

HIST 3239
Europe in the Age of Renaissance and Reformation
Fall 2008, MWF 2:00–2:50
Dr. Steven Matthews

Course Overview

In this course we will be studying an era of turbulent intellectual development in Europe which has received the inappropriately boring title of “early modern.” From the fourteenth century through the seventeenth century western Europe experienced an era of rapid change in culture and ideas which continues to inform the worldview and values of western culture to this day. While this course is, first of all, about coming to an understanding of the European past, it also has much to tell us about our own culture in America in the present day, for the Renaissance is the past out of which the American nation, with its distinctive values and perspectives, arose.

In this course we will examine the different forces of change which produced the Renaissance and Reformation, and also immerse ourselves in the literature, ideas, and images which made the era what it was. It was an era of humor and horror, of adventure and advances, of faith and the foundations of modern science. It was an age of battles of ideas and the reshaping of politics. In the course of the Renaissance a new European identity emerged, and the ideological material of nations and empires which would dominate the modern age was put in place. This course will focus on the major intellectual and cultural changes associated with two movements in this time period: the Renaissance, and the Reformation. Grades will be determined by two writing assignments and two tests, as well as class participation and preparedness.

Texts Which You are Required to Buy:

King, Margaret L., *The Renaissance in Europe*
Boccaccio, Giovanni, *The Decameron* (McWilliam Translation)
Ozment, Steven, *The Age of Reform: 1250-1550*
Grafton, Anthony, *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*

NOTE: Other readings for the course are available from online sources, including the instructor’s web page. It is assumed that you are familiar with the internet and the online resources of the library. If this is not the case, see me.

Special Facilities and/or Arrangements:

If you have a physical or cultural condition, either permanent or temporary, which you believe makes it difficult for you to participate in and/or complete the requirements of this course in the time and manner prescribed, please let me know by the end of the first week of instruction. Adaptation of methods, materials, or testing may be made as required. It is your responsibility to contact Disability Services for advice regarding adaptations.

Course Schedule

(Note: required readings are expected to be completed before class. Reading the recommended readings will be of great help before the essay portions of the tests and before other writing assignments. Required assignments which may be skimmed without harming your grade are marked with **SKIM**.)

Week One: Introduction to the Renaissance

W (09/03) Course Introduction

F (09/05) The Idea of “Renaissance.”

Required Reading Assignment: King, Introduction, pp. viii-xiii; King, Chapter 1, pp. 1-30 **SKIM**

Week Two: More Characteristics of the Renaissance, and Boccaccio

M (09/08) Social and Cultural Context of the Renaissance.

Required Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 2, pp. 33–62.

W (09/10) Social and Cultural context of the Renaissance, part 2. Introduction to Boccaccio

Required Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 5, pp. 137-164.

Recommended Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 6, pp. 167-192.

F (09/12) Boccaccio.

Required Reading Assignment: *Decameron*: Proem, Introduction.

Week Three: Boccaccio

M (09/15) Boccaccio.

Required Reading Assignment: *Decameron*: Day One, Stories 1,2,3, and 5.

W (09/17) Boccaccio.

Required Reading Assignment: *Decameron*: Day One, Stories 9 and 10; Day Two, Story 7, Day Three, Story 10; and Day Four, Story 1.

F (09/19) Boccaccio.

Required Reading Assignment: *Decameron*: Day Six, Stories 7 and 10; and Day Ten, Story 10.

Week Four: Humanism

M (09/22) Humanism and the Recovery of Ancient Learning.

Required Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 3, pp. 65-98.

W (09/24) Humanism and the Recovery of Ancient Learning.

F (09/26) Humanism and the Recovery of Ancient Learning.

Required Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 10, pp. 287-318.

Week Five: Themes in Renaissance Art

M (09/29) Overview.

Required Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 4, pp. 101-134.

W (10/01) Renaissance Art slideshow.

* F (10/03) Renaissance Art slideshow. **ARTICLE REPORTS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

Week Six: Themes in Renaissance Art, Introduction to Statecraft

M (10/06) Renaissance Art slideshow.

W (10/08) Renaissance Art slideshow.

F (10/10) Renaissance Art wrap-up. Introduction to Renaissance Statecraft.

Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 5, pp. 196-222.

Week Seven: Machiavelli's Prince

M (10/13) Background to *The Prince*.

Required Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 8, pp. 225-242.

Recommended Reading Assignment: King, Chapter 8, pp. 242 to the end.

W (10/15) *The Prince*.

Required Reading Assignment: *The Prince* -- selections, as assigned in class.

F (10/17) *The Prince*.

Required Reading Assignment: *The Prince* -- selections, as assigned in class.

Week Eight: Mid-Term

M (10/20) Machiavelli wrap-up (if necessary) and Review.

*W (10/22) **Mid-Term part 1.**

*F (10/24) **Mid-Term part 2.**

Week Nine: Religious Turmoil and Reform

M (10/27) Scholasticism and Mysticism -- Overview of medieval religious thought.

Required Reading Assignment: Ozment, chapters 2 & 3 **SKIM**.

W (10/29) Church, State, and People -- Political and Cultural background to the Reformation.

Required Reading Assignment: Ozment, chapter 6.

F (10/31) Martin Luther and his thought.

Required Reading Assignment: Ozment, chapter 8.

