GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS
Course: VART 294 FLORENCE OF THE MEDICI
3 Credits
Professor M. Carrara. carraram@gonzaga.edu

OFFICE HOURS
MTWR by appointment or simply open door policy Room 309

COURSE DESCRIPTION
It satisfies the Arts and Sciences Fine Arts core requirement.

A survey of Florentine art and culture, starting with Florence as a Roman colony, founded by Caesar’s war veterans after 59 BC, and ending with Florence as second capital of the Kingdom of Italy from 1865 to 1871.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will be introduced to the most important moments in Florentine art history and culture from its origins, its attempts at democracy, the emergence of the Medici family as rulers of Florence for 303 years, and the Austrian rulers after the Medici family died out.

There will be two in-class lectures and two guided tours per week to see the sites studied in class. The events covered in the classroom will come alive. Some will be done on Monday and Wednesday afternoons to allow students time to get to their pensioni in time for lunch. The tour is worth one credit and is mandatory. A missed tour must be made up.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To give students a full immersion into Florentine art history and culture through two in-class lectures and two weekly field trips with the professor and her assistant, who rotate for every tour. Classroom material, reinforced with media presentations linking Florence to the rest of Europe, will allow students to experience Florentine history of art come alive through both weekly tours.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will become knowledgeable in Florentine and European art history, culture, banking, and their intertwining. They will acquire this knowledge visiting the major museums and historical sites in Florence with the professor as guide. They will realize how Florence of the Medici was a major shaping force of European culture through the 19th century. Its legacy still lives on, even into the 21st century.

GRADING AND OTHER POLICIES

1. 20% Students are graded on: Two weekly (maximum two page) reflections on the tours using the handout as reference with no extra research involved.

   The reflection, preferably an electronic copy to save paper, should be submitted by email before the next tour when the things seen are still fresh in the student’s mind. It should readable by Word-Windows or Microsoft Word. Standard format: Times New Roman, 12, single/double-spaced. The Professor will grade it with advise on how to improve the reflections if necessary. Reflections should always connect class lectures to the works seen on the tours. Students will know how they stand week by week. The professor will have a folder for every student’s work and grade.

2. 5%. Class participation on the two tour review slide shows.
Each student will research and present one piece (architecture, painting or sculpture) in the slide shows, max 3 minutes, the day before the tests (He/she will share the newly acquired knowledge in front of the class, who will have copies of the slide show to take notes on. Specific exam tour questions on the art pieces will be taken from the slide shows to narrow down the information on the weekly tours.

An electronic copy of the 1 page presentation should be submitted by email. Standard format: Title and picture: Times New Roman, 12, double-spaced, citing and listing the sources used as bibliography.

3. 25% Mid term examination: Wednesday, June 14. A review session of the material covered for the test and the exam format will be given during the Monday in-class lecture.

4. Final exam; June 30. 25%.

5. Final paper: due on Thursday, June 22. 25%. There will be a two point penalty for every class day of late consignment.

A student can only miss two in-class lectures. A missed tour will lower the final letter grade from A to A-, B+ to B, B to B-, C+ to C, and so on. If a student has missed both a tour and two-in-class lectures, the letter grade will go down one full letter (A to B, B to C, etc.)

Tours are mandatory. A missed tour must be made up. The student must write a two page report of the things that impressed them the most, using the missed tour handout. He/she must show the ticket stub of the tour missed. Each ticket has the entrance hour so it is impossible to use the ticket stub of a student who was present in the official tour and there will be no grade change.

Grades:

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ABSENCE POLICY ON WEEKLY TOURS
Two weekly tours per week will usually be held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Some will be done in the afternoons to allow students time to get to their pensioni in time for lunch as stated in the syllabus. The tour is worth one credit. Attendance is mandatory. Students can only miss one tour but must make it up on their own. For the make up tour, the student will be given the handout and will pay his/her own fare attaching the ticket stub to a hard copy of the missed tour pointing out favorites. The reflection should be handed in as soon as possible and there will be no grade change. Every ticket stub has the date and hour when it was used. A used ticket with the date and hour of the missed tour will not be accepted.

