



Prof. Kurt M. Boughan  
Capers 432A \* 843.953.5053  
Hours: MW 1-3:30

## Course Syllabus

HIST 340-01  
Spring 2012

### The Renaissance

**Objective.** This course examines the dynamic economic, political, social, intellectual, and cultural lives of central and northern Italian cities – especially Florence – in the period 1200-1500.

**Classroom Work.** This course is primarily a lecture course. This means work for you; i.e., the work of taking good notes and asking questions. Classroom work will sometimes also include discussion of assigned readings. Attendance and participation in discussion together count for ten percent of your final course grade.

**Written Work.** Five assignments make up the written work for this course: one shorter paper (5-7 pp.), one longer paper (8-10 pp.), one mid-term examination, a final examination, and a quiz on Italian geography. Exams will feature essay questions. The paper will be an analyses of assigned *primary source reading* (not research papers). Future hand-outs will explain the paper assignments and examinations in detail.

The geography quiz counts for five percent of your grade for the course. Each of the other four assignments could for 21%. The examinations and paper will be graded on a standard hundred-point scale.

*You must complete both examinations and submit both papers to pass the course.* If you fail to submit either one of the papers, or fail to take one of the exams, you will automatically receive an “F” for the course.

This is an advanced-level course. It will therefore require serious time and effort from you.

**Required Reading.** The books listed below are required course texts. They are available for purchase at the Cadet Store. Reading assignments are listed on the Course Schedule that accompanies this syllabus.

Leon Battista Alberti. *The Family in Renaissance Florence (I libri della famiglia)*. Trans. R. N. Watkins (repr. 2004).

Brucker, Gene A., ed. and Julia Martines, trans. *Two Memoirs of Renaissance Florence: The Diaries of Buonaccorso Pitti and Gregorio Dati* (1967, repr. 1991).

Dean, Trevor, ed. *The Towns of Italy in the Later Middle Ages* (2000).

Najemy, John M. *A History of Florence, 1200-1575* (2008).

**Deadlines and Examination Dates.** Deadlines for submission of writing assignments are firm and non-negotiable. No extensions will be granted except in cases of unavoidable, extreme emergency. You may submit the paper up to five days after its due date, but your earned grade on it will be reduced by one full letter.

You must take each examination at its scheduled time, unless either one of two things prevents it: 1) extreme and unavoidable emergency; 2) conflict with an pre-arranged event in which you represent the Citadel in some official manner (in an athletic competition, for instance). In the latter case, you must inform me of your schedule conflict no less than two weeks in advance.

All written work for the course that is due before the final exam – i.e., the mid-term and the two papers – must be completed and submitted by the last day of class. ***No written work for the course will be accepted after that day except for the final exam.***

**Attendance Policy.** As a college student, you have a moral obligation to attend class. All SCCC rules regarding attendance apply to this course. You risk a failing grade for class participation if you are absent more than four times.

You should come to class on time. If you are egregiously late for class, your professor may not permit you to enter the classroom.

**Digital and Electronic Devices, Classroom Communication.** You may take notes with a laptop computer, tablet computer, or by the traditional method of pen and paper. The traditional method is preferred. Your instructor's express permission for any other note-taking device is required. All cellular phones and similar devices must, unless permission has been obtained to use them for note-taking, be turned off and put away. Your professor reserves the privilege of reducing your course grade at his discretion should he discover you engaging in any inappropriate communication (i.e., any communication not having strictly to do with the day's coursework).

**Contact Policy.** You may contact your professor at his Citadel e-mail address, by dialing his office telephone number during business hours (8am-5pm), or by meeting with him face to face in his office during office hours.

E-mail should be written in a businesslike manner, in complete sentences with proper punctuation. Avoid slang and non-standard abbreviations. Your professor makes it a habit to answer e-mail messages promptly. Do not, however, expect an instantaneous reply to your e-mail. Your professor is an active professional, and it may take him up to 36 hours to reply. Plan accordingly.

*Send all e-mail from a valid "citadel.edu" student account in your name.*

Urgent or important business is generally best conducted in person, not electronically. Your professor will not respond to electronic instant messaging of any kind on any device. It is your obligation to check regularly and keep functional a valid "citadel.edu" e-mail account.

