This seminar will take the form of class discussions based on common reading and individual reports. So that each class can be a collective learning experience, students are asked to e-mail their reports to the other members of the seminar (and/or put them in the digital drop box on Blackboard) no later than noon of the Tuesday on which the seminar meets. Evaluators’ comments should be emailed and/or posted in the digital drop box by 9 p.m. on the same day (Tuesday). For the same reason, reading of assigned books and articles must be completed on time.

The following paperback books, all available in the bookstore, are required reading:

Brucker, Gene, Renaissance Florence
Machiavelli, Niccolo, Selected Political Writings, ed. David Wootton
Martines, Lauro, Power and Imagination

Much common reading will be done in books and periodicals on reserve. (Occasionally, a book will be on reserve for another seminar or course, as noted below.) Binders and folders containing additional copies of some readings are on the honors reserve shelves. Many readings are also online on Blackboard. Assignments for reports will be drawn from works on the bibliographies that are posted on Blackboard.

You should learn to read the shelves in the library and look through current periodicals. Journals particularly useful for the Renaissance include Renaissance Quarterly, Speculum, Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance, Journal of the History of Ideas, Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Renaissance and Reformation. Medievalia et Humanistica and Viator also contain some articles. You should also not neglect more general and specialized journals in history and cognate fields.

Useful bibliographies can be found in the Brucker and Martines books that you will purchase, in Renaissance Quarterly, and in the annual Bibliographie internationale de l'humanisme et de la Renaissance (Z6207.R4B5). For detailed narratives of European and Italian history during the period, consult Wallace K. Ferguson, Europe in Transition 1300-1520 (Honors Reserve for this seminar), and Eugene F. Rice, with Anthony Grafton, The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 2nd ed. (Honors Reserve for this seminar), while Thomas A. Brady et al., eds., Handbook of European History, 1400-1600, 2 vols. (D203 .H36 1994), takes a topical approach. Denys Hay and John Law, Italy in the Age of the Renaissance 1380-1530 (Honors Reserve for this seminar), treats the peninsula topically, and its notes suggest many additional readings.

The history department has implemented the following draconian policy on attendance: Students are required to attend all classes for the successful completion of the course. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

Schedule of Discussions

1. Interpretations of the Renaissance (3 Sept.)

Reading:
Jacob Burckhardt, The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy [1860], skim entire
Federico Chabod, chap. IV, “The Concept of the Renaissance” [1942] (pp. 149-200) of his Machiavelli and the Renaissance; view online at http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb01383;aclsbr=1
Erwin Panofsky, chap. 1, “Renaissance—Self-Definition or Self-Deception?” (pp. 1-41) of his Renaissance and Renascences in Western Art [1960]; view online at http://ets.umdl.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb01276;aclsbr=1
Lauro Martines, Power and Imagination [1979], preface (p. ix)
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28197902%2984%3A1%3C1%3ATRATDO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Q
Denys Hay, “Historians and the Renaissance during the last twenty-five years” [1982], in The Renaissance. Essays in Interpretation, pp. 1-32 (Blackboard)
Anthony Molho, “The Italian Renaissance, Made in the USA” (Blackboard)


2. Communes: Republics and Signorie (10 Sept.)

Reading:
Martines, Power and Imagination, chaps. I-VII and IX
Daniel Waley, The Italian City-Republics, 3rd ed.
Jacob Burckhardt, The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy, part I
Frederic Lane, Venice, A Maritime Republic, chaps. 8, 9, 16, 18
D. S. Chambers, The Imperial Age of Venice, Introduction and chaps. I-III
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28197902%2984%3A1%3C1%3AIOPAAP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-B
John Martin and Dennis Romano, “Reconsidering Venice” (Blackboard)
History 116, Italian Renaissance seminar, Autumn 2003


D. M. Bueno De Mesquita, “The Place of Despotism in Italian Politics,” in John Hale, ed., Europe in the Late Middle Ages, pp. 301-331 (Blackboard)

Werner Gundersheimer, Ferrara. The Style of a Renaissance Despotism, chaps. I, VIII (Blackboard)

Suggested:
John Hyde, Society and Politics in Medieval Italy, chaps. 1-4 and pp. 124-141

Papers will discuss 1) Venetian government as republican government and 2) the rise and consolidation of “despotic” rule. In class, we will discuss why signorial rule became so widespread, and the similarities and differences between “republics” and “tyrannies.”

Break: Lauren and Billy

3. Florence (17 Sept.)

Reading:
Brucker, Renaissance Florence, chaps. 1, 4, Epilogue
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28197902%2984%3A53%3C53%3AGRITFT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-2
Samuel Cohn, The Laboring Classes in Renaissance Florence, chaps. 6 and 9 (Blackboard)
Richard Trexler, Public Life in Renaissance Florence, “The Framework of Ritual” (pp. 1-8), and chaps. 1 and 10 (Blackboard)
David Herlihy and Christiane Klapisch-Zuber, Tuscans and their Families, chap. 2

Reports will examine 1) the rise and perpetuation of Medici rule; and 2) the regimes that followed the fall of the Medici in 1494: why was republican rule not durably re-established?

