

The Renaissance HIST 335

Dr. Allyson Poska

Monroe 226 x1478

Office Hours: MWF 2-3pm TR 1-2pm

aposka@umw.edu

This class will examine some of the important developments in politics, economics, the arts, and society that have become known as the Renaissance. The class will focus on Italy, as the Italian peninsula has come to be closely associated with the notion of Renaissance. The goal of this class is to provide you with a general understanding of the idea of the Renaissance as understood by a variety of disciplines including history, art history, and literature and the experience of living during this vibrant era.

Course Objectives and Goals:

- Comprehension of historical processes
- Ability to write with clarity about the past
- Ability to read critically primary sources and modern authorities

This course counts for credit in the history major and is a support class for International Affairs

Course requirements:

TESTS: Course requirements include a midterm (20%) and a final exam (20%). During the third class period, EVERYONE will take a map quiz of the Italian peninsula. You must retake the quiz until you get 90%. Either you receive above a 90 or you receive a zero. After that, you will have to take the quiz on your own time until the last day of classes. This quiz will be worth 5% of your grade.

PAPERS: You will also write two 5 page papers each worth 15%. The full assignment is at the end of the syllabus. Papers are due at the BEGINNING of the class. Computer breakdowns are NOT an excuse. Late papers (even one minute late) will be penalized one grade for each 24 hour period. Papers will be typed (in 12 point type), double-spaced, and will have 1" margins (note the default in WORD is 1.25). You must write five full pages to receive full credit.

Remember you must cite anything that is not your own idea, both direct quotes and paraphrases. If you have any questions about format or footnoting see *The Chicago Manual of Style* (available online at the library website). To avoid embarrassing errors, be sure to proofread your papers before turning them in. Remember, all your work is subject to the UMW honor code.

CLASS DISCUSSION: The rest of your grade (25%) will be determined by your participation in class discussion. You should come to class having completed the readings for the week and prepared to discuss them. You are not expected

to be brilliant each class period. Questions, comments, and thoughtful opinions are all crucial parts of classroom learning. You are encouraged to participate in whatever form that you are able.

LAPTOP and TABLET POLICY: Laptops and tablets may be used in the classroom for *notetaking only*. I reserve the right to prohibit laptop use at any time for any reason. Cellphones must be shut off and out of sight during class.

Students requiring special accommodations:

If you already receive services through the Office of Disability Services and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Please bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in the strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not contacted the Office of Disability Services and need special accommodations, please contact them at 540-654-1266.

Grade scale

A 95-100 A- 90-94 B+ 87-89 B 84-86 B- 80-83 C+ 77-79 C 74-76 C- 70-73 D+ 67-69 D 63-66

Students with an average of 69 or lower will receive an unsatisfactory on mid-semester reports

Books available for purchase:

Bartlett, Kenneth, *The Civilization of the Italian Renaissance: A Sourcebook*

Brucker, Gene. *Giovanni and Lusanna: Love and Marriage in Renaissance Florence*

Martines, Lauro. *April Blood: Florence and the Plot against the Medici*

Frick, Carole Collier. *Dressing Renaissance Florence: Families, Fortune and Fine Clothing*

Schedule

Week 1 Introduction

MONDAY NO CLASS MLK DAY

Introduction and What is a Renaissance?

Map quiz and the Mediterranean world in the Middle Ages

Week 2 The World of Dante

Guelfs and Ghibellines

Cimbuè and Giotto

Discuss: "Guelfs and Ghibellines" (Bartlett,57) and Selections from the Inferno and Paradiso (Bartlett, 7-24)

Read: "Guelfs and Ghibellines" (Bartlett,57) and Selections from the Inferno and Paradiso (Bartlett, 7-24)

Week 3 The crises of the mid-fourteenth century

The Black Death

Visions of Death

Discuss: Selections from *The Decameron* available at

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/texts/

Read: introduction to day one, day three story ten, day four story five, day nine story three, day ten story ten

Read: Selections from the *Decameron*

Week 4 Political and Religious Crises

Papal Politics

The Ciompi revolt

Discuss: “Demands of the Ciompi” (Bartlett, 255-256) and “The Aftermath of the Ciompi Revolt” (Bartlett,57-58)

Read: “Demands of the Ciompi” (Bartlett, 255-256) and “The Aftermath of the Ciompi Revolt” (Bartlett,57-58)

Week 5 Family Life in the Renaissance

The Florentine Family according to the Catasto of 1427

Wednesday discuss: Sources on marriage (Bartlett,134-140)

Friday discuss: *Giovanni and Lusanna*

Read: Sources on marriage (Bartlett,134-140) and *Giovanni and Lusanna*
Paper #1 due MONDAY February 13

