

## Syllabus for HIST 332: Renaissance and Reformation Europe

TR 9:35-10:50, Glasscock 008  
Spring 2010, Dr. Ada Palmer  
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office: Glasscock 214  
office hours TR 2:30-4  
other times by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Renaissance politics and diplomacy; political ideas of Erasmus and Machiavelli; art and humanism of the Renaissance; religious views of Luther, Calvin and Zwingli; the “new” economics.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and informed participation in discussion (10%).
2. Two papers. The **first paper, 5-6 pages, due in class February 23rd**, will treat Dante, focusing on one specific subsection of the *Inferno* and how it comments on a specific event or social issue in Dante’s world. The **second paper, 5-6 pages, due in class April 29th**, is a fictitious letter in which you must write from the perspective of one historical figure giving advice to another (40%).
3. Midterm examination, **Tuesday March 2nd** (20%).
4. Final examination (30%).

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Books are available in the bookstore; #1 is a custom edition and not available in normal stores.

1. *Desperate Measures, a Renaissance and Reformation Reader*. Pearson Custom. 0558281494  
IMPORTANT: this custom course book is only available in the campus bookstore.
2. Brucker, *Florence: The Golden Age* (U of California Press, 1983) 0520215222
3. Dante, *Inferno*. Any edition is acceptable, but recommended editions are:
  - The Divine Comedy*, John Ciardi translation (NAL Trade, 2003) 0451208633  
Most fun translation, best notes, contains all 3 sections, no illustrations: \$19
  - Inferno*, Ciardi Translation (Signet Classics, 2001) 0451527984  
Same fun translation with best notes, but containing *Inferno* only and, therefore, cheaper: \$5.95
  - Dante’s Divine Comedy*, illustrated Longfellow translation (Chartwell, 2006) 0785821201  
Hardcover including *Inferno, Purgatorio & Paradiso*, good notes and Dore’s beautiful illustrations: \$25
  - Inferno*, Pinsky Translation (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1997) 0374525315  
Contains original Italian text as well as English, useful if you read Italian, *Inferno* only: \$20
4. Valla, *On the Donation of Constantine* (I Tatti Renaissance Library, 2008) 0674030893
5. Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Any edition is acceptable, but recommended editions are:
  - The Prince*, trans. Bondanella & Musa, introduction by Viroli. 0199535698  
Inexpensive edition with readable translation and good introduction (Oxford Classics): \$7
  - The Portable Machiavelli* (Viking) 0140150927  
Excellent version of *The Prince* plus best sections of the *Discourses* and the *Art of War*: \$19



246, 248, 279, 304, 326, 359, 365). e-reserve Letters on the discovery of Cicero's letters and letters to Cicero, Quintilian and Homer (*Familiars XXI 10 and XXIV 3, 4, 7, 12*).

(The scanned version of the *Canzonere* contains Italian and English; read whichever you prefer. It also contains more poems than are actually required, some of which are cut off at the tops and bottoms of pages; keep track as you read to make sure you only read the necessary sections.)

**SPECIAL:** Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup> – **OPTIONAL** trip to Cushing Library to see Rare Books & Manuscripts. Meet inside the entrance of Cushing at 2:00 PM (alternate time 12:45 for those with conflicts at 2:00)

Week 7 Mar 2 (T) **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

Hint: the "Chronology" (Brucker pp. 243-259) is great for review.

4 (R) The Recovery of Antiquity: Renaissance Book-Hunters

Reading: e-reserve: Poggio, *Two Renaissance Book Hunters*, letters III, IV, XI, XXX, XLIX, LXXX, LXXXI, letter of Franciscus Barbarus; Machiavelli, letters 107, 110; Brucker pp. 201-227.

Week 8

9 (T) Political Crisis: The Rise of the Medici, Savonarola, Soderini

Reading: Brucker pp. 139-155, 176-190, 229-240, skim 243-265.

11 (R) Humanism as a Political Tool: Castiglione and Lorenzo il Magnifico

Reading: Desperate Measures: read the remainder of "The Classical Renaissance" including all selections from Castiglione's *Courtier* and Laura Cereta's Autobiography. Machiavelli, letters 3, 222, 223, 224

Week 9

16 (T) SPRING BREAK

18 (R) SPRING BREAK

(Get a head start on the reading for Tuesday, especially the Machiavelli letters.)

Week 10

23 (T) Renaissance Reinvention of Ancient Religions: Ficino and Pico

Reading: Desperate Measures: "The Radical Renaissance" Giovanni Pico della Mirandola "The Dignity of Man"; e-reserve: Ficino, *Meditations on the Soul*, letters 1-11 and 22-28 (pp. 3-21 and 39-49); Machiavelli, letters 226-229, 236, 238.

25 (R) Seeking New Worlds, Abroad and Beyond

Reading: Desperate Measures: read entire "Art and Exploration" section and also, from "The Radical Renaissance," Benvenuto Cellini, "Cellini Consults a Necromancer." e-reserve: Machiavelli letters 92, 166, 167

Week 11

30 (T) Lorenzo Valla: Philology Overturns the Foundations of the Church

Reading: Valla, *On the Donation of Constantine*.

April 1 (R) Dark Prince of the Church: the Borgia Papacy (Machiavelli & Soderini)

Reading: e-reserve: Machiavelli letters 90, 91, 121, 169

Week 12

6 (T) TBD

8 (R) TBD

(Get a head start on the reading for the next Tuesday, especially *The Prince*.)



**Grading Scale:**

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

59 and below F

**Attendance and Late Assignments:**

Attendance is mandatory. Students will be penalized after more than three absences, except in the case of university-excused absences or absences arranged with permission of the instructor. Attendance and informed participation in discussion is 10% of your grade, enough to knock a B down to a C or boost a B up to an A. If you attend all classes and participate actively in discussion it will boost your grade; if you are frequently absent and fail to do enough reading to participate in discussion it will lower your grade.

Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm> for current policy on university-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional's confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1).

If you know in advance that you will miss a class, for any reason (athletics event, arts retreat, family reunion, out-of-town music festival), let the instructor know in advance; a pre-arranged absence will ALWAYS lower your grade less than an unexcused absence.

Assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty (determined case-by-case) except in the case of medical absences with doctor's note, university-excused absences or by prior arrangement with the instructor (these receive no penalty).

Standard late paper penalties (may be lighter or heavier depending on circumstances):

One day late = 1 grade deduction; A becomes B

Two days late = 2 grade deduction; A becomes C

Three days late = 3 grade deduction; A becomes D

Four days late = 4 grade deduction; A becomes F

If you will be unable to turn in an assignment on time, contact the instructor in advance. A pre-arranged late paper will ALWAYS lower your grade less than an unannounced late paper (usually penalty is halved).

**ADA:**

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637).

**Plagiarism:**

Academic Integrity: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>