



**PALAZZI FLORENCE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS
SAS - SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY
COURSE TITLE: HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE
COURSE CODE: LAHSIR330

3 Semester Credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course explores the meaning of the term 'Renaissance' when applied to the period of Italian history from circa 1350 to 1550. The subject will be approached from a variety of standpoints: social, political, economic, intellectual, scientific and artistic. The focus will be on the concept of Italian Renaissance Humanism and on the relationship between art and society during this period. Lectures will be supplemented by a number of visits to key historical sites in Florence.

2. OBJECTIVES

Through this course the students will become familiar with the different aspects of a period that exercises the minds of historians, artists, and philosophers to this day. Even though it is rather difficult to set precise dates for the beginning and end of the Renaissance - in fact, even the term Renaissance itself is under debate - the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries saw an astonishing amount of innovations in the arts, in the natural sciences, far-reaching geographical explorations, and important political changes that signal at the same time a return to the achievements to classical Antiquity and the beginning of modernity.

Since we explore the progress of this development in the city that is often called the birthplace of the Renaissance, we shall attempt to get as close as possible to the people whose lives and works we investigate by following them into some of the main churches, museums, and palaces of Florence.

3. REQUIREMENTS

No particular prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, and experiments in the Chemistry lab. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

5. TEXT BOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

Kaborycha, Lisa. *A Short History of Renaissance Italy*, Pearson, 2011.

The text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course.
Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

(Books in the list below are available in FUA library)

- Ash Ronald and Adolf M. Birke (eds.), *Princes, Patronage, and the Nobility: The Court at the Beginning of the Early Modern Age*, Oxford 1991.
- Black Robert (ed.), *Renaissance Thought. A Reader*, London, Routledge, 2001.
- Bouwsma William J., *The Waning of the Renaissance 1550-1640*, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 2000.
- Brown Alison, *The Renaissance*, second edition, London and New York, Longman, 1999.
- Brown, Patricia Fortini, *Venice and Antiquity: The Venetian Sense of the Past*, New Haven 1996.
- Bruckner Gene A., *Renaissance Florence*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1983.
- Burckhardt Jacob, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*, tr. S. G. C. Middlemore, intr. Peter Burke, London, Penguin, 1990.
- Burke Peter, *The Italian Renaissance: Culture and Society in Italy*, Princeton 1999.
- Cameron Euan, *The European Reformation*, Oxford 1991.
- Celenza Christopher M., *The Lost Italian Renaissance*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.
- Cochrane Eric, *Florence in the Forgotten Centuries, 1527-1800: A History of Florence and the Florentines in the Age of the Grand Dukes*, Chicago 1973.
- Duggan Christopher, *A Concise History of Italy*, Cambridge 1994.
- Findlen Paula, *Possessing Nature: Museums, Collecting, and Scientific Culture in Early Modern Italy*, Berkeley 1994.
- Goldthwaite Richard, *Wealth and the Demand for Art in Italy, 1300-1600*, Baltimore, 1993.
- Hay Denys and John E. Law, *Italy in the Age of the Renaissance, 1380-1530*, London and New York, 1989.
- Jardine Lisa, *Worldly Goods. A New History of the Renaissance*, London, Macmillan, 1996.

- Kent Dale, *Cosimo de Medici and the Florentine Renaissance*, New Haven 2000.
- Krayer Jill (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism*, Cambridge, 1996.
- Martines Lauro, *Power and Imagination: City States in Renaissance Italy*, New York. 1988.
- *Fire in the City: Savonarola and the Struggle for the Soul of Renaissance Florence*, Oxford 2006.

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

The FUA library is located in Corso Tintori 21. Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times. Also, note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

Biblioteca Palagio di Parte Guelfa

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

Biblioteca delle Oblate

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation: www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

The Harold Acton Library at the British Institute of Florence

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

This course may include a field learning activity.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover all course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The instructor will communicate the exact amount on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance

15% Class Participation, Home Assignments and Reading

25% Mid Term Exam

20% Final Paper and/or Presentation

30% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C-=70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the FUA academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

On the **second absence**, the attendance and participation grade will be impacted. Please note that missing certain field learning activities may count for more than one absence.

On the **third absence**, the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade. (Example: Final grade average of 93% or A will become a B).

The fourth absence constitutes automatic failure of the course. Students with excessive absences will be asked to withdraw with a W (if before the deadline) or leave the course with a WF.

