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21H.311 The Renaissance, 1300-1600
Fall 2004

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THE RENAISSANCE, 1300-1600

Subject Description. The “Renaissance” as a phenomenon in European history is best understood as a series of social, political, and cultural responses to an intellectual trend which began in Italy in the fourteenth century. This intellectual tendency, known as humanism, or the *studia humanitatis*, was at the heart of developments in literature, the arts, the sciences, religion and government for almost three hundred years. In this class, we will highlight the history of humanism, but we will also study religious reformations, high politics, the agrarian world, and European conquest and expansion abroad in the period.

Subject Requirements. Attendance and class participation is mandatory. Students will take a map quiz, write four two-page papers, one five-page paper, and one ten-page paper. I will hand out instructions for these assignments later in the term. There is no midterm or final exam in this subject. Each assignment will be weighted as follows in the calculation of the final grade, although these calculations will also take into account improved performance during the course of the semester:

Class Participation	30 points
Map Quiz	10 points
Two-Page Papers	10 points each (four papers total)
Five-Page Paper	40 points
<u>Ten-Page Paper</u>	<u>80 points</u>
TOTAL	200 points

Required Reading. The following books are available for purchase at the MIT Bookstore; they should also be on reserve in the Hayden Library. Some readings, indicated by an asterisk (*), will be available on the course class web site as e-reserves. If you want more background reading on this period in European history, consult Lynn Hunt, *et al. The Challenge of the West*, on reserve in the Humanities Library.

Rice & Grafton, *The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460-1559*, 2nd Edition. (RG)
Ross & McLaughlin, *The Portable Renaissance Reader* (RR)
John Aberth, ed. *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350*
Emmanuel Leroy-Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*
Petrarch, *The Secret* (Bedford/St Martin’s edition, edited by Carol E. Quillen)
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Bedford/St Martin’s edition, edited by William J. Connell)
Thomas More, *Utopia* (Bedford/St Martin’s edition, edited by David Harris Sacks)

Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism: The web now hosts many sites which offer college-level papers of varying quality on a variety of topics. I am well acquainted with these sites, and with others that offer detection services to professors. **Buying a paper and submitting it as your own work is cheating. Copying sections from someone else's print or online work into your own without an acknowledgement is plagiarism.** MIT has strict policies against both activities that I will enforce. For the appropriate MIT definitions and policies, visit the following websites. If you are uncertain about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please contact me **before** submitting the work in question.

- MIT Online Writing and Communication Center: <http://web.mit.edu/writing>
- Avoiding Plagiarism: <http://web.mit.edu/writing/Citation/plagiarism.html> (Be sure to check out the links to sites at the University of Toronto and Texas A & M.)

Class Meetings and Reading Assignments

Week One

2/6. Introduction: The History of Renaissance History

2/8. Geography, Demography, Global Trade, 1300-1600

- 1) Leroy-Ladurie, *Montaillou*, 3-135.

Week Two

2/13. The World of the Peasantry ca. 1300

- 1) Leroy-Ladurie, *Montaillou*, 139-203.

2/15. The Black Death, ca. 1350

- 1) Aberth, *The Black Death*, 1-7, 37-45, 67-82, 117-59.

Map Quiz

Week Three

2/20. NO CLASS. Monday Schedule of classes

2/22. The Discarded Image

- 1) RR, 580-93

First Short Paper Due

Week Four

2/27. The Beginnings of Humanism in Fourteenth-Century Italy

- 1) RG, 1-10, 77-90

- 2) RR, 120-30
- 3) Petrarch, *The Secret*, 1-70, 149-58

3/1. Petrarch

Petrarch, *The Secret*, 70-148.

Second Short Paper Due

3/3. Visit to Harvard's Fogg Art Museum

Meet at entrance at 1 PM.

Week Five

3/6. Civic Humanism in Early Fifteenth-Century Italy and beyond

- 1) *Introduction and Bruni's *Panegyric to the City of Florence* in Benjamin G. Kohl and Ronald G. Witt, eds. *The Earthly Republic: Italian Humanists on Government and Society* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1978), 121-175.
- 2) RR, 476-9

3/8. Art and Culture in Fifteenth-Century Italy

- 1) RG, 90-114
- 2) RR, 140-5, 527-40
- 3) *Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy* (Oxford U.P., 1988, 2nd ed.), 1-27
- 4) *Pat Simons, "Women in Frames: The Gaze, the Eye, the Profile in Renaissance Portraiture", *History Workshop* 25 (1988):38-57.

Third Short Paper due

3/10. Visit to the Museum of Fine Arts

Meet at west entrance

Week Six

3/13. Burgundy and Late Medieval Politics in the North

- 1) RR, 185-202

3/15. The New Monarchies & the Invasion of Italy

- 1) RG, 110-39
- 2) RR, 279-94

Fourth Short Paper Due

Week Seven

3/20. Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* I

- 1) RG, 140-45
- 2) Connell edition of *The Prince*, 1-68

3/22. Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince II*

- 1) Connell edition of *The Prince*, 68-123
- 2) RR, 263-7

March 26-30: SPRING BREAK

Week Eight

4/3. Thomas More, *Utopia*

- 1) Reread RG, 140-45
- 2) Sacks edition of *Utopia*, 26-51, 81-127

4/5. Thomas More, *Utopia*

- 1) Sacks edition of *Utopia*, 127-212

Week Nine

4/10. Christian Humanism in the North

- 1) RR, 80-6, 401-8, 717-21
- 2) *Erasmus, "The Paraclesis," in John C. Olin, ed. *Christian Humanism and the Reformation* (New York, 1975).
- 3) [optional] J. Kelley Sowards, ed. *The Julius Exclusus of Erasmus* (Indiana U.P., 1968), 45-141.

4/12. Martin Luther and the Protestant Challenge

- 1) RG, 146-77
- 2) RR, 677-703.

Five-Page Paper Due

Week Ten

4/17. NO CLASS. Patriots Day.

4/19. The Age of Reformations

- 1) RG, 178-202
- 2) RR, 234-41
- 3) *Hans Hillerbrand, ed. "Radical Reform Movements", in *The Reformation* (Baker Book House, 1987, 6th ed.), 214-38.

Week Eleven

4/24. Class Cancelled.

4/26. Class Cancelled

Week Twelve

5/1. Portuguese Expansion

- 1) RG, 32-38

5/3. Spanish Exploration

- 1) RG, 38-44
- 2) RR 146-57
- 3) *Matthew Restall, "The Renaissance World from the West: Spanish America and the 'Real' Renaissance," in in Guido Ruggiero, ed. *A Companion to the Worlds of the Renaissance* (Oxford, 2002), 70-87.

Week Thirteen

5/8. Spanish Conquest

- 1) *Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman L. Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, 4th ed., 42-59.
- 2) *Stuart B. Schwartz, ed. "The Siege and Fall of Tenochtitlan", in *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahua Views of the Conquest of Mexico* (Bedford/St. Martins, 2000), 182-213

5/10. The Latter Sixteenth Century: Heterodoxy and Skepticism

- 1) *William Eamon, "The Scientific Renaissance," in Guido Ruggiero, ed. *A Companion to the Worlds of the Renaissance* (Oxford, 2002), 403-24
- 2) *Michel de Montaigne, "On Cannibals."

Week Fourteen

5/15. Rehearsal for in-class performance of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*.
Ten-Page Paper Due.

5/17. In-class performance of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*.
