New York University in Florence

FAS Summer Program 2016

Machiavelli

Cross listings: ITAL-UA 9147, HIST-UA 123, MEDI-UA 147

Classroom: villa Ulivi and specified locations

Tue & Thurs. 9-12
Prof. Stefano Albertini <stefano.albertini@nyu.edu>
Office Hours: Tu. & Thu, 12-2, Villa Natalia

Week 1:

Florence, the Renaissance and the Medici
Screening of segments from The Medici. Godfathers of the Renaissance, a PBS documentary (2004) and Discussion:
Read Hibbert, Part I & II (chapters I-X)
Read Cox, Chapter 1, What, Where, When, Whose? (NYUClasses)
Read Machiavelli from The History of Florence, pp. 548-571

Class visit: Palazzo Vecchio and Palazzo Medici Riccardi

Week 2:

The [unofficial] Rule of The Magnificent Lorenzo, Savonarola, the Republic and the return of the Medici
Read Machiavelli from The History of Florence, pp. 571-574

Read Hibbert, Part II (chapters XI-XIII) and Part III (chapters XIV-XIX)
Read Celenza, Chapter 1 (pp.4-30)

Class visit: Convent of San Marco

Week 3:

The Philosophical Context

Review of the historical and philosophical part for the MIDTERM

Week 4:

Meet Niccolò
Read Machiavelli selection from the Private Letters (pp. 53-76) Read Celenza, Chapter 3, Interlude (pp. 57-64)
The Discourses
Read Machiavelli, selection from Book I (pp. 167-287) Read Celenza, Chapter 5 (pp. 102-133)

Class visit: s. Andrea in Percussina (Machiavelli’s estate and residence during his ‘exile’ from Florence

Week 5:
The Prince (whole book)
Read Celenza, Chapter 4 (pp. 65-101)

Week 6:
Literary Amusements?
Read Machiavelli, The Mandrake Root (pp.430-479) Read Celenza, Chapter 6 (pp. 134-159)

Machiavelli’s Heritage and [Mis]fortunes from Gentilet to Tupac & students presentations

Required Texts:
Niccolò Machiavelli, The Portable Machiavelli (edited and translated by Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa), Penguin, 1979. You might want to use a different edition of Machiavelli’s writings but the reference to page numbers in this syllabus is to this edition.


Virginia Cox, A Short History of the Renaissance, Tauris, 2015
Sebastian De Grazia, Machiavelli in Hell, Princeton UP; 1989 (available in paperback by Vintage

Optional Books:
Maurizio Viroli, Niccolo’s Smile : A Biography of Machiavelli, Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2000)


Course Requirements:
Attendance is mandatory. All students are responsible for the assigned readings that will be discussed in class. Active participation in the discussions is appreciated and highly considered in the final evaluation of each student.

Evaluation
50% Final paper, 30% Midterm exams (History & Philosophy), 20% Participation