

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: VART 294 FLORENCE OF THE MEDICI

3 Credits

Instructor: Professor M. Carrara (carraram@gonzaga.edu)



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OFFICE HOURS

By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the social, literary, and artistic developments in Florence, starting with Lorenzo the Magnificent and Savonarola, the Florence of Michelangelo, the Medici Grand Dukes, Galileo, the Austrian Grand Dukes, and ending with Florence as second capital of the Kingdom of Italy. The material covered not only regards Florence, but its artistic, historical, scientific, and banking connections with the rest of Europe (France, Spain, England, Austria, Russia, and the Netherlands). It is valid for the Renaissance track, but can be taken singly, without being enrolled in the track.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To give students a full immersion into Florentine history, culture, and art through two in-class lectures and a two hour guided tour every week. Classroom material, reinforced with power point presentations linking Florence to the rest of Europe, allows students to experience “living history” through each weekly tour.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will become very competent in Florentine art, history, and culture. They will know as much or more about Florence and its European impact on art, science, philosophy, and banking during its golden age, than they know about their own home town. Each and every one of them will adopt Florence as their own city.

Those interested can act as volunteer English speaking guides in Florence’s major churches through Ars et Fides (Art and Faith), the non-profit organization promoted by Monsignor Timothy Verdon, one of the ten Canons of the Florence Cathedral. Lay people volunteer to act as guides for two or three hours a week showing visitors the interior of the church of their choice. The layman in charge of training future guides in the church of their choice is Mr. Mario Lastrucci, who is in the board of directors of Ars et Fides.

The churches are the Duomo, the Medici church of San Lorenzo, the Franciscan church of Santa Croce, and the Dominican church of Santa Maria Novella. This a voluntary service available to those enrolled in the class to assist the Florentine community and church visitors. Volunteers will be judged on their participation by Ars et Fides staff members.

GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES

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|----------|------------|------|
| A | 100 | 94 |
| A- | 93.5 | 89 |
| B+ | 88.5 | 85.5 |
| B | 85 | 84 |
| B- | 83.5 | 79 |
| C+ | 78.5 | 75.5 |
| C | 75 | 74 |
| C- | 73.5 | 69 |
| D+ | 68.5 | 65.5 |
| D | 65 | 59 |
| F | 58 | 0 |

Weekly tours are a required part of the class and count as **one** of the three credits. Students can only miss **one** tour. If another tour is missed, it **must be made up** or the grade goes down of half a point letter grade. Absent students will go on their own with the tour handout, will comment on the listed things, and there will be no grade change. A ticket stub **must be included** proving they made up the tour they missed. Tickets always have the date and entrance time. A used ticket with the date of the missed tour clearly shows the tour was not made up.

University policy allows a maximum of four absences for a two credit course. In-class lectures are counted as two credits. At the fifth absence the student's grade is lowered of a half point letter grade; from A (100-94) to A- (93.5) B+ to B, and so on.

REQUIRED READING

1. Students will be given three packets, one for each part of the course and handouts for every weekly tour prepared by the instructor. The handouts are based on the didactic material used by every museum in Florence for Art History professors, translated into English by the instructor.
2. Christopher Hibbert, *Rise and Fall of the House of Medici*, chapters 9-24. There are many copies available in the library.
3. Ferdinand Schevill, *Medieval and Renaissance Florence*, Part 2. It is available in the library and will complement the packets for a more detailed description of the events.
4. Gene Brucker, *Florence: the Golden Age, 1138 – 1737*. It is also on reserve in the library and is wonderful for the journal entries due weekly.
5. John Hale, *Florence and the Medici*
6. Eric Cochrane, *Florence in the Forgotten Centuries*. The book is on reserve in the library and covers until 1800.

COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE

The course is divided into three parts. Each part is followed by a test. The second and final examinations are not comprehensive of earlier material.

First part - from Lorenzo the Magnificent to the Medici return. First exam: Tuesday, Feb. 9.

