

University of Texas at Austin
Summer 2012
Session I (31 May-5 July)

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE, 1350-1550

HIS F343G (#85505) / EUS F346 (#84180) / RS F357 (# 87825) / WGS F340 (# 89205)
MTWTHF 8.30-10.00 IN GAR 1.126

Description. This upper-division course combines lecture, group work, and discussion to introduce the political, social, economic, and cultural phenomena that made the Italian peninsula such a lively place between 1350 and 1550. Drawing on a wide range of primary sources, we take a roughly chronological approach to cultural production in many realms of human experience, from politics and the economy, through religion and gender, to art, technology, and scholarship.

The course aims to teach the critical skills associated with analyzing historical evidence. By semester's end, you will have read selections from some influential and controversial works of this period, as well as a variety of archival documents; you will have learned some key terms to use when assessing Renaissance culture. You will be able to put texts and images in historical context, to describe how historians use them, and to explain why they remain compelling today.

This course carries a GLOBAL CULTURES FLAG: it aims to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the U.S., past and present, and to encourage your reflection on your own experiences in a global context.

This course has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of the subject, but students are presumed to be capable of critical reflection upon both lectures and readings.

Instructor: Professor Alison Frazier
Office Hours: T 10-11 and F 10-11 in GAR 2.148 (512 475 6375)
Email: akfrazier@austin.utexas.edu

Required Readings. Most of the required readings are posted on **Blackboard (bb)**. It is your responsibility to download them to your preferred device or to print them. In either case, **always** bring the reading to class.

Buy the following books—purchase the editions indicated—available at the Coop:

Boccaccio, *Decameron*, tr. Musa & Bondanella (Signet)
Castiglione, *Courtier*, tr. Bull (Penguin)
Machiavelli, *Mandragola*, tr. Flumenhaft (Waveland)

Evaluation and Grading.

- 1.) Map quiz (see handout). You need a perfect grade on the map quiz to pass the course. The same 14-item quiz will be given every Thursday during the first ten minutes of class all during Summer Semester 1 (= June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 5).
- 2.) Reading quizzes. Five short quizzes in a variety of formats will test and develop your grasp of our material. *4 quizzes at 5 points each = 20 points.*
- 3.) Short responses. Five short responses aim to foster critical thinking. Expect one a week; sometimes we'll do them in class. *4 responses at 10 points each = 40 points*
- 4.) Presentations. Each student will give one 3-minute oral presentation on a special aspect of our reading (see handout). The prof assigns topics and consults on preparation. Value this opportunity to practice public speaking. People who go early get special consideration. *1 response at 10 points = 10 points*
- 5.) Two exams. Five short answers for 5 points and 2 identification of passages (author, date, title, subject of passage) for 10 points. Exam I on June 15; Exam II on July 5. *2 exams at 15 points each = 30 points*

Policy on attendance, participation, and coursework

- 1.) Attend all class meetings and sign the daily sign-in sheet. After 2 absences, each subsequent absence subtracts 5 points from your grade. Absences due to illness must be documented.
- 2.) Participate wholeheartedly in all class sessions. It's hard to get an A in this class without *regular, thoughtful* contributions to discussion.
- 3.) Complete reading and writing assignments on time and in a way that demonstrates respect for the university, your professor, and yourself.

Dates to remember:	
1/5 June	Last day of official ADD/DROP
14 June	Exam I
20 June	Last day to change to/from CREDIT/NO CREDIT
4 July	Independence Day Holiday
5 July	Exam II

