

University of TX at Austin – Fall Semester 2017

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE 1350-1550

His 343g (39500) / EUS 346 (36425) / RS 357 (43635) / WGS 340 (46865)

Prof. A.K. Frazier

Course description. This upper-division course mixes lecture, reading, writing, and discussion to explore the cultural movement known as the Italian Renaissance. Our focus this semester is on the Renaissance reception of classical moral philosophy.

Learning outcomes. This course aims to help you become more thoughtful analyst of continuity and change in such contentious fields as politics, gender, and religion. By semester's end, you will have read some of the most influential and controversial works from this period. You will be able to put them in historical context and explain why they remain compelling today.

Prerequisites. 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.

How to succeed in this course. Prepare the reading assignments carefully. Participate fully in class: include everyone, listen to fellow students, introduce questions, forward discussion, engage with in-class writing assignments, and complete take-home writing assignments thoughtfully.

This course carries flags in both GLOBAL CULTURES and ETHICS. □

The GLOBAL CULTURES flag draws your attention to cultural groups outside the United States. A substantial portion of your grade comes from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of the Italian peninsula centuries before the United States existed and before “nations” as we know them had been invented.

The ETHICS flag encourages your awareness of moral complexity in a premodern society. A substantial portion of your grade comes from assignments involving ethical issues posed by competing value systems, as works by classical philosophers were rediscovered, (re)translated, and widely circulated in a monotheistic culture.

Course readings. Our short readings are available on Canvas©, but I have ordered copies of:

Boccaccio, *Decameron* (Norton), tr. Rebhorn

Machiavelli, *Mandragola* (Waveland), tr. Flumenhauff

Castiglione, *Book of the Courtier* (Penguin), tr. Bondanella

Vasari, *Lives of the Artists* (Oxford), tr. Bull

These books are available for purchase at the Coop, and they are on reserve at PCL (ask at the front desk). Please use the suggested translations.

Assignments:

A map quiz – you must get a perfect score to pass the course (see handout), but the map quiz forms no part of your final grade.

Reading worksheets – you’ll complete and turn in via CANVAS a worksheet for nine secondary source readings. Nine worksheets = 50% of your final grade.

In-class writing assignments – you’ll write in class almost every meeting. Some of these projects will be graded and some won’t. Some will be individual and some will be in pairs or groups. On occasion you’ll revise your classroom draft at home. In-class writing = 50% of your final grade.

There are no exams in this course.

I reserve the right to grade up or down depending on the quality of your participation.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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

(C) = CANVAS

WEEK 1

W 30 Aug. *Introductions*

Weeks 2-3: BOCCACCIO

M 4 Sept Labor Day holiday

W 6 Sept Prepare: *Boccaccio, Decameron, author’s preface & introduction; Day 1 stories 1 & 2*

M 11 Sept Prepare: *Boccaccio, Decameron: Day 10 story 10*

W 13 Sept Prepare: *Boccaccio, Decameron: Day 2 story 7.*

Prepare: Reading Worksheet #1: TBA

Week 4: ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

M 18 Sept Prepare: Reading Worksheet 2: on Lorenzetti’s frescos (TBA)

W 20 Sept Prepare: primary documents on Ciompi revolt (C)

Weeks 5-6: FRIENDSHIP: A MORAL GOOD

M 25 Sept Prepare: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (excerpts), tr. Leonardo Bruni (C)

	Prepare: Cicero, <i>On Friendship</i> (excerpts)
W 27 Sept.	Prepare: <i>Petrarch</i> , Letters to Friends (excerpts)
M 2 Oct	Prepare: Catherine of Siena, Letter (C)
	Prepare: Reading Worksheet # 4 (TBA)
W 4 Oct	Prepare: Luca della Robbia, Narrative (C)

Weeks 7-8: HUMANITIES vs CHRISTIANITY?

