

Second Paper: Topics

Requirements

- 1) Write an essay in response to ONE of the topics below. Your paper must be 1250 words (around five pages) long, using 12-point font and one inch margins. All students should submit the paper online on the class site, in pdf or word format, by 11:59pm on 4/8.
- 2) Your paper must be computer-processed. Please give your paper a title, and write your name on the back of the last page. Do not write your name elsewhere on the paper. All pages should be numbered. Refer to the editing handout or Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*, posted on the class web site, for further editing suggestions. You may also consult with tutors at the Writing Center or with Professors Ravel or McCants about your paper.
- 3) Citations to texts read in this course should be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to a passage on page 13 of Pettegree's *The Book in the Renaissance*, indicate this in the following manner at the end of your sentence, after the period: (Pettegree, 13). Full citations to any work not assigned in class should be made in footnote or endnote form, but for this paper you do not need to consult any outside readings.

Topics

- 1) What role did reading play in shaping the views that Menocchio expressed during his two trials before the Inquisition in 1584 and 1599? In your paper, analyze two or three of the positions he took in these trials on theological matters and/or social hierarchy in Friulia. To what extent did his thinking on these questions derive from the list of books he read provided by Carlo Ginzburg in Chapter 12 of *The Cheese and the Worms*?
- 2) The year is 1600. Imagine that you are a male or female parishioner in Montereale, or have otherwise known Domenico Scandella (Menocchio) for many years. You have just received the news of Scandella's execution by the Inquisition for heresy. Write a journal entry, or a letter to a friend, in which you reflect on the trial and execution. Are you in agreement with the verdict reached by the inquisitors? (Hint: you may want to adopt the persona of one of the people who testified before the Inquisition in 1584 or 1599, as recorded in the trial documents. You may also make up an imaginary contemporary of Menocchio, in which case you should explain who you are, and what you do in Montereale. Either way, your response should discuss specific views held by Menocchio, and specific interactions he may have had with your character.)

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