

Syllabus for HIST 332: Renaissance and Reformation Europe

MWF 11:30-12:30, Mils. 216
Fall 2009, Dr. Ada Palmer

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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. Informed participation in discussion (10%).
2. Two papers. The **first paper, 5-6 pages, due in class October 5th**, 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 December 7th**, will discuss how Machiavelli, in the *Prince* and *Discourses*, is reacting to one of the earlier authors, movements or subjects studied (40%).
3. Midterm examination, **Friday October 16th** (20%).
4. Final examination (30%).

REQUIRED TEXTS

We will read only selections from each book; you will not be required to read the whole book. All these books are available in the bookstore.

1. Brucker, *Renaissance Florence* (U of California Press, 1983) ISBN 0520046951
2. Dante, *The Divine Comedy*, John Ciardi translation (NAL Trade, 2003) 0451208633
3. Petrarch, *Selections from the Canzoniere and Other Works* (Oxford, 2008)
0199540691
4. Leonardo da Vinci, *Notebooks* (Oxford, 2008) 0199299021
5. Ficino, *Meditations on the Soul* (Inner Traditions, 1997) 0892816589
6. Pico, *Oration on the Dignity of Man* (Gateway Editions, 1956) 0895267136
7. Valla, *On the Donation of Constantine* (I Tatti Renaissance Library, 2008)
0674030893
8. Machiavelli, *The Portable Machiavelli* (Viking) 0140150927
9. Luther, *Three Treatises* (Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1990) 0800616391

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Readings for each week are listed at the end of that week. Readings will average no more than 50 pages per week.

- Week 1 Aug 31(M) Introduction: The Renaissance World
Sept 2 (W) Everyday Life in Renaissance Florence
4 (F) The Florentine Republican Constitution
Reading: Brucker pp. ~~7-26, 109-190~~ CHANGED to pp. 38-50
and chapter 3.
Machiavelli, letter 107
- Week 2 7 Overview of Florentine History
9 Renaissance Religion and the Utility of the Sacred
11 Strozzi Letters Discussion
Reading: Brucker pp. 27-108
Machiavelli, letters 35, 74
Strozzi letters 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 29
- Week 3 14 Dante I: Dante's biography and the culture of Courtly Love
16 Dante II: Physics and Cosmology
18 Dante Discussion I
Reading: Dante, *Vita Nuova*, selections.
Dante, *Inferno*, I-XVII
- Week 4 21 Dante III: Social Critique and Political Solution
23 Dante IV: *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*
25 Dante Discussion II
Reading: Dante, *Inferno*, XVIII-end, Machiavelli, letters 22,
70, 269-274, 278
- Week 5 28 Boccaccio I: the Black Death
30 Boccaccio II: Moral Breakdown, Sexuality
Oct 2 Boccaccio Discussion
Reading: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, Preface; Day I
Introduction, stories 1-4, conclusion; Day III story
4, 10; Day IV introduction, 1-2; Day V story 8, 10;
Day VI 7, 8, 10; Day VIII stories 5, 7; Author's
Epilogue (e-reserve). Machiavelli: letter 78
- Week 6 5 Petrarch I: Italian Cultural Competition with France
FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS MONDAY
7 Petrarch II: The Revival of Antiquity
9 Petrarch Discussion
Reading: Petrarch, *Letter to Posterity*, *Ascent of Mount
Ventoux*, *Canzonere* (poems 7, 16, 53, 77, 80, 84,

89, 104, 128, 131, 136, 137, 186, 187, 190, 191,
205, 246, 248, 279, 304, 326, 359, 365).
Machiavelli, letters 226-229, 236, 238