January

- 11 Lorenzo the Magnificent's early rule, chapter 9.
- 12 Pazzi Conspiracy Hibbert's chapters 9-10

- 18 War between Lorenzo and Sixtus IV, Lorenzo's last twelve years of rule. chapters 11-12.
- 19 Humanism in Laurentian Age, Platonic Academy, Lorenzo's impulse to learning, ch. 13.

- 25 Medici exile, Florentine Republic and Savonarola and Michelangelo's David. Hibbert, 14,15.
- 26 Art sponsored by the Florentine Republic: Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo

February

- 1 Pope Julius II, Michelangelo's works for Julius I.
- 2 Class discussion on the in-class material and Hibbert's book. Students will choose the piece they want to present for the virtual tour review

- 8 Class discussion and review of material with students as presenters.
- 9 Exam

Second part – from the Medici return to Cosimo I. Second exam: Tuesday, March 9

February, March

- 15 The Medici return, Giuliano duke of Nemours,
- 16 Lorenzo duke of Urbino. Hibbert, 16.

- 22 Leo X and the Protestant Reformation
- 23 Wars between France and Spain over Milan. Hibbert, chapter 17

- 1 Adrian VI, Clement VII, “Medici mules” Alessandro and Ippolito, Sack of Rome. Chapter 18
- 2 Last Florentine republic, Medici return, Alessandro’s murder, Cosimo I, ch. 19.
Class discussion on the in-class material and Hibbert’s book
Students will choose the piece they want to present for the tour review

- 8 Tour review with students as presenters.
- 9 Exam

Third part – from Cosimo’s descendants to Florence as second capital of the Kingdom of Italy

March

- 22 Cosimo I until the Conquest of Siena, chapter 20
- 23 Cosimo’s Conquest of Siena, art sponsored by Cosimo I.

- 29 Cosimo’s heirs Grand Dukes Francesco and Ferdinando I, chapter 21.
- 30 Grand Duke Cosimo II, Galileo, Ferdinando II, Cosimo III and the last Medicis, Hibbert, 22-24.

April

- 6 Lorraine and Hapsburg-Lorraine rule over Tuscany when the Medici dynasty dies out

- 13 Leopold II, the last Grand Duke of Tuscany, the unification of Italy and the “Risorgimento”.
Florence as second capital of the Kingdom of Italy.
- 14 Class discussion on in-class lectures with students as presenters **Journal due.**

FINAL PROJECT

Students will do a weekly journal of **both the class and weekend tours** commenting and researching their favorite things. Each entry can be from two to four pages long and should be illustrated through pictures, postcards or drawings. It will be a keepsake to remind them of their Florence experience. Every Tuesday the instructor will pick fifteen journals **at random** grading the various entries. A perfect score can be obtained **only** if the entries have been done week by week. **All journals will be collected on April 14.**

A journal is the perfect way of integrating class lectures and tours. Students should always try to relate the information learnt in the classroom to their field trips. Every Wednesday tour is a visual reminder of the in-class lectures. Every weekend tour is related to an artistic or historical period that is covered in class. If students have not gone on a weekend tour but have gone on their own, they should mention it and write about the things that impressed them the most in their independent travel.

A bibliography for each entry must be attached including **books, not just websites.**

SCHEDULE OF WENESDAY TOURS

- 14. Santa Croce and the Duomo

21. Ghirlandaio's Sassetti Chapel in Santa Trinita and the church of Santa Maria Novella
28. Uffizi Gallery (Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* and *Primavera*)

February

7. Accademia (Michelangelo's *David* and *Prisoners*)
10. Casa Buonarroti (early works by Michelangelo)
18. New Sacristy and Medici Mausoleum (Medici Tombs by Michelangelo and the Chapel of the Princes for the younger branch of the family).
25. The Bargello (Competition panels, Donatello's *David*, Michelangelo's *Bacchus*)

March

4. Palazzo Vecchio and Piazza della Signoria
11. "Opificio delle Pietre Dure" Piazza della Santissima Annunziata
25. Palatine Gallery, Pitti Palace
23. Boboli Gardens

April

1. Science Museum.
- 8 To be announced
- 15 Virtual tour review with students as presenters