

SURVEY IN THE RENAISSANCE

NYU in Florence-SUMMER 2007

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WEEK 1

Spirit and Matter

Song of Songs, its interpretation, and the mystical female tradition

Francesco d'Assisi, *Laudes Creaturarum*

Dante Alighieri, the *Divine Comedy*: Paradiso XXIII

Love and Matter in Guido Cavalcanti's rhymes

Close reading from G. Cavalcanti, Poems: *Who is this who came* (IV); *My soul is wildly terrified* (VII); *Spirit deft wounds my eyes so* (XXVIII)

WEEK 2

Friendship

The Stilnovo, and the friendship at the origin of the Italian Lyric tradition

Dante Alighieri, the *Divine Comedy*: *Inferno* X, *Purgatorio* XXIV

Dante to G. Cavalcanti, *Guido I would like that you and Lapo and I* (XXXVIII^a); G.

Cavalcanti to Dante, *If I were one worthy of Love* (XXXVIII^b)

Love

Love as Knowledge: Dante and the world of the Divine Comedy

Guido Guinizelli, *In the Gentle Heart*

Dante Alighieri, the Divine Comedy (excerpts)

WEEK 3

The City and the Exile

Giovanni Boccaccio, the Decameron: *Proem*; I, 1; VI, 5; X, 10

To Build a Self

Petrarch, Familiars IV 1 (*The Ascent of Mount Ventoux*); Canzoniere: 1, 5, 70, 72, 218, 220, 218, 291, 327, 365

WEEK 4

To Build a Past

Humanism and Philology: Poggio Bracciolini, Letters (III); Lorenzo Valla, The

Discourse of the Forgery of the Alleged Donation of Constantine (excerpts)

Florentine Humanism, and the Rise of the Medici

Walking Lecture: The Biblioteca Laurenziana

WEEK 5

The Man: a Divine Chameleon

Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, Oration on the Dignity of Men (excerpts)

Marsilio Ficino, Theologia Platonica (excerpts)

A Controversial Classic: Ludovico Ariosto's Orlando Furioso (I, 1-8; I, 24-38; XXIII, 101-136; XXXIV, 48-89)

WEEK 6

Renaissance Politics

Niccolò Machiavelli

The political reading of a Friar: Machiavelli and Girolamo Savonarola

Niccolò Machiavelli and the strategy of the text: The Prince: VI, XII, XV, XVIII, XXV

A Renaissance Comedy: The Mandragola (excerpts)