History 230: Florence in History  
Fall 2016, M 2-5 DRAFT SYLLABUS

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Office hours: T 1:30-3 and by appt.  
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Books: Available at Penn Book Center
Terpstra, Nicholas. *Lost Girls: Sex and Death in Renaissance Florence*.  

Additional readings on Canvas site

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~moyer/coursepages/hist230-florence/

Week 1: Sept. 12  
**Introduction: to the course, to the city, to its history**  
Readings: Gene Brucker, Renaissance Florence, from Chapter 1 (Canvas); Najemy, *History of Florence*, Chapter 1

Week 2: Sept. 19  
**Society and Politics**  
Reading: Najemy, Chapters 2-4; Dino Compagni

Week 3: Sept. 26  
**Education**  
Reading: Najemy, Chapter 5; Paul Gehl, *A Moral Art* (chapters 1-2, conclusions); Goldthwaite, “Schools and teachers of commercial arithmetic in Renaissance Florence” (both on Canvas)

Week 4: Oct 3  
**Florentine humanists I**
Florence is justly famous for its art and learning, especially during the era of the Renaissance. It was also one of the most literate states in Europe during this era; thanks to the city’s
abundant records, it is one of the best-studied cities in Europe from the later Middle Ages through the early modern era. Our course readings present a mix of major primary sources, synthetic summaries, and important modern scholarship. Most of our class time will focus on the information and issues they raise.

**Course requirements:**

- Weekly essays of ca 300 words responding to the week’s reading, due each week at the beginning of class, EXCEPT the weeks you will help lead discussion (and except our first class meeting).
- Critical Book reviews: 2 reviews, 1000 words. One review of your choice of assigned books; one of a scholarly work of your choice in Florentine history, approved by instructor in advance.
- Responsibility for introducing and leading the discussion of weekly readings (2 weeks), to be assigned the first week of class. Handout will be available first day of class; will include a written submission of your materials.
- Take-home final essay examination.
- Regular attendance and participation

Attendance at our weekly meetings is, of course, mandatory. Please come ready to discuss the readings, with your copies of those readings in hand.

**Grading percentages:**

Review (each): 15%
Leading Discussion (each): 15%
Exam: 30%
Response papers and class participation: 10%