

University of Texas at Austin
Summer 2013
Session 2 (15 July-16 August)

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE, 1350-1550

HIS F343G (#85455) / EUS S346 (#84085) / RS S357 (# 87525) / WGS S340 (# 88990)
MTWTHF 8.30-10.00 IN CLA 0.122

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 influential and controversial works of this period, as well as a variety of archival documents; you will have looked at images and objects; and you will have learned some key terms to use when assessing Renaissance culture. You will be able to put texts, images, and objects 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: Th 10-12 & by apptmt in GAR 2.148 (512 475 6375)
Email: akfrazier@austin.utexas.edu

A. Required Readings. Many of the required readings are posted on **Blackboard (bb)**. It is your responsibility to print them or to download them to your preferred device (other than a smartphone). 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. Flumenhauf (Waveland)
Vasari, *Lives of the Artists*, tr. Bondanella & Bondanella (Oxford)

B. 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 Wednesday* during the first ten minutes of class (= July 17, 24 and 31; August 7 and 14). It will also be given on the First and Second Exam days (1 & 16 August).
- 2.) Reading quizzes. Five short quizzes in a variety of formats will test and develop your grasp of our material. I'll keep your top four. **4 quizzes at 5 points each = 20 points.**
- 3.) Short responses. Five short responses aim to foster critical thinking. Expect one a week; mostly we'll do them in class. I'll keep your top four. **4 responses at 5 points each = 20 points**
- 4.) Oral presentations (see handout). Each student will give two oral presentations. The first is a 3-5 minute presentation on our daily reading. This presentation will be part of our class discussion about that reading. The second is a 5-10 minute presentation going into more depth about one of our topics. The prof assigns a question for the first presentation; you consult with the prof on the subject of the second presentation. Value this opportunity to practice public speaking. People who go early get special consideration. See the handout for details. **Short presentation @ 10 points + long presentation @ 20 points = 30 points**
- 5.) Two exams. Exams consist of two parts: A) five short answers for 5 points, and B) two identification of passages (author, date, title, subject/significance of passage) for 10 points. Exam I on 1 August; Exam II on 16 August. **2 exams at 15 points each = 30 points**
- 6.) Class participation. Your final grade may move up or down by as much as **10 points** depending on the quality and frequency of your class participation. See below C2.

C. 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 asap.
- 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 all reading, writing, and speaking assignments on time and in a way that demonstrates respect for the university, your professor, and yourself.

Dates to remember:

16/18 July	Last day of official DROP/ADD
1 August	Exam I
2 August	Last day to change to/from CREDIT/NO CREDIT
16 August	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.

WEEK 1

- M 15 July When? Where? Why? Finding the Italian Renaissance
- T 16 July 1347-48: The Renaissance of Plague
 Prepare: Giovanni Boccaccio, *Decameron*, tba
- W 17 July **Map quiz.** Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-75): Frames
 Prepare: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, tba
- Th 18 July **Quiz 1.** Boccaccio: Characters
 Prepare: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, tba
- F 19 July Francesco Petrarca (1304-74): A New Sense of Self?
 Prepare: Petrarch, "Letters to Socrates"; "Letter to
 Posterity"; "Letter to Cicero" (bb)

WEEK 2

- M 22 July Petrarch: Can Rome be Renewed?
 Prepare: "Letter to Cola di Rienzo" (bb)
- T 23 July **Quiz 2.** Petrarch: Imitation as (Self) Flattery?
 Prepare: Petrarch, "Letter on the Ascent of Mt. Ventoux"
 (bb)
- W 24 July **Map Quiz.** Leonardo Bruni (c1370-1444) at Florence: Civic
Humanism
 Prepare: Leonardo Bruni, "Panegyric" and associated
 documents (all on bb)
- Th 25 July Leon Battista Alberti (1404-72): Florentine Family Values 1
 Prepare: Alberti, *Book of the Family* (excerpt on bb)
- F 26 July *La Serenissima*: The Myth of Venice
 Prepare: Terpstra article (tba)

WEEK 3

- M 29 July Isotta Nogarola (1418-66) of Venice: Scholasticism & Humanism
Prepare: Nogarola, *Dialogue* (bb)
- T 30 July **Quiz 3.** Aldus Manutius (1449-1515) of Venice: The Dolphin & Anchor
Prepare: Grafton article (tba)
- W 31 July **Map quiz.** Catch up & Review for Exam 1
- Th 1 August **Exam 1.**
- F 2 August No class meeting.

WEEK 4

- M 5 August Lorenzo Valla (1407-57) from Naples to Rome
Prepare: Valla, *Declamation* (excerpt on bb)
- T 6 August The Fall of Constantinople (1454) & the Capture of Otranto (1480)
Prepare: Documents on Military Matters 1 (bb)
- W 7 August **Map quiz.** The Italian Wars 1494-1559 & The Sack of Rome (1527)
Prepare: Documents on Military Matters 2 (bb)
- Th 8 August Isabella d'Este (1477-1539): Conspicuous Consumption at a Small Court
Prepare: Letters of Isabella d'Este (selections on bb)
- F 9 August **Quiz 4.** Baldassare Castiglione (1478-1529): The Perfect Courtier
Prepare: Castiglione, *Courtier* tba

WEEK 5

- M 12 August **Quiz 5.** Niccolò Machiavelli (1467-1527): Florentine Family Values II.
Prepare: Machiavelli, *Mandragola*
- T 13 August Vittoria Colonna (1490-1547): A Reformation in Italy?
Prepare: Colonna, *Sonnets for Michelangelo* & ppt (bb)
- W 14 August **Map quiz.** Giorgio Vasari (1511-74): Inventing Art History
Prepare: Vasari, *Lives of the Artists*, tba
- Th 15 August Review for Exam II

F 16 August

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/>).