

The Renaissance and Early Modern Period

An Interdisciplinary Introduction

Humanities 512 A, B, C, and D (Fall 2008)

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:40 - 11:00 in Hamilton Smith 127

Sections: alternate Thursdays 9:40 - 11:00 in various rooms

All students must enroll in one of the four sections and attend it regularly.

Section 514A (Art History): Professor Emison. Meets in PCAC M316 and satisfies the General Education category 6 requirement.

Section 514B (Literature): Professor Ferber. Meets in HS 127 and satisfies Gen Ed category 8.

Section 514C (History): Professor Mellyn. Meets in Dimond Library 537 and satisfies Gen Ed category 4.

Section 514D (Philosophy): Professor Witt. Meets in HS 8 and satisfies Gen Ed category 7.

Half the **grade** for this course will depend on the three tests (given in the lecture room) and half will depend on the work assigned in section (e.g., papers, quizzes, regular attendance, participation, etc., as the professor chooses).

Books (available at Durham Book Exchange)

Herman Bauer and Andreas Prater. *Baroque*. Taschen.

Manfred Wundram. *Renaissance*. Taschen.

Erasmus and Luther. *Discourse on Free Will*. Continuum.

Machiavelli. *The Prince*. Oxford World Classics.

Machiavelli. *Mandragola*. Waveland.

Descartes. *Discourse on Method and Meditations*. Hackett.

Galileo. *Discoveries and Opinions of Galileo*. Anchor.

More. *Utopia*. Penguin.

Vittorino da Feltre and Other Humanist Educators. Univ. of Toronto.

Shakespeare. *The Merchant of Venice*. Signet Classics.

Molière. *The Misanthrope and Tartuffe*. Harvest.

Schedule

Tues 2 Sep Introduction

Part One: The Florentine Renaissance

Thur 4 Sep The Sonnet from Petrarch to Milton (Ferber)

Tues 9 Sep Florence and Renaissance Humanism (Mellyn)

Thur 11 Sep Section

Tues 16 Sep Early Renaissance Art (Emison)

Thur 18 Sep Early Renaissance Art (Emison)

Tues 23 Sep Renaissance Philosophy and Machiavelli (Witt)

Thur 25 Sep Section

Tues 30 Sep Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Witt)

Thur 2 Oct Machiavelli, *Mandragola* (Ferber)

Tues 7 Oct **Test 1**

Part Two: Religious Reformations

Thur 9 Oct Northern Renaissance Art (Emison)

Tues 14 Oct The Reformation (Mellyn)

Thur 16 Oct Section

Tues 21 Oct The Reformation and Thomas More (Mellyn)

Thur 23 Oct Luther versus Erasmus (Witt)

Tues 28 Oct Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* (Ferber)

Thur 30 Oct Section

Tues 4 Nov High Renaissance Art (Emison)

Thur 6 Nov **Test 2**

Part Three: Culture and the New Science

Tues 11 Nov Veterans Day: no class

Thur 13 Nov Baroque Art (Emison)

Tues 18 Nov Descartes and Modern Philosophy (Witt)

Thur 20 Nov Section

Tues 25 Nov Descartes (Witt)

Thur 27 Nov Thanksgiving Day: no class

Tues 2 Dec Revolution in the Heavens: From Copernicus to Galileo (Mellyn)

Thur 4 Dec Molière, *Tartuffe* (Ferber)

Tues 9 Dec Disease and Social Change: From Plague to Syphilis (Mellyn)

Thur 11 Dec Section or “section of the whole” (review)

Wed 17 Dec 10:30 – 12:30 **Test 3**