Faculty of Arts Interdisciplinary number INTD 325  
Course: Social and the Urban Dimensions of the Italian Renaissance City  
Winter 2017  
Dr. Marco Pacioni  
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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
- At the beginning of the course other materials will be furnished in a “READER” that includes sources from:


Class schedule and trips
Week 1: From antiquity to the early medieval city.
Readings: Reader: the city in the Mediterranean and in the ninth century (from Pirenne’s Medieval Cities, chapter 1, 2, 3).
Documentary: Tudor Monastery Farm (BBC, Goodman, Pinfold, 2013).

Week 2: The commune.
Readings: Reader: merchants and the municipal institutions (from Pirenne’s Medieval Cities, chapter 5, 7).
Documentary: Siena: Chronicles of a Medieval Commune (Musefilmandtv, 2013).

Week 3: Italian cities and the Black Plague.
Film: *Decameron* (Pasolini, 1970).

**Week 4:** 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 Burckhardt’s *Civilization of Italian Renaissance: I: The papacy and its dangers*).

**Documentary:** *Rome, the city of Renaissance* (Lacy, 2012).

**Trip to Rome**

**Week 5:** Classical heritage before the Renaissance: Arnolfo di Cambio, Nicola and Giovanni Pisano.


**Documentary:** *Arnolfo di Cambio* (Guest, 2015).

**Mid-term paper due**

**Week 6:** Nature into the urban space. Ideal and utopic cities.

**Readings:** *Reader:* fountains and gardens in the city, the court and the theater (from: Castiglione’s *Courtier*; Bembo’s *Asolani*; Vasari’s *Lives: Preface*), ideal cities (from Thomas Moore’s *Utopia*; Tommaso Campanella’s *The City of the Sun*).

**Documentary:** *Palladio descritto da P. Daverio* (Rendarte Piaz, 2015)

**Week 7:** Urban space and social classes.

**Readings:** *Reader:* festivity (from Burckhardt’s *Civilization of Italian Renaissance: V: Social Life and Festivities*), the city as a cultural category (from *Le parole che noi usiamo. Categorie storiografiche e interpretative dell’Europa moderna*) Brucker: part V: *Crime and punishment*, part VII: *The popolo minuto*.

**Movie:** *The Merchant of Venise* (1974).

**Week 8:** Florence transformed into a Renaissance city. The heritage of the Renaissance city.


**Documentary:** *The Mystery of Florence’s Great* (SpiesLeaks, 2015).

**Trip to Florence**

**Week 9:** Women in the spaces of the city.


**Documentary:** *Lucrezia Borgia* (dHugo, 2012).

**Presentations**

**GRADES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term paper (4-6 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper (8-10 pages)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Mid-term, final essay, and presentation**
The mid-term and the final examination will consist of essays that concern topics that have to be previously agreed with the teacher. The topic of the presentation also has to be agreed with the teacher in advance.

**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.**

**GRADE SCALE**

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