due Nov. 15th)
Lead a class discussion: 5%
Research or Historiography Paper Abstract: 5%
Final Research or Historiography Paper: 20-25 Pages 50% - Due Dec. 13th

Readings
All readings are to be done by the time of our weekly meetings.

Aug. 30: Introduction
Class Introduction

Sept. 6: Medieval Crime
Trevor Dean, Crime in Medieval Europe (New York, 2001)

Sept 13: Medieval Law
Anthony Musson, Medieval Law in Context: The Growth of Legal Consciousness from Magna Carta to the Peasants’ Revolt (New York, 2001)

Sept 20: Canon Law

Sept 27: Inquisition and the Law
James Given, Inquisition and Medieval Society: Power, Discipline and Resistance in Languedoc (Ithaca, 1997)

Oct. 4: Gender and Crime


**ABSTRACTS DUE**

**Oct. 11:** No Class

**Individual Meetings**

**Oct. 18:** Punishment – Introduction


**Oct. 25:** Corporal Punishment

Michael Merback, *The Thief, the Cross and the Wheel: Pain and the Spectacle of Punishment in Medieval and Renaissance Europe* (Chicago, 1998)

**Nov. 1:** Imprisonment


**Nov. 8:** History from Crime I


**Nov. 15:** History from Crime II

**BOOK REVIEWS DUE**

**Nov. 22:** RECESS – Thanksgiving Break

**Nov. 29:** History from Crime III
Mary Elizabeth Perry. *Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville* (Princeton, 1990)

**Dec 6:** No Class
 Finish Research Papers
 Individual Meetings as needed

**Dec. 13:** Class Wrap-Up
 Turn in Papers