

History 3460 (Autumn 2013): Late Medieval & Renaissance Italy

Prof. Kenneth Gouwens (kenneth.gouwens@uconn.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30–4:00, & by appointment (Wood Hall #318, tel. 486-3750)

Required Books:

Paula Findlen, ed., *The Italian Renaissance: Essential Readings*

Kenneth Gouwens, ed., *The Italian Renaissance: Essential Sources*

Five Comedies from the Italian Renaissance, ed. Giannetti and Ruggiero

Manetti, *The Fat Woodworker*

Course Requirements: The final grade comprises: participation (in-class writing assignments and informed engagement in discussions), 20%; two midterm examinations, 20% each; and a two-hour comprehensive final examination, 40%. Discussions of the readings are integral to this course, and so you need to finish readings *before* the class sessions for which they are assigned. The examinations consist mostly of essays. The essay on the first exam and one of those on the final are textual explications. You are responsible for all materials covered and handouts distributed in class. Following an absence, you may want to arrange to copy notes and handouts from one of your peers.

Academic Misconduct: See http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html, Appendix “A.”

Policy on Cellphones: The use of cell phones, including for text messaging, is prohibited in this class. Please turn cell phones completely off, including vibration setting, and put them away. It is disturbing to the entire class — and disrespectful to the instructor — when students get up during class to receive phone calls or when they are text-messaging during lecture. If you have a particular emergency, please inform the instructor before class that you are expecting a call, set the phone to “vibrate,” and quietly leave the room before responding to the call.

Laptop Use: While use of laptops is permitted in this class, it is restricted to note-taking. Any student found to be surfing the internet, checking email, playing games, or doing anything on the laptop that is not connected with taking notes, will forfeit her or his right to use a laptop in class for the duration of the semester. If such behavior is found to be a problem in the classroom, the instructor reserves the right to prohibit altogether the use of laptops during class meetings.

Recording Devices: Students who either need or wish to record the lectures are asked to submit a request in writing to the instructor via email, stating their reasons for doing so. This applies only to audio recording. Video recording will not be permitted under any circumstances.

Responses to E-mails: It is a privilege rather than a right to receive rapid responses to queries sent via email. Emails sent Wednesday through Sunday may not be answered until Monday morning. The professor will respond promptly to emails on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Schedule of Classes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Aug. 26 (M)	Introduction	-----
Aug. 28 (W)	Dante, Giotto, & Italy ca. 1300	Gouwens, 1–23
Sep. 2 (M)	Labor Day — no class meeting	
Sep. 4 (W)	Petrarch & Humanism	Findlen, 3–7, 219–36; Gouwens, 24–38
Sep. 9 (M)	Florentine Politics to 1434	Findlen, 7–16, 43–63; Gouwens, 43–47
Sep. 11 (W)	Florence under the Medici	Findlen, 64–90, 299–316; Gouwens, 94–95
Sep. 16 (M)	State Dynamics in 15th Cent.	Findlen, 16–26; Gouwens, 51–70
Sep. 18 (W)	Quattrocento Art & its Significance	-----
Sep. 23 (M)	Encountering Ancient Texts	Findlen, 215–18, 237–72
Sep. 25 (W)	Savonarola, Florence, & Invasion	Findlen, 26–33
Sep. 30 (M)	Merchants, Artists, Urban Values	Gouwens, 96–107; Manetti
Oct. 2 (W)	Religion and Morality	Findlen, 124–66
Oct. 7 (M)	The Role of the Family	Findlen, 93–123; Gouwens, 108–25
Oct. 9 (W)	First Examination	
Oct. 14 (M)	Gender Roles & Expectations	Findlen, 192–211; Gouwens, 137–49
Oct. 16 (W)	Women as Wives & Mothers	Findlen, 169–91; Gouwens, 150–69
Oct. 21 (M)	Women as Humanists	Findlen, 273–91; Gouwens, 197–205
Oct. 23 (W)	Philology as Tool & Weapon	Gouwens, 173–86
Oct. 28 (M)	Neoplatonism & Harmony	Gouwens, 187–96
Oct. 30 (W)	Society & Values on the Stage	Dovizi, “The Comedy of Calandro”; Machiavelli, “The Mandrake Root” (both in <i>Five Comedies</i>)

Nov. 4 (M)	Renaissance Rome & the Papacy	-----
Nov. 6 (W)	Second Examination	
Nov. 11 (M)	Renaissance Roman Art	-----
Nov. 13 (W)	Patronage & Gender	Findlen, 295–98, 317–40; Gouwens, 224–43
Nov. 18 (M)	Machiavelli & Politics	Gouwens, 71–90, 126–34
Nov. 20 (W)	The Sack of Rome (1527)	Gouwens, 206–18; Intronati, “The Deceived” (in <i>Five Comedies</i>)
Dec. 2 (M)	Remembering the Renaissance	Gouwens, 223, 244–77; Findlen, 33–40
Dec. 4 (W)	The Importance of Historical Memory	
Dec. 10 (Tu)	Final Examination (3:30–5:30pm)	

If you cannot take the final exam as scheduled, you must visit the Dean of Students Office, which will provide further instructions. Vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, weddings (unless part of the wedding party), and other large or small scale social events, are not viable excuses for missing a final exam. Contact the Dean of Students' office with any questions.