

History 4411
TTH 2:00-3:15 P.M.
Pafford 206
Phone: 678-839-6419
Office Hours: TTH: 3:30-4:30; W: 1:00-3:00 P.M.

Spring 2010
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THE EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Course Description:

This course will investigate the period of time from about the end of the fourteenth century to the period around the middle of the sixteenth century. The major focus will be the important events, people, and ideas which helped to shape our current world: the growth of individualism, secularism, science, overseas empires, the changing status of women and children and the family, the explosion of artistic talent in virtually every medium, the literary Renaissance, among other topics. We will also look at the "dark" side of the Renaissance: the growth of intolerance and bigotry, the spread of slavery, and the inhumanity of early modern warfare.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will be able:

- To identify major schools of thought on the Renaissance era by notable scholars;
- To describe the major events, persons and ideas that shaped the period orally and in writing;
- To summarize the major causes and outcomes of the Renaissance;
- To analyze documentary sources from the period and synthesize these materials in various formats, e.g., oral presentations, class discussions, research papers;
- To analyze secondary materials and to present the ideas of various scholars in research papers and oral presentations.

Policies and Procedures:

Class meetings: Students are expected to attend class each day and to participate in the class discussions. More than **two** unexcused absences will result in a lower final grade. Please make sure that all cell phones, pagers, etc., are turned off before coming into the classroom. Also, disruptive and non-attending students will be removed from the class rolls.

Tests, Quizzes: There will be **two** tests covering the material in the reading and class assignments and a **final exam** that will have at least one cumulative question on it. If class discussion wanes, "pop quizzes" on the assignments may be given. Students with documented special needs must see me to make special arrangements for test taking and/or other needs.

Papers: There will be **5** papers due for this class. Four papers will be 2 ½ to 4 page papers on the primary documents from the Gouwens' book. I will post the questions to be answered on Course Den. Papers will be due by class time on the date listed in the syllabus. No late papers will be accepted. The fifth paper is a **three to five page** paper covering the book,

Cardano's Cosmos. Again, the questions to be covered will be posted on Course Den. Please review the Department's definition of plagiarism on our website. Plagiarism will be cause for a final grade of "F" in the course.

Class discussions: Part of your final grade will depend upon class participation. Students are expected to have read the material for the class period and will be expected to be prepared to discuss it. Often that will mean bringing the correct text to class.

This syllabus is subject to change, so please attend class to keep up with assignments.

Grading:

The final grade for the course will consist of the following:

Four papers on sources @ 5% each	
Paper on <i>Cardano's Cosmos</i>	15%
1st test	15%
2nd test	20%
Class participation (includes discussions, and "pop" quizzes if needed)	10%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Required Books:

Gouwens, K. *The Italian Renaissance: The Essential Sources*. New York: Blackwell

Grafton, Anthony, *Cardano's Cosmos: The Worlds and Works of a Renaissance Astrologer*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001

Marlowe, Christopher. *Dr. Faustus*. Dover Edition

Zophy, Jonathan W. *A Short History of Renaissance Europe: Dances over Fire and Water*. Prentice Hall, 1997

Schedule:

January:

7: Introduction, Nature of the Course, Review of Syllabus

12: The Renaissance "Problem" in History

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 1.

14: The People of Europe

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 2;

19: The People of Europe (Con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 2; Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Introduction and Part I, Dante.

21: Medieval background and legacy

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 3;

26: Medieval background and legacy (con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 3;

28: Italian Politics and the Birth of the Renaissance

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 4; Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Pope Pius II reading.

February:

2: Italian Politics and the Birth of the Renaissance (con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 4;

4: Renaissance Humanism

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 5; Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Petrarch and Bruni readings; begin reading *Cardano's Cosmos*

9: First Hour Exam

11: Renaissance Humanism (con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 5; Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Part III, Urban Life and Values; continue reading *Cardano's Cosmos*

16: Renaissance Humanism (con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 5; Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Parts IV-V, Gender and Society and the Power of Knowledge; continue reading *Cardano's Cosmos*

18: Discussion of *Cardano's Cosmos*

Paper Due on *Cardano's Cosmos*

23: Renaissance Art

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 6; Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Part VI, Patronage, Art and Culture

25: Renaissance Art (con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 7;

March:

2: Politics in late Renaissance Italy; Machiavelli

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 8; Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Part II, Machiavelli

4: **Second Hour Exam**

9: Northern Renaissance European Monarchies and Expansion

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 9;

11: Northern Renaissance European Monarchies and Expansion (con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 9;

16: The New World and Europe

Reading: TBA

18: Renaissance Art and Literature in Northern Europe

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 10;

23-25 **Spring Break**

30: Northern Renaissance Humanism

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 11;

April:

1: Northern Renaissance Humanism (con'd)

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 11;

6: The Renaissance in England: Marlowe's *Faustus*

Reading: Marlowe's *Faustus*

8: **No Class**

13: Renaissance Science

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 12;

15: Renaissance Science

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 12;

20: Renaissance Technology

Reading: Zophy, *Renaissance Europe*, ch. 12;

22: Beyond the Renaissance

Reading: Gouwens, *Italian Renaissance*, Part VII

27: Summary

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 4, 2010 2:00-4:00 P.M.