

Renaissance Europe I: Foundations and Forms (RS200 or RS300)

SYLLABUS

Term 1, 2019-20 (Mondays, 3:00-5:00 in H3.55)

Module Description

This is the first of two linked (15-CAT) interdisciplinary modules on Renaissance Europe for either intermediate or finalist undergraduate students from across Warwick. Organized by the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, it introduces students to the Renaissance period and to how it is approached by different disciplines. It has two main blocks. The first considers what models from the past Renaissance figures tried to imitate and emulate, and how – largely on that basis – interpretations of the Renaissance have evolved over time. The second studies some of the forms through which Renaissance figures expressed themselves culturally and underlines the importance of considering written, visual, and material sources together (and, indeed, in a mutually informative way). Throughout, the module includes examples from Italy and other parts of Europe.

The module is taught by tutors from various departments/disciplines. Primary texts originally written in Latin (or modern languages not necessarily known by students) will be offered in English translation. Students with a background in languages are encouraged to read the texts in the original whenever possible.

Module Aims

- to introduce students to the historical and cultural development of Europe in the Renaissance period
- to help students develop a critical understanding of how the period has been and is interpreted by scholars in different fields
- to extend students' knowledge of and ability to work with a variety of different sources, including textual, visual, and material
- to enhance students' capacity for effective information-gathering, research, and writing
- (in the case of finalists) to enable students to conduct in-depth personal research on a specialist topic, under the guidance of the module convenors and/or tutors

Module Assessment

This module is 100% assessed by essay (deadline: midnight on Wed., 8 Jan. 2020).

-intermediate students produce a 3500-word essay

-finalists produce a 4000 to 4500-word essay

In addition to weekly reading, guided by questions, there will be regular non-assessed assignments.

Module Tutors

Professor David Lines (module convenor): office hours on Tuesdays, 1-3 or by appointment in H4.10; email d.a.lines@warwick.ac.uk

Professor Catherine Bates: email C.T.Bates@warwick.ac.uk

Dr Michael Bycroft: email M.Bycroft@warwick.ac.uk

Miss Rebecca Carnevali: email R.Carnevali@warwick.ac.uk

Professor Ingrid De Smet: email I.de-Smet@warwick.ac.uk

Dr Bobby Xinyue: email B.Xinyue@warwick.ac.uk

Module Outline

Week 1: Introduction (David Lines).

Models and influence

Week 2: Greece, Rome, and Beyond (Bobby Xinyue).

Week 3: The Christian Tradition (David Lines).

Week 4: Italian and European Humanism (Ingrid De Smet).

Week 5: Inventing the Renaissance: from Vasari to Burckhardt (Rebecca Carnevali).

Week 6: Reading Week (no class)

Texts, Art, and Artefacts

Week 7: Renaissance Poetry and Poetics (Catherine Bates).

Week 8: Distaffs, Lutes and Prayer Books: The Female Renaissance (Ingrid De Smet).

Week 9: Renaissance Painting (Rebecca Carnevali).

Week 10: Botanical Manuals (Michael Bycroft).

Illustrative Module Bibliography (ordered chronologically within sections)

General

*Jacob Burckhardt, *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (1860)

Marvin Becker, *Civility and Society in Western Europe, 1300-1600* (Indiana University Press, 1988)

The Renaissance in National Context, ed. by Roy Porter and Mikulas Teich (Cambridge University Press, 1992)

*Eugene F. Rice, Jr. with Anthony Grafton, *The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460–1559*, 2nd ed. (Norton, 1994)

Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation, ed. by Thomas A. Brady Jr., Heiko A. Oberman, and James D. Tracy, vol. 1 (Brill, 1994)

John Hale, *The Civilization of Europe in the Renaissance* (Atheneum, 1994)

Peter Burke, *The European Renaissance: Centres and Peripheries* (Blackwell, 1998)

Early Modern Europe: An Oxford History, ed. by Euan Cameron (Oxford University Press, 1999)

**Encyclopedia of the Renaissance*, gen. ed. Paul F. Grendler, 6 vols. (Scribner's, 1999)

William J. Bouwsma, *The Waning of the Renaissance, 1550–1640* (Yale University Press, 2000)

A Companion to the Worlds of the Renaissance, ed. by Guido Ruggiero (Blackwell, 2002)

Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World, gen. ed. Jonathan Dewald, 6 vols. (Scribner's, 2004)

The Routledge Companion to Early Modern Europe, 1453–1763, ed. by Chris Cook and Philip Broadhead (Routledge, 2006)

**The Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History, 1350–1750*, ed. by Hamish Scott, 2 vols (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Models and Influence

Eugenio Garin, *Italian Humanism: Philosophy and Civic Life in the Renaissance*, transl. Peter Munz (Blackwell, 1965)

Paul Oskar Kristeller, *Renaissance Thought and its Sources* (Columbia University Press, 1979)

Renaissance Humanism: Foundations, Forms and Legacy, ed. by Albert Rabil, Jr., 3 vols. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988)

The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism, ed. by Jill Kraye (Cambridge University Press, 1996)

The Classical Tradition, ed. by Anthony Grafton, Glenn W. Most, Salvatore Settis (Harvard University Press, 2010)

Wallace K. Ferguson, *The Renaissance in Historical Thought: Five Centuries of Interpretation* (AMS Press, 1981)

Texts, Art, and Artefacts

Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, *The Mastery of Nature: Aspects of Art, Science, and Humanism in the Renaissance* (Princeton University Press, 1993)

Material Culture and Cultural Materialism in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, ed. by Curtis Perry (Brepols, 2001)

The Material Renaissance, ed. by Michelle O'Malley and Evelyn Welch (Manchester University Press, 2010)

Susan Frye, *Pens and Needles: Women's Textualities in Early Modern England* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010)

Re-thinking Renaissance Objects, ed. by Peta Motture and Michelle O'Malley (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011)

Sachiko Kusukawa, *Picturing the Book of Nature: Image, Text, and Argument in Sixteenth-Century Human Anatomy and Medical Botany* (University of Chicago Press, 2011)

A Companion to Renaissance and Baroque Art, ed. by Babette Bohn and James M. Saslow (Wiley-Blackwell 2013)

Carla Zecher, *Sounding Objects: Musical Instruments, Poetry, and Art in Renaissance France* (University of Toronto Press, 2016)

A Companion to Renaissance Poetry, ed. by Catherine Bates (Wiley Blackwell, 2018)

Abigail Brundin, Deborah Howard, and Mary Laven, *The Sacred Home in Renaissance Italy* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

NB: many other relevant items can be found via the University Library's website: under 'Databases', click on 'Medieval and Renaissance Studies'; a particularly helpful resource is then 'Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance'; also useful are the 'Oxford Bibliographies' for 'Renaissance & Reformation'; 'Project Muse' and of course JSTOR and other platforms.