

## PRIDE AND POWER: RENAISSANCE REVOLUTIONS IN ART AND CULTURE

K20.1103

Fall 2008

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Office Hours:  
 Tu: 9:00—11:00; 2:00-3:30, 5-5:30  
 Th. 10-11; 12:30-3:30; 5-6

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Week 1	Sept.	2	Introduction/Introductions
		4	Introduction to the Renaissance
Week 2		9	Pico, <i>Oration</i>
		11	Pico, De Pizan, <i>Treasure of the City of Ladies</i> , 1-125; 156-161; Conclusion
Week 3		16	<i>Treasure</i>
		18	<i>Treasure</i>
Week 4		23	<i>Treasure/ Courtier</i> , Book 1
		25	<i>Courtier</i> , Book 2, pp. 125-31; 135-7; 145-6; 148-151 (2 point response due)
Week 5		30	<i>Courtier</i> , Book 3 (2 point response due)
	Oct.	2	<i>Courtier</i> , Book 4 (2 point response due)
Week 6		7	<i>Courtier/ Prince</i>
		9	<i>Prince</i>
Week 7		14	<i>Prince</i>
		16	<i>Prince/ Love in the Renaissance</i> * <b>Essay Due</b> *
Week 8		21	Stampa
		23	Stampa

Week 9		28	Stampa/Vasari and intro to Renaissance art*	
		30	Vasari	
Week 10	Nov.	4	Intro to English Renaissance and Shakespeare	
		6	Poetry: Shakespeare Sonnets, Selections	
Week 11		11	Intro to English Renaissance Theater/ <i>Merchant</i>	
		13	<i>Merchant</i>	
Week 12		18	<i>Merchant</i>	
		20	<i>Merchant</i>	
Week 13		25	<i>Merchant/Othello</i>	
		27	Thanksgiving	
Week 14	Dec.	2	<i>Othello</i>	<b>*Essay Due*</b>
		4	<i>Othello</i>	
Week 15		9	<i>Othello</i>	
		11	<i>Othello</i>	

\*Friday, October 31...visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Required Texts:

Christine De Pizan, *The Treasure of the City of Ladies* (Penguin)  
Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Norton)  
Castiglione, *The Courtier* (Penguin)  
Gaspara Stampa, *Selected Poems* (Italica Press)  
Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*  
Shakespeare, *Othello*  
Selections from Vasari's *Lives of the Artists*, xerox  
Pico della Mirandola, *Oration on the Dignity of Man*, xerox  
Selected Sonnets, xerox

## Requirements:

1. **Readings:** read all the material and come prepared each day with reading in hand to discuss the text.
2. **Responses:** For each *new* reading write five (5) extended questions/comments. You will write *one* for each reading; i.e. *The Prince*, Gaspara Stampa etc. Each of the five responses can look like a short paragraph and should be focused on ideas that inspired, interested you, whatever you find compelling. These are to be typed, no longer than one or two pages, and are due on the first day we have begun to discuss a text. The one exception to this is the Courtier where there will be three responses due: 1) two response points for Bks 1 & 2; 2) two response points for Bk3; 3) two response points for Bk 4.
3. **Essays:** Write two critical essays on a topic of your choice, five pages in length, double-spaced and typed. All papers must be about the books we are reading. You always have the option to revise this paper. If you choose to revise the essay, or I have suggested you do so, you have only **two weeks** to hand in the rewritten paper. In order for the grade to improve, the essay must have been changed for the better in a *significant* manner. Please be careful about documentation; I expect you to be meticulous about this. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade and disciplinary action. Also, I have a lot of trouble with using the word *man* to indicate all people. Please, try to find and use a substitute.
4. **Presentation:** Everyone will prepare and deliver a **brief presentation of no more than five minutes**. The presentation needs to be related to one of our readings, and will take place during the semester when we are discussing that particular reading. The presentation can be focused on: 1) acting out a scene from one of our plays; 2) coming up with 2 or 3 points about a reading that you think are worthy of discussion; 3) presenting some research *related* to a reading in some way. For #3 this could mean doing some research, for example, on manners and morals; politics; the lives of women, Blacks, or Jews; other female poets/writers; Renaissance paintings or painters. This is only a small smattering of the possibilities. For all 3 choices for the presentation, you must keep to the 5-minute limit, speak to the class and not just read from your notes, use costumes, and any visual and material supports that will make your presentation more engaging. You will hand in to me a **one-page summary** of your points along with any **illustrations** and your **bibliography**.
5. **Class Participation:** Class discussion is crucial to the class and a major part of the final grade.
6. **Museum:** Visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Although only the essays receive formal grades, the responses, class participation, and the presentation all constitute the final grade. Remember all the work of the semester must be completed in order to receive a grade.

Attendance is a very important part of the class. More than 2 absences can endanger your grade. Please always come on time and do not leave early. If you are having trouble during the term--with attendance, the material, or anything else related to the course--never hesitate to speak with me so that I can help you. We can always work out whatever issue you might have.

I conceive of the classroom as a learning community in which students are teachers and teachers are students. Therefore, we learn from each other in a spirit of mutual respect and love of the material. I look forward to a very enjoyable semester together and having as much fun as possible.

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