

Florence Semester program – Institute at Palazzo Rucellai

ENG 430: The Three Crowns of Florence: Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio

Credits: 3

Instructor: TBA

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: None

(Taught in English)

Course description:

This introductory course aims to contextualize and interpret the major works of the greatest authors who marked the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance in Italy: Dante Alighieri, Francis Petrarch, and Giovanni Boccaccio.

The far-reaching and multifaceted cultural legacy of these writers makes the course inevitably interdisciplinary in nature. Students will be introduced not only to the most relevant literary sources used by the so-called 'Three Crowns of Florence' from classical antiquity to the late Middle Ages but also to the social world in which they lived. In this light, the course will touch on the authors' conceptions of politics, economics, science, the visual arts, music, philosophy, and theology. The theories held by Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio on these issues will then be contextualized by comparing them with the ideas current at their time. To this purpose, the students will be given handouts on other important writers from about 1250-1400; also, slides of works of art and architecture relevant to the topics will be shown, and recordings of medieval music will be played in class.

The course will be taught in English. Likewise, primary sources will be read in English. Questions on the language and the stylistic peculiarities of the original texts, however, will be strongly encouraged.

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

Textbooks: TBA

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.