

History 5411
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
Dr. Charles W. "Skip" Clark
Office: Cobb Hall Graduate School
email: cclark@westga.edu

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.

Learning Outcomes for Graduate Students:

By the end of the course, graduate students will be able to do all listed above and be able:

- To delineate the ideas and schools of thought in recent historiographical debates concerning the Renaissance in written and oral form; and
- To present a clearly defined thesis and argument utilizing major secondary and primary sources in both written and oral form.

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. Graduate students will meet once every two weeks with the instructor.

Required Books:

Brucker, Gene. (ed.) *Two Memoirs of Renaissance Florence*. Waveland Press, 1991.

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

Kohl, Benjamin and Allen Smith (eds.) *Major Problems in the History of the Italian Renaissance*. Wadsworth, 1994

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

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

Assignments:

- 1) Students will prepare a comparative book review on three books concerning a similar topic. The review will be 12-14 pages in length. Directions for the paper will be distributed. The books must have instructor approval. **Due: 18 March 2010 40%**
- 2) Students will prepare a short, four to six-page paper on Brucker's book. Questions to be discussed will be distributed. **Due: 25 February 2010 20%**
- 3) Students will prepare **5** short response papers (2-3 pages) on the readings from the Kohl and Smith book, some to be presented in class. **Due: TBA 20%**

Tests:

Graduate students will take the **two one-hour exams for 10% each**. In addition, if students have a "B" or better, they may choose to exempt the final exam.

Schedule:

TBA based on student schedules. For other classes see the History 4411 syllabus.