Week 6 Wealth, Power, and Fashion

Consumer Culture in the Renaissance

Wednesday Discuss: Frick chapters 1-5

Friday Discuss: Frick chapters 6-10

Read: Frick, *Dressing Renaissance Florence*

Week 7 Civic Humanism

Civic Humanism and Civic Architecture

Discuss: Leonardo Bruni “Panegyric on the City of Florence” (on canvas)

FRIDAY MIDTERM

Read: Bruni, “Panegyric”

Week 8

Spring break

Week 9 Women in the Renaissance

Ideas about women

Film: Dangerous Beauty

Film: Dangerous Beauty

Week 10 Did Women have a Renaissance?

Female artists

Women and Humanism

Discuss: Isotta Nogarola “Of the Equal or Unequal sin of Adam and Eve” (Bartlett, 90-95) and Laura Cereta, “Letters” (Bartlett, 145-146 and 196-198).

Read: Isotta Nogarola “Of the Equal or Unequal sin of Adam and Eve” (Bartlett, 90-95) and Laura Cereta, “Letters” (Bartlett, 145-146 and 196-198).

Week 11 Renaissance Platonism

Monday NO CLASS

NeoPlatonism and Renaissance City Planning

Discuss: Pico della Mirandola, “Oration on the Dignity of Man” (Bartlett, 105-108).

Read: Pico della Mirandola, “Oration on the Dignity of Man”

Week 12 The Regulation of Sex

Sex in the Renaissance

Discuss: Sources on prostitution (Bartlett, 146-155)

Discuss: Rocke “Forbidden Friendships” chap 1 (On Canvas)

Read: Sources on prostitution and Rocke “Forbidden Friendships”

Week 13 The Medicis

Florence and the Medici

Discuss: *April Blood*, prologue – chap. 7

Discuss: *April Blood*, chaps 8-14

Read: Martinez *April Blood*

Week 14 The Rise of the Princely Courts

Court culture

Portraiture

Discuss: Selections from Castiglione *The Book of the Courtier* (On Canvas)

Read: Selections from Castiglione *The Book of the Courtier* (On Canvas)

Week 15 The End of an Era: The sixteenth century

Savonarola and Florence

The Rise of Rome

Friday: No class History Symposium

Paper #2 due Wednesday April 26

Paper Assignments:

Paper #1 You will write a 5 page paper using any of the following from the Bartlett sourcebook (alone or in any combination):

Chapter 3 The Works by Petrarch

Chapter 7 Selections from Francesco Barbaro “On Wifely Duties”

Chapter 8 Selections from Leon Battista Alberti pages 167-176.

Chapter 10 Selections from Pope Alexander VI and his court

Chapter 12 Selections from Vasari *The Lives of the Artists*

You must do some additional secondary research (one scholarly work is not enough, ten scholarly works are too many). **You must use only scholarly sources and websites. The best sources are books and journal articles available in and through the library. You should never refer to Wikipedia or other web-based encyclopedias or use non-scholarly websites. You should not refer to sources written before 1980.** Be sure to limit your biographical and background information to that which is pertinent to your argument. You must write at least 5 full pages of text to receive full credit.

THIS PAPER IS DUE Monday February 13

You must fill out, pledge, and attach a paper checksheet

Paper #2 You will choose an Italian painting, sculpture, or building from the period 1349-1500. You will write a five page paper that uses that piece of art/architecture as a primary source to argue something about a political/religious/social issue of the era. You must do some additional secondary research (one scholarly work is not enough, ten scholarly works are too many). **You must use only scholarly sources and websites. The best sources are books and journal articles available in and through the library. You should never refer to Wikipedia or other web-based encyclopedias or use non-scholarly websites. You should not refer to sources written before 1980.** Be sure to limit your biographical and background information to that which is pertinent to your argument. You must write at least 5 full pages of text to receive full credit

THIS PAPER IS DUE WEDNESDAY APRIL 26

You must fill out, pledge and attach a paper checksheet and a Paper Feedback sheet

Additional citation information is available at

<http://cas.umw.edu/historyamericanstudies/history-department-resources/>

Check your papers to ensure that

- 1) You have a thesis, something to argue
- 2) The thesis is stated clearly
- 3) Each paragraph asserts something that relates back to the thesis
- 4) This assertion is backed up by specific evidence
- 5) Each paragraph contains some of your own ideas
- 6) The conclusion reasserts the paper's argument clearly and concisely

I encourage you to discuss your papers with me and I am willing to read any drafts, except in the last 24 hours before the assignment is due.