Week 7	12	Legitimacy: Castiglione and Civic Humanism as a Political Tool
	14	Midterm Review
	16	<u>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</u>
		<u>Reading:</u> Machiavelli, letters 110, 222-224
Week 8	19	The Process of Recovering Texts: Niccolo & Poggio
	21	Utility of Art and Letters: Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael
	23	Humanism Discussion
		<u>Reading:</u> Leonardo da Vinci, <i>Notebooks</i> , parts I, IV part 1 From course pack: Poggio, <i>Two Renaissance Book Hunters</i> , letters III, IV, XI, XXX, XLIX, LXXX, LXXXI, and Appendix letter of Franciscus Barbarus (pp. 196-7).
Week 9	26	Marsilio Ficino and the Recovery of Plato
	28	Renaissance Reinvention of Ancient Religions
	30	Ficino Discussion
		<u>Reading:</u> Ficino, <i>Meditations on the Soul</i> , letters on “Truth and Virtue”, and “The Soul”. Machiavelli, letters 90-92, 166-7, 169
Week 10	Nov 2	Pico, Oracles, Cabbala and the Synthesis of World Religions
	4	Lorenzo Valla and Donation of Constantine
	6	Dangers of Humanism Discussion
		<u>Reading:</u> Pico, <i>Oration on the Dignity of Man</i> (selections) Valla, <i>On the Donation of Constantine</i> (selections)
Week 11	9	Savonarola and the Expulsion and Return of the Medici
	11	Machiavelli I: the “little book on princes”
	13	Machiavelli Discussion I Machiavelli II: Utilitarian Ethics
		<u>Reading:</u> Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , pp. 77-115 Machiavelli, letters 3, 25, 54, 69, 112, 115, 121, 178, 203, 305
Week 12	16	Machiavelli II: Utilitarian Ethics
	18	Machiavelli III: Is Machiavelli a Humanist?
	20	Machiavelli Discussion II
		<u>Reading:</u> Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> pp. 115-167
Week 13	23	Outline of the Reformation
	25	BONUS DAY: NO CLASS
	27	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Reading: Tracy, *Europe's Reformations*, Part II, selections.
Luther, first treatise in *Three Treatises*

Week 14 30 Luther's Critique
 Dec 2 After Luther: Calvin & Zwingli
 4 Luther Discussion
 Reading: Tracy, *Europe's Reformations*, Part III, selections.

REDEFINED DAY

7 Conclusion: Sacred and Secular Solutions
 Reading: Machiavelli, letters 328, 332 (son)
 SECOND PAPER DUE MONDAY IN CLASS

See the Course Schedule for the date and time for the FINAL EXAM.

E-RESERVES

Dante, *Vita Nuova*, sections XXVI-XXXIX (pp. 628-649 of *The Portable Dante*, Viking, call number PQ4315.A3 M87 2003.)

Boccaccio, *Decameron* (Penguin Classics, D.H. William trans, call number PQ4272.E5 A395 1995), Preface; Day I Introduction, stories 1-6, 10, conclusion; Day III stories 4, 7, 8, 10; Day IV introduction, stories 1-2; Day V stories 8, 10; Day VI complete; Day VIII stories 5, 7; Author's Epilogue.

Machiavelli, supplemental letters from *The Letters of Machiavelli, a Selection* (Chicago, 1988) 0226500411. Introductions, letters 3, 22, 25, 54, 69, 70, 78, 90-92, 107, 110, 112, 115, 121, 166-9, 203, 211-238, 269-274, 278, 305, 328, 332.

Poggio, *Two Renaissance Book Hunters* (New York, Columbia University Press, 1974, call number PA8477.B76 Z5513), letters III, IV, XI, XXX, XLIX, LXXX, LXXXI, and the Appendix letter of Franciscus Barbarus (pp. 196-7).

Strozzi, Alessandra. *Selected letters of Alessandra Strozzi* (University of California press; call number DG737.58.S7 A5 1997). Letter 1 (pp. 28-37); letter 4 (pp. 47-53); letter 7 (pp. 60-65); letter 10 (pp. 74-79) letter 11 (pp. 79-87); Letter 29 (pp. 174-183).

Tracy, James. *Europe's Reformations, 1450-1650*. Part II and Part III (pp. 31-210)

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 university-excused absences or by prior arrangement with the instructor. 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.

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>.