



AUF

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SYLLABUS

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Academic Affairs

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Florence University of the Arts (FUA) is an academic institution for study abroad in Florence, Italy. FUA collaborates with The American University of Florence (AUF), an international university offering US-style undergraduate and graduate degrees, in a cooperation to offer study abroad programs with a diverse breadth and depth of academic curriculum.

FUA study abroad programs may include AUF offerings, which are US-aligned in terms of higher education standards as per the university's institutional structure. Common courses offered by FUA and AUF have been jointly selected by both institutions as eligible for mutual recognition and delivery. As such, equal academic standards, credibility, and outcomes are vetted by the Academic Offices of the institutions for all courses and syllabi offered in the study abroad program.

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF 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, projects, and interaction with the local community. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, integrate relevant academic sources, may include multimedia references, propose creative problem-solving, and other appropriate forms of delivery as deemed appropriate to the course's purpose.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

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

The textbook is mandatory for course participation and completion. Where applicable additional materials may be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

- *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.
- Kraye 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.

LIBRARY

Course participants may access the campus library. Please consult the library site for resources such as collections, borrowing, scanning and wifi connection, and research:

<https://www.auf-florence.org/Library/the-library/>

6. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

7. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. If this course requires a fee, the exact amount is communicated prior to enrollment.

8. GRADING AND EVALUATION & ATTENDANCE

10% Attendance

30% Assignments

20% Midterm Assessment

20% Final Paper Project and Presentation

20% Final Exam

The above grade breakdown percentages reflect the grading scale standards in the "Grading and Evaluation System" section of the catalog.

Attendance

Class participation is mandatory. Based on the hours defined in the Academic Catalog's attendance policy, students may miss up to 2 class encounters delivered as lecture hours. A third absence constitutes a course failure.

Please note that absence hours may vary according to the learning methodology, as per the academic catalog policy on credit hours: https://catalog.auf-florence.org/standard_regulation

9. EXAMS / PROJECTS / ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments

Home assignments aim at documenting your knowledge and understanding on specific aspects relating to the course topics. Instructions for each assignment will be posted on a regular basis. For some assignments, the format may be a forum response to a question may be posted relating to the lecture. Students are expected to contribute a short, thoughtful post as well as a response to another peer's response. All posting must occur 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.

Midterm Assessment

This is a submission-based assessment designed to cover the first half of course topics. Submission standards and deadlines will be posted on the course site. The aim of the assessment is to review topic knowledge, clarity, and comprehension.

Paper Project / Presentation

The instructor will provide specific information concerning the paper/presentation topic and length. The project must conform to academic standards in terms of style and register, and include quotations and/or citations from scholarly books, journals, or articles. Evaluation will be based on the following criteria: Pertinence & Coverage; Analysis & Understanding; Organization & Structure; Language & Accuracy; References & Bibliography.

Final Exam

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 short answers and essay questions.

10. COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The rise of the communes and Florence in the age of Dante. 14th century crises: climatic, epidemic, demographic disasters. Humanism and the recovery of the classical past. Rome and the papacy. Petrarch: a passionate humanist.
Visit	Casa di Dante (exterior & Via Santa Margherita)
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 1, pp. 1-18; Chapter 2, pp. 20-35; Chapter 3, pp. 37-55; Chapter 4, pp.57-77.

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Lords of the Renaissance: the Medici, Visconti, and Sforza Dynasties. Society, women, family, and religion in Renaissance societies.
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 5, pp. 79-97; Chapter 6, pp. 99-117. Assignment 1: Evolution of Florence Part I in the age of Dante / analysis of selected texts by Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio / reviewing two generations of achievement and artistic patronage of a Renaissance family.

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The <i>Mezzogiorno</i> : the “Other” Renaissance – Naples and Sicily. Antonello da Messina and Lorenzo Valla.
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 7, pp.118-136. Assignment:

Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	La <i>Serenissima</i> – The Republic of Venice. Venetian identity, Bellini and Carpaccio. Final Project overview.
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 8, pp. 164-181. Assignment 2: Review of a pre-Renaissance culture that dominated Southern Italy / survey of selected Venetian Renaissance painters.

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Life in Florence under Lorenzo the Magnificent and Giovanni Rucellai. Giovanni Pico della Mirandola.
Visit	Palazzo Rucellai (exterior façade), Chiesa di Santa Maria Novella (exterior façade).

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The 1500s in Italy: The first Italian war (1494-1498) - The beginning of the calamities of Italy. The Accademia Platonica. Niccolò Machiavelli and <i>Il Principe</i> .
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 10, pp. 183-204.

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Time of turmoil – Paradoxes of the High Renaissance. Da Vinci's inventions: Flying machines and weapons of war.
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 11, pp. 205-221. Assignment 3: Depictions of the war based on a selected angle (protagonists depicted in art, Machiavelli, or the Accademia Platonica) / Leonardo depicted in the media, reflections on Leonardo's impact on contemporary society.

Lesson 8	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The Sack of Rome and its Aftermath. Ludovico Ariosto's <i>Orlando Furioso</i> . Baldassare Castiglione's <i>The Book of the Courtier</i> and the changing role of women.
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 12, pp. 223-238.

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Reformations: political, religious and artistic upheaval. Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Benvenuto Cellini.
Visit	Walk from Loggia dei Lanzi to Ponte Vecchio (Cellini)
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook, Chapter 13, pp. 240-258. Assignment 4: Focus on the Roman Renaissance and its palaces and/or artworks, or elements of the court life in the 1500s / evolution of Florence Part 3 focus on Vasari and Cellini.

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	The “Imperial Renaissance” – Italy during the Pax Hispanica. Torquato Tasso and Veronica Franco. The church vs. the scientific revolution. Galileo and the Inquisition. Final presentations.
Reading/ Assignments	Textbook: Chapter 14, pp. 260-276, 78-298. Submit final papers and presentation material.

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Final exam