This course is a survey of the intellectual movements and of the religious, social, and political characteristics of western Europe in the period between 1350 and 1700. It covers such topics as the development of communes in Italy, the growth of humanist attitudes, the early push for church reforms, Renaissance theories of government, the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic response, the exploration and exploitation of the New World, the Scientific Revolution, and changes in popular culture.

**REQUIRED READINGS**


Brucker, Gene, ed. *Two Memoirs of Renaissance Florence: The Diaries of Buonaccorso Pitti and Gregorio Dati*

Cowan, James. *A Mapmaker’s Dream: The Meditations of Fra Mauro, Cartographer to the Court of Venice*. Warner Books


**Plus class hand-outs from:**


And other readings from Internet sources.

Course Requirements

EXAMS:

There will be a midterm exam and a comprehensive final. All exams will be in essay format, and students will be expected to include material gathered from assigned reading and from lecture and discussion sessions. Essays will be graded on both content and composition.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student will submit two short book reviews (3-5 pages) based on the books read for class. Specific instructions on format and content will be provided during the first week of class.

At the end of the semester, each student will prepare a 10-12 page paper that explores some aspect of the Renaissance or Reformation in more detail that was possible in class. Think of the topic heading as “One thing I never knew about the Ren/Ref.”

In both assignments, students will be expected to follow Turabian as a style manual. Late papers will be accepted only with an acceptable excuse and with the understanding that the grade drops one level (A- to B+, B+ to B. Etc.) every 24 hours.

Note that throughout this syllabus, as well as at the end, small boxes list related websites. These are not required but come highly recommended for those intending to do well in this class.

Attendance is mandatory; if you must miss class because of illness, please notify me immediately, either by phone or by e-mail. Final grades will reflect both participation and attendance. You may assume that your final grade in this class will be no higher than the percentage of classes you attend. (This class meets 42 times. If you miss 5 classes, your attendance is 88%, which would be a B+.) Assuming that your attendance is regular, final grades will be based on the following scale:

- Two short reviews 20% (10% apiece)
- Term paper 20%
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 30%
- Participation 10%
Daily Assignments

Week 1: SETTING THE STAGE FOR RENAISSANCE


Topics:
- Jan. 13 -- Introduction to Microhistory
- Jan. 15 -- What the Records Can Tell Us

Week 2: RENAISSANCE FLORENCE

Read:
- *Two Memoirs of Renaissance Florence: The Diaries of Buonaccorso Pitti and Gregorio Dati*

Topics:
- Jan. 18 -- Martin Luther King Day Recess
- Jan. 20 -- Florentine Politics
- Jan. 22 -- Florentine Economy

Week 3: HUMANISM AND THE NEW EDUCATION

Read: Alberti, *The Family in Renaissance Florence*

Topics:
- Jan. 25 -- Petrarch and Humanism
- Jan. 27 -- Pico della Mirandola and Lorenzo Valla: On the Individual
- Jan. 29 -- The Family Redefined

Week 4: FLORENTINE WOMEN

Read:
- Brucker, *Giovanni and Lusanna: Love and Marriage in Renaissance Florence*

Topics:
- Oct. 1 -- Renaissance Law
Week 5: MAGIC AND SCIENCE

Topics:
Feb. 8 -- Ficino and Neoplatonism
Feb. 10 -- Hermetic and Cabalistic Magic
Feb. 12 -- The Scientific Revolution

FEB. 12: **Book Review Due.** Choose from among:

Two Memoirs of Renaissance Florence
Giovanni and Lusanna
*The Family in Renaissance Florence*

Week 6: HIGH RENAISSANCE

Read:
     Excerpt from Machiavelli’s *The Prince* at
     <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/prince-excerp.html>

Topics:
Feb. 15 -- The Medici and Machiavellian Politics
Feb. 17 -- Renaissance Princes
Feb. 19 -- The Layers of Society

Week 7: ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Topics:
Feb. 22 -- Economics and Patronage
Feb. 24 -- Perspective in Painting
Feb. 26 -- Architecture as Civic Statement

