

S225 The Florentine Renaissance

Instructor: Professor Mazzotta
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Office hours by appointment

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The origins, development, and maturation of the Renaissance in Florence. The city's political debates, ideals of education, Neoplatonic enthusiasms, literature, history and art. The Florentine Renaissance compared to those of Ferrara and Rome. Includes visits to Florence, Rome, and Ferrara.

I Required Texts

All required texts are available on classesv2. It is highly recommended that you print or download the texts prior to our departure for Siena so that you are sure to have access to them.

II Course Requirements

- A. Participation (10%)
Participation includes your active and engaged presence both in class, discussion section, and on our trips and excursions.
- B. Quizzes (10% each, 30% of total grade)
One mid-term quiz. A study guide will be distributed to help you prepare.
- C. Final paper (30%)
A final paper of 8-9 pages will be due at the end of the term. Suggestions for topics will be distributed throughout the course, though you are encouraged to come up with your own subject. Each student will consult with Professor Mazzotta on their choice of topic by at least the fourth week of the term.
- D. Final Exam (30%)
A final exam will be given at the end of the term. It will address all the material covered in the course to test for comprehension.

N.B.: Failure to receive a passing grade for any one section of the course (participation, quizzes, or final paper) will result in a failing grade in the course.

III Schedule

This class meets throughout the week, including time for on-site learning on various trips once a week. A few days a week are reserved for lectures and conversations with Professor Mazzotta on readings assigned for that day. The class will also meet in smaller groups specifically with the teaching assistant for discussions and three quizzes over the course of the program. Since one of the goals of this class is to introduce you both to the intellectual worlds of Renaissance Florence and its surrounding area, it is expected that the course schedule will be regularly altered to accommodate various field trips and excursions.

June

The Will and Imagination in Renaissance Thought

- 19 Pico della Mirandola, *Orazione De Dignitate Hominis* (*Oration on the Dignity of Man*)
- 20 Poliziano, *La Favola di Orfeo* (*The Fable of Orpheus*)
- 21 Valla, *Sul Libero arbitrio* (*On Free Will*); Luther and Erasmus, *Discourse on Valla's Free Will*)
- 22 Machiavelli, *Il Principe e I Discorsi* (*The Prince; The Discourses –selections.*)
- 23 Trip to Florence

Art and Poetry of the Renaissance

- 26 Nicholas of Cusa, *Sulla Sapienza; Sull'intelletto* (*The Layman on Wisdom and On The Mind*)
- 27 Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* (canti 1, 9, 10, 11, 23, 46); Michelangelo, sonetti; selections
- 28 Discussion of works by Ariosto and Machiavelli
- 29 Gaspara Stampa, Sonetti (Sonnets; selection); comparison with Michelangelo's.
- 30 Trip to Rome

First short paper due by Monday, July 3, 2017

Renaissance Ways of Knowing

July

- 3 Midterm Exam
 - 4 Alberti, *Della Pittura* (*On Painting*)
 - 5 Columbus, *Letters from the New World* (selections)
 - 6 Galileo Galilei, *Il messaggero*; selections (*The Celestial Messenger*)
 - 7 Giorgio Vasari, *Vite* (*Lives of the Artists*) (selections)
- 2nd short paper due

Renaissance Crisis & New Directions

- 10 Ariosto, *Il negromante* & Machiavelli, *Lamandragola*
- 11 Discussion of the relation between the two plays above.
- 12 Discussion of a utopian text *Campanella's Citta` del Sole* (*City of the Sun*)
- 13 2nd short paper due; continued discussion
- 14 Vico, *Autobiography*

- 17 Guest Lecturer on Renaissance: Art and Politics
- 18 Review of the major themes in the course
- 19 Final Exam
- 20 Movie on the Renaissance, followed by discussion
- 21 Final Paper Due