Week Ten: Religious Turmoil and Reform

M (11/03) The effect of Luther in Germany.

Required Reading Assignment: Ozment, chapter 7.

W (11/05) The Swiss Reformation and the Sectarians.

Required Reading Assignment: Ozment, chapter 9 or Ozment chapter 10, as assigned.

F (11/07) Calvin and Calvinism.

Required Reading Assignment: Ozment, chapter 11.

Week Eleven: Religious Turmoil and Reform

M (11/10) The Catholic and Counter Reformations.

Required Reading Assignment: Ozment, chapter 13.

W (11/12) The Curious Case of England; Aftermath -- the Thirty-Years' War and beyond.

Required Reading Assignment: *TBA*

F (11/14) "Pious Myths" part 1.

Required Reading Assignment: Timothy Wengert, "The Priesthood of All Believers and Other Pious Myths." (Available Online.)

Week Twelve: Religious Turmoil and Reform, Grafton.

M(11/17) "Pious Myths" part 2. Intro. to *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*.

Required Reading Assignment: Steve Matthews, "The Myth of Protestant Biblical Interpretation in the Lutheran Reformation." Conference Essay, provided by the professor.

W (11/19) *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*

Required Reading Assignment: Grafton, "Forward," Introduction, pp. 1-10.

F (11/21) *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*

Required Reading Assignment: Grafton, Chapter 1, pp. 13-58.

Week Thirteen: *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*

M (11/24) *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*

Required Reading Assignment: Grafton, Chapter 2, pp. 61-93.

W (11/26) The Geography of the New World.

Week Fourteen: *New Worlds, Ancient Texts, continued.*

M (12/01) *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*.

Required Reading Assignment: Grafton, Chapter 3, pp. 97-157.

W (12/03) *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*.

Required Reading Assignment: Grafton, Chapter 4, pp. 161-193.

F (12/05) *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*.

Required Reading Assignment: Grafton, Chapter 5, pp. 197-252.

Week Fifteen: *New Worlds, Ancient Texts, conclusion, and Review*

M (12/08) *New Worlds, Ancient Texts*. Conclusion.

Required Reading Assignment: "Epilogue," pp. 253- 256.

*W (12/10) Review for Test.

PRIMARY SOURCE REPORTS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.

F (12/12) Study Session.

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, December 15, 10:00–11:55

Tests and Grades:

Pay careful attention to test dates! No make-up will be given without a *serious* medical excuse (feel free to read into this such cheery phrases as: “grave bodily injury,” “emergency room,” and “terminal condition,” if it helps for understanding) and/or prior approval from the instructor.

The final grade will be determined by two written assignments and two tests. The writing assignments are an article review and a review of a primary source, each of which will be five to seven pages in length and each worth 15% of the final grade. The tests are a midterm and a final, each of which is worth 30% of the final grade. Participation in class discussion and preparedness counts for the remaining 10% of the grade. **Late assignments are not accepted.**

Grading is done on a 100-point scale

94-100 = A	77=C/C+
93=A/A-	74-76=C
90-92=A-	73=C/C-
89=B+/A-	70-72=C-
88=B+	69=D+/C-
87=B/B+	68=D+
84-86=B	67=D/D+
83=B/B-	64-66=D
80-82=B-	63=D/D-
79=C+/B-	60-62=D-
78=C+	below 60=F

Cheating or Plagiarism:

Neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated. The first instance of either will result in a grade of “0” for that assignment or examination. A second instance of either will result in a failing grade for the course. At the instructor’s discretion, based upon the seriousness of the offense, the student who cheats or plagiarizes will be reported to the administration, and expulsion from the university may ultimately follow.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is necessary and you must be on time. Three unexcused absences or late arrivals will result in a one-half letter grade penalty. Four will result in a whole letter grade penalty. Five or more will result in a failing grade for the course. **Absences will only be excused** through prior arrangement with the instructor, or if they are the result of a *serious* medical problem (see the parenthetical under “Tests and Grades,” above.)

Academic Dishonesty (University Policy)

Academic dishonesty tarnishes UMD's reputation and discredits the accomplishments of students. UMD is committed to providing students every possible opportunity to grow in mind and spirit. This pledge can only be redeemed in an environment of trust, honesty, and fairness. As a result, academic dishonesty is regarded as a serious offense by all members of the academic community. In keeping with this ideal, this course will adhere to UMD's Student Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at www.d.umn.edu/assl/conduct/integrity. This policy sanctions students engaging in academic dishonesty with penalties up to and including expulsion from the university for repeat offenders.

Student Conduct Code (University Policy)

The instructor will enforce and students are expected to follow the University's Student Conduct Code (<http://www.d.umn.edu/assl/conduct/code>). Appropriate classroom conduct promotes an environment of academic achievement and integrity. Disruptive classroom behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach, or student learning, is prohibited. Disruptive behavior includes inappropriate use of technology in the classroom. Examples include ringing cell phones, text-messaging, watching videos, playing computer games, doing email, or surfing the Internet on your computer instead of note-taking or other instructor-sanctioned activities.

Office Hours:**ABAH 215****M,W: 11:50-12:50. F: 1:00-1:50, or by special arrangement with the instructor.****Dr. Matthews' email: (smatthew@d.umn.edu)****WEBPAGE: <http://homepage.mac.com/hermetic1/>****Office phone: 7544**