M 9 Oct.	Prepare: Valla, <i>On the Donation of Constantine</i> , pp TBA
W 11 Oct.	Prepare: Valla, <i>On the Donation of Constantine</i> , pp TBA
M 16 Oct.	Prepare: Nogarola, <i>On Assigning Blame in Eden</i> (c)
W 18 Oct.	Prepare: Reading Worksheet #5 (TBA)

WEEKS 9-10: ETHICS IN THE FAMILY

M 23 Oct.	Prepare: Ps.-Aristotle, <i>Economics</i> (excerpts), tr. Leonardo Bruni
W 25 Oct.	Prepare: Alberti, <i>On the Family</i> (excerpts)
	Prepare: Reading Worksheet #6 (TBA)
M 30 Oct	Prepare: Machiavelli, <i>Mandragola</i>
W 1 Nov	Prepare: Machiavelli, <i>Mandragola</i>

WEEKS 11: EPICUREANS & STOICS

M 6 Nov.	Prepare: Lucretius, <i>On the Nature of Things</i> (excerpt); Epicurus (excerpts)
W 8 Nov.	Prepare: Reading Worksheet #7 (TBA)

WEEK 12-13: PLATONIC ETHICS

M 13 Nov.	Prepare: Plato, <i>Symposium</i> (excerpts)
W 15 Nov.	Prepare: Castiglione, <i>Courtier</i> , pp TBA
M 20 Nov	Prepare: Castiglione, <i>Courtier</i> , pp. TBA
W 22 Nov	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEKS 14-15:

M 27 Nov.	Prepare: Vasari, <i>Lives of the Artists</i> , introductions
W 29 Nov.	Prepare: Vasari, <i>Lives of the Artists</i> , pp TBA
	Prepare: Reading Worksheet #8 (TBA)
M 4 Dec.	Prepare: Vasari, <i>Lives of the Artists</i> , on Michelangelo

W 6 Dec.

Prepare: *Michelangelo and Vittoria Colonna*, gifts

WEEK 16

M 11 Dec.

CONCLUSIONS: IN CLASS WRITING & DISCUSSION



EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Attendance:

I expect your regular, on-time attendance *every class*. Persistent tardiness will hurt your final grade. Absences will have the same effect.

Some absences are unavoidable, but you must provide documentation. Any written work due on those days must be submitted on schedule (by email attachment, if necessary).

For absences due to Harvey. Fill out the special absence form here:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/absencenotificationrequest.php>

For absences due to religious holy days, UT Austin policy requires that you notify me at least 2 weeks in advance. If you must miss an assignment, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work.

Plus / minus grading will be used in this class. A score rounds up at .5 or higher. In addition, I may adjust grading up or down to reflect individual effort over the arc of the semester.

Grading scale:

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	59 or lower	F

Communication:

CANVAS: I use the CANVAS information management system to record grades, post readings, and make announcements. It is your responsibility to keep your email address up-to-date with the University so that Canvas notifications reach you on time.

DEVICES: Every student has the right to learn in a supportive environment. During class, restrict your electronic devices to course materials only. Failure to comply with this UT Austin policy will hurt your final grade.

KEEP IN TOUCH! If you are having difficulty with the course or must be absent for a period due to personal issues, email for an office hours appointment. Your professor sincerely wants you to succeed.

EMAIL: Open your email with a salutation and close with your full name. In the email subject line, state clearly the topic of your communication. In any e-docs that you send me or post to Canvas, put at the top your full name, the date, the name of the course, and the title of the assignment.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS: Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Honor Code.

The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. *Plagiarism* (the unacknowledged use of others' words or ideas) is *dishonest, unfair, and disrespectful, as well as being grounds for failure in the course.* See www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs

Accommodations. Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations from services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Share your accommodations letter with me early in the semester so that I can respond most effectively. For information, call 512-471-6259 or use this website: <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>

The accommodation letter request form is here: https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8pEFQipZiaQ77St

Emergencies & Campus Carry.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050.

Campus carry for students: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu/students>

Information on emergency evacuation routes and procedures: www.utexas.edu/emergency

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

WRITING HELP

The Sanger Learning Center. All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialists, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas.

For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

The University Writing Center. The University Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT student, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>