

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE

HIST 310 / POLSC 430: Italy in the Renaissance: Politics & Society

Credits: 3

Instructor: Giovanni Cipriani, Ph.D.

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: None

Site visit fee: TBA

Course Description:

The course analyzes the cultural, political, economic and social changes that define the Italian Renaissance, including in politics, art, social history and private life.

Topics covered include the birth of capitalism; the growth of the cities as the source of Europe's commercial expansion and political development; the emergence of political structures, such as the Communes, and subsequently regional states. Emphasis will be placed on the transformation of culture, the emergence of modern political thought in the writings of Machiavelli, the rise of individualism, the role of "new learning" in education and philosophical debate, and the artistic revolution.

The class will analyze and discuss a variety of sources, including paintings, architectures, diaries, poetry and political essays written by the protagonists of the time. Representations and idealizations of the Renaissance over time and their historical significance will also be studied.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

Textbooks:

Readings include, but are not limited to, selections from the following:

J. Conaway Bondanella & M. Musa, ed. *The Italian Renaissance Reader*.
NY, Meridian, 1987

H.Hibbard. *The Rise and Fall of the House of Medici*

P.Burke. *The Italian Renaissance*, Princeton 1987

The World of Ren. Florence. Giunti, Florence 1999

N.Machiavelli. *The Prince*

B.Castiglione. *The Book of the Courtier*

G. Brucker. *Renaissance in Florence*

Blunt. *Artistic Theory in Italy*

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.