

Renaissance

. . .this century, like a golden age, has restored to light the liberal arts, which were almost extinct: grammar, poetry, rhetoric, painting, sculpture, architecture, music, the ancient singing of songs to the Orphic lyre, and all this in Florence.

(Marsilio Ficino, letter to Paul of Middelburg, 1492)

In this Tutorial we will consider the period of cultural, political, and social "rebirth" known as the Renaissance. Renaissance Florence will serve as the centerpiece of our studies. We will examine works of literature and history, art, and architecture. From the studies and studios of scholars and artists, we will turn our attention to the stuff of ordinary life: love and politics, markets and families.

This tutorial has three goals: to sharpen your analytical skills in reading and in writing, and to give you a broad (though necessarily shallow) introduction to the events, issues and accomplishments of the Renaissance. The first goal is addressed by intensive discussion of a range of different kinds of readings. The second will be addressed through writing assignments—lots of writing assignments—and by frequently meeting together in small groups (tutorials) to read and discuss each other's work. Making an argument orally will receive some attention in two presentation assignments. The last goal, of course, is the stuff of this course. We will read works of Renaissance politics and literature. We will consider works of art. We will read modern historians' accounts of the period and its people.

You are expected to come on time to every class (you should contact me if you are ill). You should come to class having read the material assigned for the day and having given it some thought. Your grade will be based on participation in discussions, your seven papers, and your two presentations. While I will take into account improvement over time, each of these graded elements will comprise 10% of your course grade.

List of books assigned for this course and available for purchase at the bookstore:

Gene Brucker, *Giovanni and Lusanna: Love and Marriage in Renaissance Florence*, (UC Press, 1986)

Jacob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*, (Chronicle Books, 1995)

Thomas More, *Utopia*, ed. by R. A. Adams, (Norton, 1991)

Peter and Linda Murray, *Art of the Renaissance*, (Thomas Hudson, 1985)

Marguerite of Navarre, *Heptameron*, trans. Paul Chilton, (Penguin Classics)

Patricia O'Connor, *Woe is I*, (Grosset/Putnam, 1996)

- August 26 Burckhardt Part I chapters 2-3; academic honesty handout
- 1A Burckhardt Part II chapters 1-3 **paper due**
 1B Tutorials
- 2A Burckhardt Part III chapters 1-6 & first paragraph of chapter 7
 paper due
 2B Tutorials
- 3A Renaissance humanists (handout) **paper due**
 3B Tutorials
- 4A Humanists and politics: readings from Machiavelli, Bruni, & Salutati
 4B Tutorials
- 5A Architecture - the study
 5B Art; Murray chapters 1&2 - presentations
- 6A Art; Murray chapters 3&4 - presentations
 6B Art: article on Sofonisba Anguissola (handout); view images at
<http://www.grinnell.edu/courses/his/tut100-30-> presentations
 paper due Friday Oct. 8
- 7A&B Tutorials
- 8A Art: Burckhardt Pt. IV chapters 1-4; Murray chapter 8; selections from
 Jardine, *Wordly Goods*, & <http://www.grinnell.edu/courses/his/tut100-30->
 8B Movie: *Shakespeare in Love*
- 9A *Heptameron* pages 7-10; 60-70; Day 1 prologue and stories 1-4 & 8; Day 2
 prologue and story 15; Day 3 prologue and stories 23, 26, & 28 -
 presentations
 9B *Heptameron*; Day 4 prologue and stories 32, 36, 40; Day 5 prologue and
 stories 43 & 44; Day 6 prologue and stories 52 & 55; Day 7 prologue and
 stories 65, 67 & 70 - presentations
 paper due Friday Nov. 5
- 10A&B Tutorials
- 11A Library session – meet Ms. Rod in Burling's IIF at 8:30 a.m.
 11B Pre-registration; **rewrite of sixth paper due**
- 12A *Giovanni and Lusanna*
 12B THANKSGIVING VACATION !

13A&B

Utopia

14A

Movie: *A Man For All Seasons* **last paper due**

14B

Tutorials