

History 3460 (Autumn 2016): Late Medieval & Renaissance Italy

Prof. Kenneth Gouwens (kenneth.gouwens@uconn.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30–4:00, & by appointment (Wood Hall #318, tel. 486-3750)

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Aimee Loiselle (aimee.loiselle@uconn.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00–4:00 (Wood Hall #206)

Required Books:

Thomas V. Cohen, *Love and Death in Renaissance Italy*

Paula Findlen, ed., *The Italian Renaissance: Essential Readings*

Kenneth Gouwens, ed., *The Italian Renaissance: Essential Sources*

Antonio Manetti, *The Fat Woodworker*

Lorenzo Valla, *Correspondence*

Course Requirements: The final grade comprises: participation (in-class writing assignments and informed engagement in discussions), 20%; two midterm examinations, 20% each; and a two-hour comprehensive final examination, 40%. Discussions of the readings are integral to this course, and so you need to finish readings *before* the class sessions for which they are assigned. The examinations consist mostly of essays. The essay on the first exam and one of those on the final are textual explications. You are responsible for all materials covered and handouts distributed in class. Following an absence, you may want to arrange to copy notes and handouts from one of your peers.

Academic Misconduct: See http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html, Appendix “A.”

Policy on Cellphones: The use of cell phones, including for text messaging, is prohibited in this class. Please turn cell phones completely off, including vibration setting, and put them away. It is disturbing to the entire class — and disrespectful to the instructor — when students get up during class to receive phone calls or when they are text-messaging during lecture. If you have a particular emergency, please inform the instructor before class that you are expecting a call, set the phone to “vibrate,” and quietly leave the room before responding to the call.

Policy on Laptop Computers: Their use in class is prohibited. Surfing the internet during class may lead to revocation of this privilege. Rationale: Recent research has shown that even even for those students who resist the temptation to multitask when taking notes, the use of laptops “results in shallower processing.” See Pam A. Mueller and Daniel M. Oppenheimer, “The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking,” *Psychological Science* 25:6 (June 2014): 1159-1168. Students with a documented medical need for using a laptop in class may do so in the front row.

Recording Devices: Students who either need or wish to record the lectures are asked to submit a request in writing to the instructor via email, stating their reasons for doing so. This applies only to audio recording. Video recording will not be permitted under any circumstances.

Responses to E-mails: It is a privilege rather than a right to receive rapid responses to queries sent via email. Emails sent Wednesday through Sunday may not be answered until Monday morning. The professor will respond promptly to emails on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Schedule of Classes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Aug. 29 (M)	Introduction	-----
Aug. 31 (W)	Dante, Giotto, & Italy ca. 1300	Gouwens, 1–23
Sep. 5 (M)	Labor Day — no class meeting	
Sep. 7 (W)	Petrarch & Humanism	Findlen, 3–7, 219–36; Gouwens, 24–38
Sep. 12 (M)	Florentine Politics to 1434	Findlen, 7–16, 43–63; Gouwens, 43–47
Sep. 14 (W)	Florence under the Medici	Findlen, 64–90, 299–316; Gouwens, 94–95
Sep. 19 (M)	State Dynamics in 15th Cent.	Findlen, 16–26; Gouwens, 51–70
Sep. 21 (W)	Quattrocento Art & its Significance	-----
Sep. 26 (M)	Encountering Ancient Texts	Findlen, 215–18, 237–72
Sep. 28 (W)	Savonarola, Florence, & Invasion	Findlen, 26–33
Oct. 3 (M)	The Role of the Family	Findlen, 93–123; Gouwens, 108–25
Oct. 5 (W)	Merchants, Artists, Urban Values	Gouwens, 96–107; Manetti
Oct. 10 (M)	Religion and Morality	Findlen, 124–66
Oct. 12 (W)	First Examination	
Oct. 17 (M)	Crime and Sexuality I	Cohen, 1–70
Oct. 19 (W)	Crime and Sexuality II	Cohen, 173–227
Oct. 24 (M)	Wives & Mothers	Findlen, 169–91; Gouwens, 137–69
Oct. 26 (W)	Learned Women	Findlen, 273–91; Gouwens, 197–205
Oct. 31 (M)	Philology as Tool & Weapon	Valla, <i>Correspondence</i> , selections TBA
Nov. 2 (W)	Neoplatonism & Harmony	Gouwens, 187–96
Nov. 7 (M)	Renaissance Rome & the Papacy	-----

Nov. 9 (W) **Second Examination**

Nov. 14 (M) Renaissance Roman Art -----

Nov. 16 (W) Patronage & Gender Findlen, 295–98, 317–40; Gouwens, 224–43

[Nov. 21& 23: No class meetings; Thanksgiving Break]

Nov. 28 (M) Machiavelli & Politics Gouwens, 71–90, 126–34

Nov. 30 (W) The Sack of Rome (1527) Gouwens, 206–18

Dec. 5 (M) Remembering the Renaissance Gouwens, 223, 244–77; Findlen, 33–40

Dec. 7 (W) The Importance of Historical Memory

Date & Time TBA: Final Examination

If you cannot take the final exam as scheduled, you must visit the Dean of Students Office, which will provide further instructions. Vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, weddings (unless part of the wedding party), and other large or small scale social events, are not viable excuses for missing a final exam. Contact the Dean of Students' office with any questions.