

PENITENTIAL LANGUAGE EXERCISE

Each student taking the course for a grade (rather than for R credit) is required to tackle a foreign language source, preferably in a language he or she needs for research purposes but has yet to master. Push yourself. If you can hack through an article in German, but have never tackled a book, go for the book. If you read French well, but need Italian, buy yourself a teach-yourself-Italian book and a dictionary and get to work on a classic. If you just started Swedish last week, find an interesting short article or articles to work on. Beyond actually doing the reading, students may fulfill the assignment in one of three ways, in decreasing order of preference, to be arranged in advance with the instructor.

- 1) The student gives a ten-minute class presentation of the work and its historiographical import, to be given on a day when the subject fits in with the common reading in some useful way. Given that you need time to read, this would have to be done in weeks 8-13.
- 2) Include the work or works in your final project.
- 3) Write a 1,500-word review of the work or works, due 15 December, 12:00 PM.

Please confirm a plan with the instructor by 15 October.