

HISTORY 349: Renaissance and Reformation Europe

Spring 2013

Tuesday, Thursday

2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m., Founders Hall Room 177

Dr. Hamilton

Office: Founders Hall 157

Contact Information: Office Tel: 826-5765 and Email: dlh7003@humboldt.edu Please note that the very best way to contact me is through Email, but if you do call and leave a message, please be sure to include a telephone number where I can reach you. I usually check my Email frequently through the day, so if you need to reach me, please make Email your first choice. Since spam is becoming a serious problem, please put “History 349,” “Ren/Ref” or something to that effect in the subject line of your email, otherwise I will delete it.

Office Hours: generally MW 11:00-11:30 a.m., TTh 1:00-1:30 p.m., and other times by appointment. If you need to see me, it would be helpful if you would make an appointment, even if you plan to come during office hours. That way I can make sure every student who needs to meet with me will not be interrupted by “drop bys.” Please note that I sometimes have to step out of the office to do such things as collect my mail, return videos to the library, etc., so if I am not in when you knock, stick around – I will be back momentarily.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course focuses on the political, intellectual, and cultural underpinnings of the Renaissance and the transition to the Reformation and early modern period. We will cover such topics as the rise of the humanist movement, the history of the Italian city-states, the great merchant/banking families (like the Medici, who lavished their patronage on the scholars and artists of the period), and the religious tensions of the period and how they fueled the Protestant Reformation. We will read Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, selections of Castiglione’s *The Courtier*, and other key, primary texts. A passing grade for history majors in this class is a “C-” or better.

Required Texts:

Primary Reading Material: Please see the list of texts on the Sources for Primary Texts handout.

Secondary Reading Material:

Jonathan W. Zophy, *A Short History of Renaissance and Reformation Europe: Dances Over Fire and Water*, (New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2008).

J. H. Plumb, ed., *The Italian Renaissance*, revised edn, (New York: Houghton/Mifflin, 2001).

Harbison, Craig. *The Mirror of the Artist: Northern Renaissance Art in its Historical Context*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1995.

As noted above, additional primary material reading material will come from the Internet. Please see the Sources for Primary Texts handout.

Please note that everything that is discussed or presented in class is just as **required** as the hardcopy texts.

HSU Learning Outcomes: This course explicitly contributes to students' acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to HSU Learning Outcomes listed below:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

1. Effective communication through written and oral modes.
2. Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.
3. Competence in a major area of study.
4. Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities, and viewpoints.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

5. Succeed in their chosen careers.
6. Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.
7. Pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

More specifically, HSU's History Department has identified eight main skills that should generally be addressed in its upper division courses:

1. Research Skills/Gathering Sources
2. Facility with Primary and Secondary Sources
3. Critical Thinking
4. History Methodologies
5. Historiography
6. Facility in Oral Presentation
7. Production of Coherent and Analytical Historical Writing
8. Technology

Renaissance and Reformation Europe will address these eight skills to varying degrees. You will, for instance, be called upon to produce your own work of history, utilizing **primary and secondary research and proper citation format**, and you may be further required to give a short oral presentation on that work. The research paper component will give you an opportunity to employ the historical approaches you have learned in History 210 *Introduction to the Major*,

while continuing to work on the writing and analytical skills that are central to a college education generally. Indeed, History 210 has been designated a prerequisite for this class, and students are ***strongly urged*** to take this course before proceeding to upper division History courses. Lastly, please again note that a “C-” is the ***minimum*** passing grade for history majors.

Class Policies and General Expectations:

Overview

This is an upper division course that will require a considerable amount of reading, research, and writing. It will be a mixed format of lecture and some discussion. It is vitally important that you carefully and consistently prepare for each class. Your input in discussions is important, and if you fail to prepare for class, you fail not only yourself, but your peers, who are relying on your participation. As a consequence, you will be graded on classroom ***participation*** and not simply class ***attendance***. ***One of the quickest routes to a poor grade in this course is to come to class unprepared and to remain silent during class discussions.*** Indeed, it is expected that you will contribute regularly in class without having to be called upon.

Specifics

1. This is university-level work and you ***are*** expected to prepare for and attend every class session. If you miss class, for whatever reason, it is ***your*** responsibility to make the adjustments necessary to recover from the absence. ***Do not*** ask me what you missed (and never ***ever*** ask me if “we did anything important” in class!). Consult with your peers. If there is a handout I will gladly supply it if you ask, but I simply cannot give individual tutorials to students who miss class. The agencies that accredit universities recommend that students spend an average of about ***two hours*** working outside of class for each hour spent in class or for each unit a class is worth. Do the math – the course is ***four units***, which means you should plan to spend an average of ***eight hours a week*** on this course. Previous experience suggests that most who do not regularly attend class do not pass. And many who do not work as directed outside class do not pass, or pass only marginally.

2. Graded exercises are based on assignments and on what we do in class. You will ***not*** be able to take quizzes at any other time than at the beginning of class! This means that if you are late to class, for whatever reason, you may end up missing a quiz. ***Do not ask me if you can take it after class!*** We will have gone over the material by then, and it would be unfair to the other students in class. If you arrive after class has started, do not stop the class in order to request any materials handed out.

3. Because there are ***many*** things that are graded in this class, you are ***required to keep a complete file of graded materials returned to you.*** I may ask you to produce this file at the end of the term. If there is any question about your final grade, you can simply show me your work. If you do not keep a file with all class work, I must rely on marks in my grade book.