In seminar, we will discuss why the pre-Medicean guild republic failed; compare Florence and Venice as republican (?) regimes; and evaluate whether Medici rule should be considered a form of signorial regime.

Break: Andrew steel and Danny


Reading:
Burckhardt, Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy, parts II and V
5. Recent Approaches to Renaissance Social History (1 Oct.)

Reading:

Brucker, *Renaissance Florence*, chap. 2
Martines, *Power and Imagination*, chap. X

Judith Brown, “Prosperity or Hard Times in Renaissance Italy?” *Renaissance Quarterly*, vol. 42 (1989), pp. 761-773 only
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0034-4338%28198924%2942%3C761%3APOHTIR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5

Richard Goldthwaite, *Wealth and the Demand for Art in Italy*, part I (pp. 12-67) one of the following (all are on Honors Reserve) and at least one critical review of the book you choose:

Robert Bonfil, *Jewish Life in Renaissance Italy*
Philip Gavitt, *Charity and Children in Renaissance Florence: the Ospedale degli Innocenti, 1410-1536*
James Grubb, *Provincial Families in the Renaissance. Private and Public Life in the Veneto*
Louis Haas, *The Renaissance Man and His Children. Childbirth and Early Childhood in Florence, 1300-1600*
John Henderson, *Piety and Charity in Late Medieval Florence*
Thomas Kuehn, *Law, Family and Women: Toward a Legal Anthropology of Renaissance Italy*
Anthony Molho, *Marriage Alliance in Late Medieval Florence*
Franco Mormando, The Preacher’s Demons: Bernardino of Siena and the Social Underworld of Early Renaissance Italy
Michael Rock, Forbidden Friendships: Homosexuality and Male Culture in Renaissance Florence
Nicholas Terpstra, Confraternities and Civic Religion in Renaissance Bologna

Each member of the class will write a critique of the book she or he has chosen, focusing on how and how well the work addresses important themes in Renaissance history.

Class discussion will also examine the state of the Renaissance economy.

6. Early Humanism (8 Oct.)

Reading:
Burckhardt, Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy, part III, chaps. I-III
Paul Oskar Kristeller, Renaissance Thought, chaps. 1 and 5
Jerrold Seigel, Rhetoric and Philosophy in Renaissance Humanism, chaps. 6-8 and conclusion (skim the rest)
Charles Trinkaus, In Our Image and Likeness, vol. 1 Foreword (pp. xiii-xxvi), and vol. 2, pp. 761-774 (skim other chapters according to your interests)
Eugenio Garin, Italian Humanism, chap. 1
Petrarch, “A Self-Portrait,” “Ascent of Mont Ventoux,” “On His Own Ignorance...,” and “Disapproval of...Dialectic,” all in Cassirer, Renaissance Philosophy of Man, pp. 34-139 [another copy on Honors Reserve for Religion 106]
J. H. Robinson, Petrarch, The First Modern Man of Letters, pp. 239-252, 384-396
Petrarca, Rerum Familiarium Libri I-VIII, ed. Bernardo (vol. 1), letters I.3, I.9, III.12 (pp. 22-24, 47-50, 145-147) (Blackboard)
Petrarca, Rerum Familiarium Libri XVII-XXIV, ed. Bernardo (vol. 3), letters XXII.10, XXIV.6-9 (pp. 232-233, 326-335) (Blackboard)

Suggested:

Discussion to evaluate accounts about the beginnings and definitions of humanism, and to define Petrarch’s humanism.

7. Civic Humanism (22 Oct.)
Reading:
Martines, Power and Imagination, chap. XI
Burckhardt, Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy, part III, chap. IV
selections from Coluccio Salutati in Ephraim Emerton, Humanism and Tyranny, pp. 290-308, 312-341 (Blackboard)
Hans Baron, The Crisis of the Early Italian Renaissance (1966 ed.), Introduction, chap. 1, Epilogue (pp. xxv-xxviii, 3-11, 443-462) (Blackboard)
Lauro Martines, The Social World of the Florentine Humanists, chaps. II, VII
Leonardo Bruni, “Panegyric to the City of Florence,” in The Earthly Republic, ed. Kohl and Witt, pp. 121-175
Bruni, “Dialogues,” in The Humanism of Leonardo Bruni, ed. Griffiths et al., pp. 63-84 (Blackboard)

Reports on interpretations and critiques of civic humanism, and on whether humanism outside Florence had a civic flavor.

