

IUPUI
Summer 2007

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B353/H509
THE RENAISSANCE

Sect. 11655/9256
3:30-5:45 MTR
BS 3006

This course is designed to give students a sophisticated understanding of the Italian Renaissance, by means of the analysis and interpretation of texts. While artistic developments will not be ignored, the focus will be on the literary production of Renaissance humanists, placed in context of the social, cultural, political, and intellectual developments in Europe from approximately 1300 to approximately 1527. This is a reading and writing intensive course. Students are required to read on average approximately 185 pages a week, though some weeks the assigned readings will be more extensive and some weeks less. Four 5-7 page essays are required. In addition, students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned texts. The course will be a combination of lecture and discussion. By means of the readings, the essays, the lectures, and class discussions, this course seeks to develop the Principles of Undergraduate Learning, particularly critical thinking and core communication skills.

Required Texts

Jacob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (New York, 2002).
Francesco Petrararch, *The Secret*, ed. Carol E. Quillen (New York, 2003).
Leonardo Bruni, *History of the Florentine People*, 2 vols., ed. James Hankins (Cambridge, MA, 2001/
2004).
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ed. William J. Connell (New York, 2005).

Grading

The final grade will be given based on the following:

1) Four 5-7 page essays (100 points each):	400 points
2) Class Participation:	100 points
Total for course:	500 points

The essays are assigned essays. See the Guide to Writing the Essays, and the questions themselves here below.

Oncourse

This course uses Oncourse for much of its administration. If you do not know how to use oncourse, you are strongly urged to contact the University Information Technology Services to learn how, and please

notify me as well. Students are expected to check Oncourse regularly for course announcements and communications, as well as assignments.

Attendance

I expect each and every student to attend each and every class meeting. More than three absences will result in a loss of 25 points; more than six absences will result in a loss of an additional 50 points. Excused absences must be cleared with me. Only the most extraordinary of circumstances will excuse more than three absences.

Policy on Cheating

Please note that I will not tolerate cheating, and will punish any student caught cheating with the full severity allowed me by IUPUI regulations, in keeping with the code of Student Conduct. I view cheating any of the following: 1) Plagiarism of any kind, by which I mean: copying all or part of another student's paper; handing in papers written for you by someone else; failure to properly footnote direct quotations, paraphrased passages, or opinions of other scholars (including authors of Cliff Notes and other such study aids) in essays written outside of class. Plagiarism also consists of using material from the WWW without using quotation marks and proper citation. Plagiarism is easy to detect. Do not do it! If you have any questions whether you are plagiarizing material, please ask me about it before hand! Once a paper is turned in, it is too late and the paper, if plagiarized, is subject to the penalties mentioned above; 2) collaborating on any in-class exam; 3) copying the answers of any other student during an in-class exam. In short, DO NOT CHEAT AND DO NOT PLAGIARISE! YOU WILL BE CAUGHT AND PUNISHED!

Schedule of Lectures and Assignments

Week 1

M June 25: Introduction: The Problem with the Renaissance
 T June 26: Lectures on Burckhardt—Part I
 Th June 28: Lectures on Burckhardt—Part II

Readings: Burckhard, Parts I and II

Week 2

M July 2: Lectures on Burckhardt—Part III
 T July 3: Lectures on Burckhardt—Part IV
 Th July 5: Lectures on Burckhardt—Part V

Readings: Burckhardt, Parts III-V

Week 3

M July 9: Lectures on Burckhardt—Part VI
 T July 10: Petrarch
 Th July 12: Petrarch

Readings: Burckhardt, Part VI; Petrarch, *The Secret*

Assignment: essay on Burckhard due Mon. July 9

Week 4

M July 16: Bruni
 T July 17: Bruni
 Th July 19: Bruni

Readings: Bruni, *History of the Florentine People*, vol. 1

Assignment: essay on Petrarch due Mon. July 16

Week 5

M July 23: Bruni
 T July 24: Bruni
 Th July 26: Bruni

Readings: Bruni, *History of the Florentine People*, vol. 2

Week 6

M July 30: Machiavelli
 T July 31: Machiavelli
 Th August 2: So What?

Readings: Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Assignment: essay on Bruni due Mon. July 30; essay on Machiavelli due Thurs. August 2

Guide to Writing the Essays

There are four 5 to 7 page essays required for this course, one on each of the assigned texts. The essays should answer as thoroughly and with as much detail as possible one of the given questions for each of the essays, arguing for and defending a position. The essays are to be printed in standard 12 point font (CG Time or Times New Roman). They are to be double-spaced. They are to be well-written. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. The essays are to be turned in at the beginning of class the day they are due. No late submissions will be accepted.

For each of the essays, you are to select one of the given questions.

Essay 1: Burckhardt

1. Discuss Burckhard's concept of "The State as a Work of Art". How did this concept affect Burckhard's interpretation of the Renaissance? Is it a useful, valuable concept with which to interpret the Renaissance state? Why or why not?
2. What was the role according to Burckhardt of Language in the Renaissance? How did Burckhardt's discussion of Language relate to his discussion of Humanism?
3. Burckhardt wrote: "This humanism was in fact pagan, and became more and more so as its sphere widened in the fifteenth century. Its representatives, whom we have already described as the advance guard of an unbridled individualism, display as a rule such a character that even their religion, which is sometimes professed very definitely, becomes a matter of indifference to us." (p. 352). Analyze this passage in the context of Burckhardt's overall interpretation of the Renaissance. To what extent is Burckhardt's interpretation of the Renaissance formed by his position on humanism, religion, and individuality? Was Burckhardt accurate? Why or why not?

Essay 2: Petrarch

1. Analyze the role of *Augustinus* in Petrarch's *The Secret*. What was his function? Did Petrarch follow *Augustinus*, or *Franciscus*? Why and to what extent?
2. What was Petrarch's "secrete"?
3. Select one of the questions to answer on pages 166 and 167 (and be sure to indicate which question you have selected).

Essay 3: Bruni

1. What was, according to Bruni, the relationship between Florence and the Church? How did Bruni portray the religion and the state with respect to Florence? What is the role of religion and the divine in Bruni's work?
2. What was the role of the Etruscans in the rise of Florence? Do we find in Bruni an articulation of a civic myth? What evidence of that is there? Was Bruni indeed a "civic humanist"?
3. In his *Laudatio of the City of Florence*, Bruni wrote: "There is no place on earth in which justice is fairer for all. For nowhere does such liberty flourish, nor such a balanced relationship between greater and lesser. For here too, this city's prudence—greater perhaps than that of any other—is noteworthy." Does his *History of the Florentine People* support such an assertion? Why or why not? What evidence is there that Florence was justice above all others?

Essay 4: Machiavelli

1. Often Machiavelli is attributed with the principle that the “end justifies the means.” Is this something he is indeed advocating in *The Prince*? Was Machiavelli a Machiavellian?
2. What is the purpose of the state, according to Machiavelli, and how is that purpose best realized? What is required and/or needed therefore? In this light, is Machiavelli really all that “radical”? What is “new” with Machiavelli?
3. Select one of the questions on pages 193-194 to answer, and be sure to indicate clearly which question you are answering.