



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

INSTITUT D'HISTOIRE  
DE LA RÉFORMATION

## Institut d'histoire de la Réformation



## SUMMER COURSE 2020

From 8 to 12 June

War: political, historical, theological justifications in the 16<sup>th</sup> century

University of Geneva

## Institut d'histoire de la Réformation

5 rue De-Candolle, CH – 1211 Genève 4

The Institut d'histoire de la Réformation is an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of Geneva specialising in the history of the Reformation era broadly understood. Research fields of its members range from the history of Biblical exegesis and of philosophy to socio-cultural and political history.

As well as its own library, the Institute houses the book and manuscript collections of the Musée Historique de la Réformation (16,000 volumes) and is in close proximity to the University Library (over 1,5 million volumes of printed books and manuscripts) and the Geneva State Archives.

Located in the historic core of the University, the Institute provides excellent conditions for research in the above-mentioned subjects. Since 1999 it has been running an annual summer course for graduate students or recent post-docs in the fields of History, Philosophy, Literature and Theology.

## Course description and aims

The aim of the course is to deepen students' knowledge of a particular topic and to enable them to consider its wider implications via access to primary sources and working tools that are less readily available elsewhere. Particular attention will be paid to methods of studying intellectual history.

Throughout the course, students will have direct contact with faculty members. A certificate of successful completion will be issued on request, if there is clear evidence of active participation in the afternoon seminars and of careful reading of assigned texts. Students in a Master's program may receive a certain number of credits. These could be conditional on extra assignments, depending on the requirements of their own university.

Applicants can combine, if possible, attending the course with a longer stay devoted to their own research. The Institute may offer financial assistance for those whose own resources or university programs do not permit them to pay for a longer stay in Geneva, of course only to the extent that such a stay is necessary for their research.

# Summer Course 2020

## **War: political, historical, theological justifications in the 16<sup>th</sup> century**

June 8-12, 2020

Instructors: Paul-Alexis Mellet, Ueli Zahnd

War deeply marks the European areas in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Religious wars (France), wars of national liberation (Netherlands), wars of conquest (America) etc... War is everywhere at all times. And as it doesn't come alone, it is joined by the development of diplomatic and military practices, specific literatures, appropriate behaviours, rules for narratives, as well as political and religious theories, and most of all, multiple justifications.

Does the war led within Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, war that is as political as religious, present a particular originality? How is it led and related? What justifications does it offer and what reactions does it generate? What aesthetics does it produce? In which conditions is war preferable to peace? These questions will be treated with a crossing approach in cultural history and intellectual history. From the "holy warriors" to the "just war" theory (Sainte Augustine), from the great interdenominational massacres (St. Bartholomew) to the daily subtle forms of violence (Anabaptists), from the conditions of the return to peace to the conditions of a "just" and accepted peace (pacification edicts): we will provide an overview of wars within and outside Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, by focussing on studies of historians, theologians, linguists, art historians and philosophers.

This course will less focus on the conflicts themselves (trenches, sieges, prisoners, etc.) and more attention will be paid to their political, historical and theological justifications, their representations (songs, etchings, true narratives, etc.), and the reactions they generate (defence of justice and peace, condemnation of certain acts of war, etc.). The aim is to highlight the idea that besides its destructive nature, war paradoxically constitutes a powerful factor for intellectual innovation (Monarchomac theory, humanity of Indiana, natural law, etc.).

# Programme

*Monday 8 June:* Introduction – “The justifications for wars. Excuses and constraints.”

(Paul-Alexis Mellet and Ueli Zahnd)

- Seminar — Study of selection of relevant texts.

*Tuesday 9 June:* Religious wars linked to Reforms. Schmalkalde, massacres.

(Paul-Alexis Mellet and Ueli Zahnd)

- Seminar — Study of selection of relevant texts.

*Wednesday 10 June:*

- Presentation by the participants of their doctoral researches in progress.

*Thursday 11 June:* The issue of Indians. From Valladolid to Grotius (natural law).

(Ueli Zahnd).

- Seminar — Study of selection of relevant texts.

*Friday 12 June:* The Monarchomachists. Armed resistance and alliances (Paul-

Alexis Mellet).

- Seminar — Study of selection of relevant texts.

## Linguistic requirements

Instruction will take place in French and English. All candidates are required to have sufficient competence in both languages to follow lectures. They may take part in discussion in either language. Working knowledge of Latin may also be required for some modules. Those who feel uncertain about their level of linguistic competence should contact one of the faculty members before applying.

## Funding

The admission to the course takes the form of a residential stay scholarship that corresponds to the payment of lodging and half-board fee (lunch and breakfast during the course days). **The institute will not be able to contribute towards the travel costs of applicants.**

## Application

A duly application form must be completed on our Web page <https://www.unige.ch/ihr/fr/presentation1/coursete/> by **2 March 2020**. Please note that the following documents must be attached to the online formular:

- a brief statement indicating your reasons for applying for the course,
- a curriculum vitae,
- a brief outline of the doctoral dissertation or post-doctoral research work whenever relevant,
- and two signed recommendation letters (PDF).

All applications will be reviewed, and candidates will be notified of their acceptance or rejection of the program by **31 March 2020**.

As soon as the candidates receive the notification of their acceptance, they are committed to attend the whole course. Before applying, candidates have to measure their involvement and availabilities depending on their agenda. Late

cancellation (less than one month before the beginning of the course) or early departure will lead to an exclusion of the applicant from the future courses organised by the Institut. For organisational reasons, cancellation fee will apply in case of non-motivated and late withdrawal.

Nota bene: students who have completed an Institute summer course in the past, do not need to provide recommendation letters but they do need to complete the online application form on our website.

## Instructors

**Paul-Alexis Mellet**, Bachelor, Master I and II in Philosophy (Sorbonne-Paris IV), *agrégation* in History (Sorbonne-Paris I), PhD degree in History (Tours-CESR), accreditation to supervise research (Sorbonne-Paris IV). Professor at the Institut d'histoire de la Réformation. Areas of expertise: early modernity in the fields of theological-political history, the history of the book and the history of religious practices.

**Ueli Zahnd**, studies in Theology and Philosophy (Bern and Paris), MAS in Reformed studies (Geneva), PhD degree in medieval philosophy (Freiburg im Breisgau). Professor at the Institut d'histoire de la Réformation. Areas of expertise: the intellectual history of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, their traditions of thought and the continuity between the late Middle Ages and the Reformation. Apart from the traditional methods of intellectual history, UZ explores the approaches of digital humanities.