For further information, see:

• Leonardo DaVinci’s drawings
  <http://banzai.msi.umn.edu/~reudi/leonardo.html>
Week 8: THE END OF THE RENAISSANCE

Read: Cowan, *A Mapmaker’s Dream*

Topics:
- Mar. 1 -- Midterm Exam
- Mar. 3 -- The Invasion of Charles VII
- Mar. 5 -- The Magnet of the New World

Week 9  ******** SPRING BREAK ********

Week 10: POLITICAL DISCONTENTS

Read:
- Wunderli, *Peasant Fires*

Topics:
- Mar. 15 -- Rise of Territorial States
- Mar. 17 -- The Spirit of Carnival
- Mar. 19 -- The Power of the Peasant

MARCH 19: Book Review Due. Choose from among:

*The Mapmaker’s Dream*
*Peasant Fires*
*The Society of Renaissance Florence*

Week 11: THE ROAD TO REFORM

Read:
- Oberman, *Luther: Man Between God and Devil*, pp.3 - 113
Week 12: LUTHER

Read: Oberman, Luther: Man Between God and Devil, pp. 113-329

Topics:
Mar. 29 -- Luther’s Theology
Mar. 31 -- The Protestant Reformation

For further information, see:
• Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses
  <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/luther95.txt>
• Martin Luther's Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation
  <http://history.hanover.edu/early/Luther/nobility.htm>

************* EASTER BREAK *************

Week 13: CALVINISM

Topics:
Apr. 5 -- Calvin's Geneva
Apr. 7 -- Protestantism and Capitalism
Apr. 9 -- Reform or Revolution?

For further information, see:
• Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion
  <http://www.smartlink.net/~douglas/calvin/>

Week 14: THE SPREAD OF THE REFORMATION
Read: Henry VIII’s Act of Supremacy, at:
<http://www.northpark.edu/acad/history/Classes/Sources/ActSupremacy.html>

Topics:
Apr. 12 -- The Radical Reformation
Apr. 14 -- The King's Great Matter
Apr. 16 -- The Anglican Church and Martyrdom

APRIL 16: TERM PAPER DUE

Week 15: THE CATHOLIC RESPONSE

Read:
Roth, *The Spanish Inquisition*, “Appendices”

Topics:
Apr. 19 -- Dissent and Repression
Apr. 21 -- The Council of Trent
Apr. 23 -- Ignatius Loyola and the Jesuits

For further information, see:
- Decrees of the Council of Trent
  <http://history.hanover.edu/early/trent.htm>
- Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*
  <http://ccel.wheaton.edu/ignatius/exercises/exercises.html>

Week 16: TOWARD EARLY MODERN EUROPE


Topics:
Apr. 26 -- From Renaissance to Inquisition
Apr. 28 -- The English Civil War
Apr. 30 -- The Thirty Years' War

Final Exam: Thursday, May 7, at 8:30 A.M.
ADDITIONAL WEBSITES FOR RENAISSANCE ART

PAINTINGS AT THE LOUVRE:

• Department of Paintings at:
  <http://www.paris.org:.80/Musees/Louvre/Treasures/Paintings>
• Renaissance to nineteenth century paintings from the collection at The Louvre:
  <http://www.paris.org:.80/Musees/Louvre/>

OTHER SITES:

• The Art of Renaissance Science: Galileo and Perspective at:
  < http://www.cuny.edu/multimedia/arsnew/arstoc.html >
• Leonardo da Vinci Biography at
  <A HREF="http://www.leonardo.net/south.html#start>
• Leonardo da Vinci Museum at: < http://www.leonardo.net/main.html>
• Stanza e Loggia di Raffaello at:
• Renaissance Music: The Renaissance Consort at:
  <http://www.hike.te.chiba-u.ac.jp/cons1/ >
• The Art of Science
  <http://bang.lanl.gov/video/stv/arstoc.html>
• Galileo Project
  <http://es.rice.edu:80/ES/humsoc/Galileo/>