



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

Professor Ann Moyer

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Office hours: T 1:30-3 and by appt.
319B College Hall

Books: Available at Penn Book Center

Najemy, John. *History of Florence 1200-1575*.

Turner, A. Richard. *Renaissance Florence: The Invention of a New Art*.

Dino Compagni's *Chronicle of Florence*. Trans. Bornstein.

Frick, Carol. *Dressing Renaissance Florence*.

Terpstra, Nicholas. *Lost Girls: Sex and Death in Renaissance Florence*

Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*, ed. Skinner and Price.

Vasari, Giorgio. *Lives of the Artists*, ed. Bondanella

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

Readings: Najemy, Chapters 6-7; Bruni, “Panegyric to the City of Florence;” Poliziano, “The Pazzi Conspiracy;” additional short works by Florentine humanists (Canvas)

Week 5: Oct. 10

Florentine Humanists II

Reading: Maxson, *The Humanist World of Renaissance Florence* Chapters 1-3, 6-7, Conclusion

Week 6: Oct. 17

Art in Florence

Reading: Turner, *Renaissance Florence: The Invention of a New Art*.

Week 7: Oct. 24

Florentine Documents, Florentine Society

Readings: Najemy, Chapters 8-11; Herlihy-Klapisch, Tuscans and their Families, Intro-Chapter 1, Chapter 5, Conclusion; Brucker, *Society of Renaissance Florence* (selections) (Canvas)

First Book Review Due

Week 8: Oct. 31

Economy and Society

Reading: Frick, *Dressing Renaissance Florence*

Week 9: Nov. 7

Florence and Crisis: Religion and Politics I

Readings: Najemy, Chapters 12-13; Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Week 10: Nov. 14

Urban Spaces

Readings: Najemy, Chapters 14-15; Crum & Paoletti (selections) (Canvas)

Week 11: Nov. 21

Recovery and Synthesis

Readings: Eric Cochrane, from *Florence in the Forgotten Centuries*; Eisenbichler, *Cultural Politics of Duke Cosimo I de' Medici*, selections (Canvas)

Week 12: Nov. 28

Sexual Politics and Social Institutions

Reading: Terpstra, *Lost Girls*

Week 13: Dec. 5

Religion and Politics II

Reading: Siegmund, *The Medici State and the Ghetto of Florence* (selections: Canvas)

Week 14: Dec. 12

Florence, Home of the Renaissance

Reading: Vasari, *Lives of the Artists* (selections)

Second Book Review Due

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%