ABSENCE POLICY ON LECTURES AND EXAMS
In class lectures are worth two credits. Following university policy, students are allowed four absences. At the fifth absence the grade goes down a half letter: from A to A-; A- to B+; B+ to B; and so forth. There will be no make up tests without a medical certificate.

REQUIRED READING

1. Students will be given two packets, one for each part of the course and handouts for the weekly tours 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.
Christopher Hibbert's *Rise and Fall of the House of Medici* is required and warmly recommended for a better grasp of the subject. There are many copies available in the library. The book is written in a very entertaining style and should be read as a story. The instructor will always refer to the book when lecturing on the Medici family. A study guide on the book will be distributed at the end of the second week. It works much better if the students have read the chapters before using the work sheet.

**REFERENCE BOOKS ON RESERVE IN THE LIBRARY**

1. Ferdinand Schevill, *Medieval and Renaissance Florence*. It will complement the packets for a more detailed description of the events.

**COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE**

May, June
22 Introduction to the course, Roman Florence, division of Roman empire into East and West.
23 *Walking Tour of Florence*: the center of Roman Florence, the religious center, Florence’s two city halls, Orsanmichele, Dante’s area.
24 No morning class. 2:30 Tour: The Dominican church of Santa Maria Novella with Giotto’s Crucifix, Masaccio’s Trinity and the Spanish Chapel in the cloister.
25 From Barbarian invasions to feudalism, Guelphs and Ghibellines, first democracy.
29 Second Democracy, civil war in Florence, Dante’s exile and his *Comedy*
30 No morning class 2:30 Tour Franciscan church of Santa Croce with Giotto’s frescoes, *Tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo*. Giovanni di Bicci as papal banker.
31 The Third Democracy, Florence 1382-1400, death of duke of Milan, Great Schism Avignon, rise of Medici family. Giovanni di Bicci as papal banker Hibbert’s chapter 1.
01 Tour: Cathedral Museum with Baptistry Doors, Michelangelo’s Pietà.
05 Cosimo’s local and foreign policy. Piero the Gouty Hibbert’s chapters 2-8
06 Beginnings of Early Renaissance art.
07 Tour: The Bargello (Competition panels, Donatello’s sculpture, Michelangelo’s *Bacchus, Cellini’s Cosimo I*).
08 Exam sample Class discussion on the tours. Students will talk about two favorites.
12 Midterm review.
13 Tour: Convent of San Marco with frescoes by Fra Angelico and Savonarola’s cell
14 No morning class Wednesday afternoon 2:30 tour (hour to be confirmed) Uffizi Gallery with Botticelli’s *Birth of Venus*, da Vinci’s *Annunciation*, Michelangelo’s *Holy Family*.
15 Midterm examination
19 Lorenzo the Magnificent, the Pazzi conspiracy, art in his time: Botticelli and young Michelangelo in the sculpture garden. Hibbert’s chapters 9-13:
20 *Michelangelo’s David* regular class hour or Wednesday 2:30 (to be confirmed)
22 Tour: Michelangelo's New Sacristy Tombs, Medici Mausoleum in San Lorenzo.
26 Cosimo I and descendants Hibbert, ch. 20-24.
27 Review for Final
22 Wednesday afternoon 2:30 tour to Palazzo Vecchio.
23 Final exam

FINAL PROJECT
Due: Thursday June 22.
An electronic copy of the ten page final paper can be handed in before if you want the professor to go over it to make sure it is A material.

Students are free to choose the topic that interests them the most, from fashion to banking or a favorite artist, but they need the professor's approval. They can also write on other sites that were covered in class but not visited on the weekly tours. Five sources must be consulted for the bibliography. The ticket stub should be attached to the project.
Suggested sites: handouts are available on request.

1. A late afternoon visit to the church of San Miniato to admire the sacristy frescoes by Spinello Aretino, the Chapel of the Cardinal of Portugal, and hear the friars sing Vespers.

2. Warmly recommended: A visit to Brunelleschi's dome for a breathtaking view of Florence after climbing 463 steps, Giotto's Bell Tower, Baptistry interior and Santa Reparata under the Duomo. Cumulative ticket 15 € is valid for 24 hours.


4. Warmly recommended: Pitti Palace Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art with only one ticket. Stub must be attached