**Responsibilities.** In this course, as in any other true college course, you will be considered for all practical purposes an adult. You are therefore primarily responsible for your own education; I am here to coach you through the material, not to force you through it or to hold your hand. It is up to you to make sure that you attend class, are alert and prepared for class, take good notes, understand the content of the course to the best of your ability, and submit all written work on time.

**Academic Dishonesty.** No academic dishonesty – that is, cheating, plagiarism, and the like -- will be tolerated. You are assumed to know and to understand the Citadel's definitions of cheating and plagiarism. I will report and prosecute all honor violations. The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty will be an "F" for the course.

**Spirit of the Course.** History is about human beings and human experience. It addresses (indeed it delights in) such delicate topics as sexuality and religious belief. This course will shy away from nothing that is important and comprehensible in human life. This means that you will be expected to try to understand beliefs and ideas that may be quite foreign (perhaps, on occasion, even hateful) to you. This course will challenge much of what you hold to be true and good, regardless of your background. Your success in it will therefore require the vigorous exercise of your *reason* and *imagination*.

**Special Concerns.** If you think that you may require special accommodation on account of a documented disability, please bring this concern to me as soon as possible, so that we can settle quickly on an appropriate course of action.

I encourage every student with questions or concerns about the course to visit me during my office hours. I will do my best to settle all reasonable questions.

– KMB January 3, 2012.

**K. M. Boughan \* HIST 340 \* Spring 2012 \* The Citadel  
COURSE SCHEDULE**

Almost every week has a weekly reading assignment that should be completed by the date of the week indicated in **blue**. **Red** indicates the dates of examinations and paper deadlines.

Class Sessions	Reading Assignments	Writing Assignments
Week I (1/11, 1/13)	<b>N</b> ch. 1. <b>D</b> pp. 5-10 and docs. 1-3, 5, 7, 8.	
Week II (1/18, 1/20)	<b>N</b> chaps. 2-3 <b>D</b> pp. 63-71 and docs. 27-8, 30-4, 36-7, 39, 42; pp. 141-150 and docs. 58-60, 63, 65-6, 74, 82, 85, 88, 90-1; pp. 109-112 and docs. 45, 49, 52-3; pp. 213-216 and docs. 99, 100, 103, 104.	
Week III (1/23, 1/25, 1/27)	<b>N</b> ch. 4. <b>D</b> docs. 5, 9, 12, 16-7, 26, 29, 35, 38, 40-1, 43-4, 46-8, 50-1, 55-7.	Geography quiz, 1/27
Week IV (1/30, 2/1, 2/3)	<b>N</b> ch. 5. <b>D</b> docs. 10-1, 61-2, 64, 67-9.	
Week V (2/6, 2/8, 2/10)	<b>N</b> ch. 6. <b>D</b> docs. 15, 70-1, 78-81, 83, 87, 89, 92-5, 96-8, 87-8, 101, 105-8.	
Week VI (2/13, 2/15, 2/17)	<b>No reading.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> paper due, 2/17
Week VII (2/20, 2/22, 2/24)	<b>N</b> chaps. 7-8.	
Week VIII (2/27, 2/29, 3/2)	<b>Goro</b>	Mid-term exam, 2/27
Week IX (3/5, 3/7, 3/9)	<b>N</b> ch. 9.	
Week X (3/12, 3/14, 3/16)	<b>Alberti</b>	
Week XI (3/19, 3/21, 3/23)	<b>N</b> ch. 10.	
<b>SPRING BREAK 3/24 – 4/1</b>		
Week XII (4/2, 4/4, 4/6)	<b>N</b> ch. 11.	
Week XIII (4/9, 4/11, 4/13)	<b>N</b> ch. 12.	
Week XIV (4/16, 4/18, 4/20)	<b>N</b> ch. 13.	2 <sup>nd</sup> paper due, 4/16
Week XV (4/23)	<b>No reading.</b>	
Final Exam (4/26)		Final Exam, 4/26, 1pm
<p>Key:  <b>N</b> = Najemy, <i>History of Florence</i>.  <b>D</b> = Dean, <i>The Towns of Italy</i>.  <b>Goro</b> = Goro Dati, <i>Secret Book</i>, in <i>Two Memoirs of Renaissance Florence</i> (pp. 107-141).  <b>Alberti</b> = L. B. Alberti, <i>Della familia</i>, Book III, in <i>The Family in Renaissance Florence</i> (pp. 155-245).</p>		