## Faculty of Arts – Art 211

## Course: Social and the Urban Dimensions of the Italian Renaissance City

## Spring I (May/June) 2018

## Dr. Marco Pacioni [pacionim@gmail.com](mailto:pacionim@gmail.com)

[pacioni@ualberta.ca](mailto:pacioni@ualberta.ca)

## Course Description

This course examines the elements that contributed to the conception and construction of the Italian Renaissance city. The course focuses on the changes in medieval cities before and after the Black Plague and on the new architectonic elements of the Renaissance such as squares, gardens, palaces, villas, aqueducts, fountains, open galleries, public monuments, domes, theaters. Original documents translated into English, the arts and literature are considered in order to follow the social and urban evolution of cities such as Florence, Rome, including the ideal cities that have been built or only planned. The course considers the relationship between the urban spaces and their usages by different social groups in terms of gender differences.

**Required Readings**

* Gene Brucker (edited by), “The Society of Renaissance Florence. A Documentary Study”, Harper & Row, New York, 1971, isbn: 061316075.
* At the beginning of the course other materials will be furnished in a “Reader” that includes sources from:

Jacob Burckhardt, “The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy”, Penguin, London, 2004, isbn: 9780140445343.

Henry Pirenne, *Medieval Cities. Their Origins and the Revival of Trade*, Princeton University Press, Princton, 1980, isbn: 0691007608.

Giorgio Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*, 2 voll., Penguin, Baltimore, 1972, isbn: 390315980477.

Francesco Petrarca, “Familiar Letters”, from: <http://petrarch.petersadlon.com/letters.html>

Marcello Fantoni e Amedeo Quondam (edited by), “Le parole che noi usiamo. Categorie storiografiche e interpretative dell’Europa moderna”, Bulzoni, Roma, 2008, isbn: 9788878703186.

Margaret L. King, “Women of the Renaissance”, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1991, isbn: 978-0226436180.

**Max Seidel, “Father and Son. Nicola and Giovanni Pisano”, Chicago University Press, Chicago, 2012, isbn:** 9788878703987.

Leon Battista Alberti, “On the Art of Building”, Penguin, London, 1991, isbn: 0140433317.

Tommaso Campanella, “The City of the Sun”, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1981, isbn: 9788878703348.

Thomas Moore, *Utopia*, Penguin, London, 1985, isbn: 098487076432.

Baldassare Castiglione, “Book of the Courtier”, Norton, New York, 2002, isbn: 3048878703987.

A. Richard Turner, *Renaissance Florence. The Invention of a New Art*, Abrams, New York, 1997, isbn: 013183066.

Nicholas Temple, *Renovatio Urbis. Architecture, Urbanism, and Cerimony in the Rome of Juluis*, Routledge, London-New York, 2011, isbn: 9780415473859

**Class schedule and trips**

**WEEK 1**

**- Lesson 1: Italian cities and the Black Plague. *Readings:* Brucker: part one: *The Economic Structure*.**

**- Lesson 2: The birth of the idea of a new urban space. *Readings:* from Boccaccio’s *Decameron*: *Prologue*, *Introduction*, IV day: *Introduction*, *Andreuccio da Perugia*.**

**- Field trip to Arezzo.**

**WEEK 2**

**- Lesson 1: Classical heritage before the Renaissance. *Readings: Reader:* from Turner’s *Renaissance Florence. The Invention of a New Art*: *Introduction*, *Chapters One* to *Four*.**

**- Lesson 2: Giotto, Arnolfo di Cambio, Nicola and Giovanni Pisano, and others. *Readings:* Wittkower’s *Humanism and Architecture*; Ghiberti’s *Commentaries*. *Documentary:*** *Arnolfo di Cambio* (Guest, 2015).

**- Field trip to Florence.**

**- Mid-term paper due**

**WEEK 3**

**- Lesson 1: Florence transformed into a Renaissance city. *Readings: Reader*: from: Alberti’s *On the Art of Building*: *Prologue*, *Book 1*, *Book 4*. Space as the new protagonist in architecture: Brunelleschi, Alberti, Michelangelo in the republican period of Florence. *Readings:* Vasari’s *Lives*: *Michelangelo*.**

**- Lesson 2: :** Ideal and utopic cities. ***Reader*: urban social space (from: Kohl and Andrews Smith’s *Major Problems in the History of the Italian Renaissance* *Chapter 4*: *Urban Needs and Opportunity*)ideal cities (from Moore’s *Utopia*: pp. 1-46; Campanella’s *The City of the Sun*: *Introduction*).**

**- Field trip to Rome.**

**WEEK 4**

**- Lesson 1: Urban space and social classes. *Readings:* Brucker: *Collectivities*, *Crime and punishment*, part VII. *Reader*:festivity (from Burckhardt’s *Civilization of Italian Renaissance*: V: *Social Life and Festivities*). *Movie: The Merchant of Venise* (1974).**

**- Lesson 2: The rediscovery of the ancient city: Rome. *Readings:*** *Reader*: the ruins of Rome (from Petrarch’s *Letters*: *Familiares* II, 14; V, 4; V, 5; VI, 2), the city of Rome from the second half of the 15th century to 1527 (from Temple’s *Renovatio Urbis. Architecture, Urbanism, and Ceremony in the Rome of Julius II*: *2:* *Via Giulia and papal corporatism*). ***Movie:*** *Lucrezia Borgia* (dHugo, 2012).

**- Presentations.**

**- Final paper due.**

**GRADES**

Class participation and Attendance 10%Oral presentation 15%Mid-term paper (4-6 pages) 30%Final paper (8-10 pages) 40%

**ATTENDANCE TO ALL CLASSES IS ESSENTIAL AND MANDATORY. ATTENDANCE TO DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS DURING FIELD TRIP IS ALSO MANDATORY, AND WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL PART FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION.**

**Mid-term paper, final essay, and presentation**

The mid-term and the final examination will consist of essays (4-6 pages and 8-10 pages) that concern topics discussed in class, during the trips, and through the readings that have to be previously agreed with the teacher. The topic of the presentation also has to be agreed with the teacher before to be presented to the class.

**GRADE SCALE**

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| Letter | % | Pts. | Description |
| A+ | 95-100 | 4 | Outstanding Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations |
| A | 90-94 | 4 | Excellent. Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter |
| A- | 86-89 | 3.7 | Very good Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of the subject matter |
| B+ | 82-85 | 3.3 | Very good |
| B | 75-81 | 3 | Good Average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete |
| B- | 70-74 | 2.7 | Good |
| C+ | 66-69 | 2.3 | Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter |
| C | 61-65 | 2 | Satisfactory |
| C- | 58-60 | 1.7 | Satisfactory |
| D+ | 55-57 | 1.3 | Minimal Pass marginal performance generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter |
| D | 54-50 | 1 | Minimal pass Marginal performance, generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter |
| F | 0-49 | 0 | Fail Failure to meet course requirements. |