8. Themes and Genres in Quattrocento Humanism (29 Oct.)

Reading:
Burckhardt, Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy, Part III, chaps. V-XI
selection from Salutati in Ephraim Emerton, Humanism and Tyranny, pp. 346-377 (Blackboard)
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0031-2746%28198208%290%3A96%3C51%3AHATSOG%3E2.0.CO%3B2-N
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-5037%28198701%2F03%290%3A1%3C11%3AAVMAIH%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0018-246X%28198512%2928%3A4%3C799%3A%27DIVOT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-8

Papers on 1) humanist education and 2) humanism and gender.

9. Apogee (?) and Crisis of Renaissance Thought (5 Nov.)

Reading:
Burckhardt, Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy, parts IV, VI
Brucker, Renaissance Florence, chap. 5
Martines, Power and Imagination, chaps. XII, XIV-XVI
Kristeller, Renaissance Thought, chaps. 2 and 3
Ficino, “Commentary on Plato’s ‘Symposium’,” in Renaissance Views of Man, pp. 31-61 (Blackboard)
Baldesar Castiglione, The Courtier (trans. Singleton), Dedication, First Book; Second Book, sections 6-12; Third Book, sections 3-17; Fourth Book, sections 19-23, 31-33, 51-52, 57, 67-70
Denys Hay, The Church in Italy in the Fifteenth Century, chaps. 4-6

Reports on 1) Renaissance Platonism, 2) religion in Renaissance Italy.

10. Machiavelli and Political Thought (12 Nov.)

Reading:
Machiavelli, Selected Political Writings, entire
Martines, Power and Imagination, chap. VIII
two of the following (all are on Honors Reserve):
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_ideas/v060/60.4geerken.html

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_ideas/v060/60.4najemy.html

Hanna Pitkin, *Fortune is a Woman*, chap. 6 (on Honors Reserve for Political Science 100, Political Theory)


Harvey Mansfield, “Bruni and Machiavelli on Civic Humanism,” in *Renaissance Civic Humanism*, ed. James Hankins, chap. 8


Discussion of Machiavelli's political thought.

11. The Development of Historical Consciousness in Renaissance Italy (19 Nov.)

Reading:

Dino Compagni's *Chronicle of Florence*, at least Prologue, Book I, Book III, chaps. 1-2, 12-15, 19, 22-23, 37-42

J. Villani, *Chronicle*, at least Book I, chaps. 1, 2, 7, 38, 60, Book III, chap. 1, Book VI, chap. 53 (pp. 1-6, 27-30, 39-41, 59-62, 161-162) and skim the rest

the selections from Bruni’s *History of Florence* published in *Humanism and Liberty*, ed. Watkins, pp. 27-91

Machiavelli, *Florentine Histories* (also titled *History of Florence*), Preface; Book II, chaps. 1, 2, 12, 13, 42; Book III, chaps. 1, 5; Book IV, chaps. 1, 2, 33; Book V, chaps. 1, 33; Book VIII, chaps. 1-9, 36


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Reports on 1) humanist influences on historical writing and 2) the contributions of Machiavelli and Guicciardini to historiography.

Class discussion: comparison of chroniclers and historians.

12. Art and Society (3 Dec.)

Reading:
Martines, Power and Imagination, chap. XIII
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0034-4338%28199822%2951%3A2%3C392%3AWDTRPB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-V

One of the following (all are on Honors Reserve) and at least one critical review of the book you choose:

- Francis Ames-Lewis, The Intellectual Life of the Early Renaissance Artist
- Cristelle Baskins, “Cassone” Painting, Humanism, and Gender in Early Modern Italy
- Bruce Cole, Italian Art, 1250-1550: The Relation of Renaissance Art to Life and Society (Honors Reserve: Art History 151)
- Mary Hollingsworth, Patronage in Renaissance Italy. From 1400 to the Early Sixteenth Century
- Deborah Howard, Jacopo Sansovino: Architecture and Patronage in Renaissance Venice
- Philip Jacks and William Caferro, The Spinelli of Florence: Fortunes of a Renaissance Merchant Family
- Bram Kempters, Painting, Power and Patronage
- Catherine King, Renaissance Women Patrons: Wives and Widows in Italy c. 1300-1550
- Randolph Starn and Loren Partridge, Arts of Power: Three Halls of State in Italy, 1300-1600
- Martin Wackernagel, The World of the Florentine Renaissance Artist: Projects and Patrons, Workshop and Art Market
- Evelyn Welch, Art and Society in Italy 1350-1500 (Honors Reserve: Art History 151)

Each student will write a critical review of the book she or he has read, focusing on the way that it explores and explains the relationship between art and society during the Renaissance.

13. Your Renaissance Topic (10 Dec.)

You are to report on an Italian Renaissance subject of your choice that has NOT been covered in the seminar. You should outline the most important questions concerning your subject and create a bibliography of both the classic and the most current scholarship on them. A summary of each report will be given in class.

14. Final Examination in class period (17 Dec.)