## Winter 2017

## Faculty of Arts Interdisciplinary INT D 325

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

Class hours 2:15pm – 3:45 / Office hours: Mondays after class and by appointment

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## Course Description

This course examines the elements that contributed to the conception and construction of the Italian Renaissance city and its enormous worldly influence on modern and contemporary cities. The course will first focus on the changes occurred in medieval cities before and after the Black Plague; then on the new urban and architectonic elements of the Renaissance such as squares, gardens, palaces, villas, aqueducts, fountains, open galleries, public monuments, domes, theaters. Original documents translated into English as well as the arts and literature of the period will be considered in order to follow the social and urban evolution of cities such as Florence, Rome, and 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 and also in terms of sex/gender differences.

**Required Readings**

***Course Reader*** with texts and images from:

- S. Gelichi, *The City*

- G. Brucker, *The Society of Renaissance Florence*

- G. Boccaccio, *The Decameron*- R. Wittkover, *Architecture Principles of Humanism* [images]  
- G. Vasari, *The Lives of the Artists*

- T. More, *Utopia*- T. Campanella, *The City of the Sun*- P. Tinagli, *Women in Italian Renaissance Art*- B. G. Kohl, A. A. Smith, *Major Problems in the History of the Italian Renaissance*

- L. B. Alberti, *On the Art of Building*- L. B. Alberti, *On Painting*- L. Ghiberti, *The Commentaries*- F. Petrarca, *Letters*- N. Temple, *Renovatio Urbis*

**Class schedule and trips**

**WEEK 1: Introduction. Italian cities and the Black Plague.**

**- January 10: *Readings:* Boccaccio’s *Decameron*: *Prologue*, *Introduction*;IV day: *Introduction*, *Andreuccio da Perugia*; Petrarch’s** *Preface to his First Collection of Letters*;***Documentary: Siena: Chronicles of a Medieval Commune* (Musefilmandtv, 2013).**

**WEEK 2: Classical heritage before the Renaissance**

**- January 15: *Readings:* S. Gelichi, *The cities*.**

**- January 17: *Readings:* Ghiberti’s *Commentaries*. *Documentary:*** *Arnolfo di Cambio* (Guest, 2015).

**WEEK 3: Florence transformed into a Renaissance city.**

**- January 22: *Readings: Reader*: from: Alberti’s *On the Art of Building*: *Prologue*, *Book 1*, *Book 4*. - January 24: *Readings:* Vasari’s *Lives*: *Michelangelo*.**

**WEEK 4: Urban space and social classes.**

**- January 29: *Readings: Reader:* Brucker: *The Economic Structure, Collectivities*, *Crime and punishment*, part VII:**

**- January 31: *Readings:*** Temple’s *Renovatio Urbis. Architecture, Urbanism, and Ceremony in the Rome of Julius II* (part 1).

**WEEK 5: The rediscovery of the ancient city: Rome.**

**- February 5: *Readings:***Burckhardt, *The Civilization of Italian Renaissance*\*

**- February 7: *Readings*: Machiavelli’s *Prince\****

**- February 9: *Trip to Florence***

**WEEK 6: The city of Rome from the second half of the 15th century to 1527.**

**- February 12: *Class review***

**- February 14: *Mid-term exam***

**WEEK 7: From the city to the state**

**- February 19: *Readings:* Machiavelli’s *Discourses\****

**- February 21: *Readings:*** Temple’s *Renovatio Urbis. Architecture, Urbanism, and Ceremony in the Rome of Julius II* (part 2)

**February 23: *Trip to Rome***

**WEEK 8: Women in the city and their representation.**

**- February 26: *Readings:*** Tinagli’s *Women in Italian Renaissance Art. Gender, Representation, Identity*.

**- February 28: *Readings:*** Brucker: **part 2: *The Family*,** part 6: *Public mores*; *Reader*: prostitutes, courtesans, wives; ***Documentary:*** *Lucrezia Borgia* (dHugo, 2012).

**WEEK 9: Ideal and utopic cities. The heritage of Renaissance in modern cities**

**- March 5: *Readings:* More’s *Utopia***

**- March 7: *Readings:* Campanella’s *The City of the Sun*: *Introduction*.**

**Week 10:**

***-* March 12: *Presentations* and class review.**

**- March 14: *Final exam***

**GRADES**

Class participation and Attendance 10%Oral presentation 15%Mid-term exam 30%Final exam 40%

**Mid-term, final exam, and presentations**

The mid-term and the final examination consist of questions on topics treated in the lessons, trips, and readings. The questions concern two kinds of answers: the ones that identify specific items and the ones that have to be developed as brief essay style answers. The presentations consist into an explanation of a topic treated in class, trips, or readings previously agreed with the teacher. The exams and the presentations will take place in the classroom.

**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. |