Late Arrival and Early Departure

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

Travel (or delays due to travel) is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences he or she has in a course. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

Home Assignments

Home assignments aim at documenting your knowledge and understanding on specific aspects relating to the course topic. After each lecture, a question may be posted on the course's blog page (MyFUA) relating to the lecture. Students are expected to contribute a short, thoughtful response. Responses must be posted before the start of the next lecture (all posts are time stamped, late postings (after 9 am) will not be accepted). Be creative, in addition to your short text you can post pictures and videos if you'd like.

Reading and quizzes

Reading of the text book is mandatory for successful completion of the course, further reading is highly recommended. Regular reading quizzes have been designed to ensure that you are completing the reading and engaging in active learning and critical thinking about course concepts outside of class. They are also designed to help you prepare for the final exam in manageable increments. Quizzes may be open-note, which means you may use your notes to assist you in taking the quiz. Notes must be originals (not photocopied) and in your own handwriting. Quizzes will NOT be open book.

Paper/Presentation

The instructor will provide you with specific information concerning the paper/presentation topic and

length. Make sure your paper/presentation conforms to academic standards in terms of style and register. Your paper/presentation must include quotations and/or citations from scholarly books, journals, or articles. Your paper/presentation must be properly referenced and must include a bibliography. Evaluation will be based on the following criteria: Pertinence & Coverage; Analysis & Understanding; Organization & Structure; Language & Accuracy; References & Bibliography.

Exams

The Mid-term exam will take place on Lesson 7 whilst the Final Exam will take place on week 15. Note, **the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason**, so please organize your personal activities accordingly.

Format (for both exams): the exam is divided into three sections:

- Part I: 10 Multiple choice questions. Each correct answer is worth 2 points, for a total of 20 points.
- Part II: 10 short-answer questions. Each correct and complete answer (concise explanations, main ideas, key words, names, etc.) is worth 5 points, for a total 50 points.
- Part III: two essay questions; each correct and complete answer is worth 15 points (based on content, vocabulary, detail, etc.) for a total of 30 points.

Note, the instructor may select a different format. Please, refer to study guide.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Course overview, content, structure, assessment and expectations. The rise of the communes and Florence in the age of Dante. The crises of the fourteenth century: climatic, epidemic, demographic disasters.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Visit	Museo Casa di Dante (first and second floor)
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 1, pp. 1-18; Chapter 2, pp. 20-35.

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Humanism and the recovery of the classical past. Rome and the papacy. Petrarch: a passionate humanist.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 3, pp. 37-55; Chapter 4, pp.57-77.

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class

Lecture	Lords of the Renaissance: the Medici, Visconti, and Sforza Dynasties. Society, women, family and religion.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 5, pp. 79-97; Chapter 6, pp. 99-117.

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The <i>Mezzogiorno</i> : the “Other” Renaissance – Naples and Sicily. Antonello da Messina and Lorenzo Valla.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 7, pp.118-136.

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	La <i>Serenissima</i> – The Republic of Venice. Venetian identity, Bellini and Carpaccio.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 8, pp. 164-181.

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Life in Florence under Lorenzo the Magnificent and Giovanni Rucellai. Giovanni Pico della Mirandola.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Visit	Palazzo Rucellai (exterior façade), Museo Marino Marini (Santo Sepolcro), Chiesa di Santa Maria Novella (exterior façade).
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 9, pp.164-181 Review all reading assigned so far in view of the mid-term exam.

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Mid-term exam

Lesson 8	
Lecture	Academic break

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The first Italian war (1494-1498) - The beginning of the calamities of Italy. The Accademia Platonica, Niccolò Machiavelli and his <i>Il Principe</i> .
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 10, pp. 183-204. The instructor may assign additional reading.

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Time of turmoil – Paradoxes of the High Renaissance. Da Vinci's inventions: Flying machines and weapons of war.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Visit	Museo di Leonardo Da Vinci, Via dei Servi, 66/r
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 11, pp. 205-221. The instructor may assign additional reading.

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The sack of Rome and its Aftermath. Ludovico Ariosto's <i>Orlando Furioso</i> and the changing role of women.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 12, pp. 223-238.

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Reformations: political, religious and artistic upheaval. Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Benvenuto Cellini.
Homework/	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.

Assignments	
Visit	Walk from Loggia dei Lanzi to Ponte Vecchio (Cellini)
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 13, pp. 240-258.

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The “Imperial Renaissance” – Italy during the Pax Hispanica. Torquato Tasso and Veronica Franco.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 14, pp. 260-276.

Lesson 14	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The church vs. the scientific revolution. Galileo and the Inquisition.
Homework/ Assignments	The instructor will assign homework relevant to this class.
Reading	Textbook, Chapter 15, pp. 278-298.

Lesson 15	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final exam