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

This schedule represents my current plans and objectives.
As we go through the semester, those plans may change
to enhance your opportunity for learning.
Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Th 31 May	Renaissance: what, when, where, why?
F 1 June	Plague: Causes and Effects <u>Prepare:</u> Giovanni Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i> , tba
M 4 June	Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-75): Moralist or Seducer? <u>Prepare:</u> Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i> , tba
T 5 June	Quiz 1. Boccaccio: Pro or Anti Woman? <u>Prepare:</u> Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i> , tba
W 6 June	Francesco Petrarca (1304-74): A Sense of Self <u>Prepare:</u> Petrarch, "Letter to Socrates"; "Letter to Posterity" (bb)
Th 7 June	Map quiz. Papal Politics: Avignon, Schism, Conciliarism <u>Prepare:</u> Avignon documents (bb)
F 8 June:	Petrarch: Can Rome be Renewed? <u>Prepare:</u> Petrarch, "Letter to Cola da Rienzo" (bb)
M 11 June:	Quiz 2. Petrarch: Imitation as (Self)Flattery? <u>Prepare:</u> "Letter on the Ascent of Mt. Ventoux" (bb)
T 12 June	Leonardo Bruni (c1370-1444) at Florence: Civic Humanism <u>Prepare:</u> Leonardo Bruni, "Panegyric" and associated documents (excerpts on bb)
W 13 June	Leon Battista Alberti (1404-72): Florentine Family Values I <u>Prepare:</u> Alberti, <i>Book of the Family</i> (excerpt on bb)
Th 14 June	Map quiz. Venice: La Serenissima <u>Prepare:</u> Marin Sanudo's panegyric of Venice (bb)

F 15 June	Exam I.
M 18 June	Isotta Nogarola (1418-66) of Venice: Scholasticism & Humanism <u>Prepare:</u> Nogarola, <i>Dialogue</i> (bb)
T 19 June	Quiz 3. Lorenzo Valla (1407-57) at Naples <u>Prepare:</u> Valla, <i>Declamation</i> (excerpt on bb)
W 20 June	The Ottoman Advance <u>Prepare:</u> Otranto documents (bb)
Th 21 June	Map quiz. The Italian Wars 1494-1559 <u>Prepare:</u> Documents on Military Matters (bb)
Fri 22 June	Isabella d'Este (1477-1539): Conspicuous Consumption at the Mantuan Court <u>Prepare:</u> Letters of Isabella d'Este (selections on bb)
M 25 June	Niccolò Machiavelli (1467-1527): Florentine Family Values II <u>Prepare:</u> Machiavelli, <i>Mandragola</i> .
T 26 June	Quiz 4. Baldassare Castiglione (1478-1529): Making the Perfect Courtier <u>Prepare:</u> Castiglione, <i>Courtier</i> tba
W 27 June	Castiglione: The Court Lady <u>Prepare:</u> Castiglione, <i>Courtier</i> tba
Th 28 June	Map quiz. Vittoria Colonna (1490-1547): A Reformation in Italy? <u>Prepare:</u> Colonna, <i>Sonnets for Michelangelo</i> (bb)
F 29 June	Michelangelo Buonarrotti (1475-1564): Painting for Popes <u>Prepare:</u> Vasari, <i>Lives of the Artists</i> , preface to part III (bb)
M 2 July	Quiz 5. Pietro Aretino (1492-1556): Piety and Pornography <u>Prepare:</u> Aretino, <i>Master of the Horse</i> (bb)
T 3 July	Catch up. Bring draft of timeline to class. Discuss Exam II.
W 4 July	HOLIDAY
Th 5 July	Map quiz; Exam II

More Information

Policy on Blackboard and Electronic Devices. I use the course web site on Blackboard to post readings, instructions, and announcements. Check the site often for new information. Activate the link that feeds announcements directly to your email account. It is your responsibility to maintain a functioning email account linked to Blackboard.

Read university policy at: <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify/html>

All students have the right to learn in a supportive environment: don't let your use of a laptop or mobile device distract others. Laptops and messaging devices may be used, WITHOUT ANY SOUND, during lectures or class discussions **only** for note-taking or instructor-directed web-surfing.

To record audio or visuals of lectures you must have a written consent from the professor.

Policy on Religious Holy Days. Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. It is the policy of UT-Austin that you must notify each of your instructors at least 14 days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent. If you must miss a class for a religious holy day, you will have an opportunity to make up any missed work.

Policy on Special Accommodations. At the beginning of the semester, students who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office. Contact the SSD Office at 471 6259.

Read more at: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Policy on Academic Integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Read details at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>

The General Information Catalog at the University of TX Austin states, "After a grade has been reported to the registrar, it may not be changed unless an error was made by the instructor."

Undergraduate Writing Center & Sanger Learning Center. Your student fees pay for these services:

The Sanger Learning Center (<http://www.lifelearning.utexas.edu/>) provides free individualized assistance with such topics as time management, in-class notetaking, reading efficiency, etc.

The Undergraduate Writing Center (<http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/>) offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. See also the UWC handouts on common writing problems (<http://projects.uwc.utexas.edu/handouts/>).