4. The acceptance of late work generally will be done only under **exceptional** circumstances (such as extreme dire illness [necessitating medical care and attention],

hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) and **only** at the discretion of the instructor! If you anticipate turning in work late (because of extreme dire illness [necessitating medical care and attention], hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) you **must must must** consult with me in advance. **Do not simply deposit work in my mail box – I will return it to you without credit!** Also see no. 6 below. **If** late work is accepted, (and remember you need a serious and compelling reason and advanced permission to turn something in late!) it may be marked down one letter grade for each day (Saturdays and Sundays included) the assignment is late. **If** it is agreed that you may turn in a piece of work that is late, and I am not in the office to accept it, you **must** have someone in the History office (secretary, faculty member, student assistant) initial and date the work you are placing in my mailbox. **Note:** Students often get confused about the mails boxes in the department and frequently put materials in the wrong slot. I strongly urge you to let the secretary or student assistant put any material I have agreed to accept in my box for you.

5. Please be aware that **any dishonest activity will adversely affect your grade!** I cannot stress this enough. **Any student who cheats in any way or who plagiarizes any of their work will fail the course.** Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism is never an excuse for committing it, so if you do not know what plagiarism is, look it up! Please see below for further information on issues of Academic Honesty, including cheating and plagiarism.

6. Unless there is a family emergency (extreme dire illness [necessitating medical care and attention], hospitalization, death in the immediate family) and a piece of work is involved, you do not need to call me to announce an impending absence. I will certainly be aware of any absences when attendance is taken at the beginning of class. If you **do** have a family emergency, and it impinges directly on this class, send me an Email and include a telephone number where you may be reached and we will discuss your situation. **Do not** assume that you can automatically turn in late work to me because I will not accept it!

7. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. A sheet of paper will be passed around at the beginning of class for students to sign and I will record those present in my grade book. These sheets will be kept on file so that any questions arising over attendance can be quickly settled. Late students can sign the roll sheet **only** at the discretion of the instructor. Please be aware that there is no such thing as excused absences. You are either here or you are not – you simply cannot get credit for attending if you are not actually in class. **PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN FOUR CLASSES YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE. PERIOD. NO DISCUSSION.** This course is a critical part of your career as a History major at HSU, and missing what amounts to two weeks of class (or roughly 15% of the semester) is a recipe for disaster.

8. Official HSU Athletics and Events – If you have to miss class because you are participating in an **official**, HSU event, it will be up to you to make up the absence, that is, it will be up to you to get the notes from someone in class. I will consider make up quizzes on a case by case basis. As for other assignments, you **must** turn these in to me in advance of your absence! I will require paper work from the official HSU event sponsor/coordinator (coach, faculty advisor, etc.) in advance of any absence.

9. Computers and Cell Phone Policy – If you use a computer to take notes, you *must* be prepared to show me at the end of every class that you have, indeed, been taking notes. *Using a computer in class is a privilege, not a right and if you abuse that privilege it will be revoked.* Turn off your cell phone and put it away when you come to class. *If I see a cell phone in your hand during class, I can only assume that you are attending to matters unrelated to this class; you will be asked to leave and you will be counted absent for that day.* If you are dealing with an emergency situation, tell me at the beginning of class.

Course Requirements and Grades:

10% - Annotated bibliography and peer review – You will produce a research paper focusing on an area or aspect of the Renaissance or Reformation. In advance of that paper you will submit an *annotated* bibliography for that paper. The due date for the bibliography is clearly marked in the schedule. The annotated bibliography format should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The annotated bibliography (and the bibliography for your final paper) should be *divided between primary and secondary materials*, with *subcategories* for books, articles, web sites, images, etc. It is expected that most, but not necessarily all, of these materials will be used in the production of your paper. *The annotated bibliography should be headed with the introduction and thesis of your paper.* I expect a well-honed introductory paragraph rather than just a bare, one-sentence statement. I am happy to conference with you about selecting an area to research and formulating a working thesis, but I will *not* write that thesis for you! I also expect to see a paragraph outlining the methodology of your research, and a summary of the historiography of your subject. There is one in-class peer review session for the research papers. The date for this is clearly marked in the schedule.

35% - Research paper – This is a formal paper assignment and the language should reflect that fact (avoid colloquialisms, slang, profanity, etc.). The other usual conditions related to formal papers also apply and include but are not limited to the following:

- the paper must have a cover page
- the *text* of the paper must begin on *line one* at the *top* of page one
- the paper must be paginated
- you must not tamper with font size, spacing, or margins, or quote excessively to artificially lengthen your paper, etc; direct quotes therefore should be minimal and chosen carefully to emphasize a point
- the paper must be free of misspellings, typos, grammatical problems, and surface errors generally
- the paper must have footnotes and a complete bibliography, all formatted following the *Chicago Manual of Style*
- the paper must meet the 10-11 page requirement *exclusive* of title page, bibliography, appendices, illustrations, etc.

Problems with any of the above *WILL* adversely affect your grade, so proofread your paper with due care. The due date for the research paper is clearly marked in the schedule.

20% - Mid-Term Essay – This will be *likely* be an essay driven exam, although there may be objective components as well. More information about this exam will be provided at a later date.

20% - Final Essay – This will be *likely* be an essay driven exam, although there may be objective components as well. More information about this exam will be provided at a later date.

15% - Quizzes, short writing assignments, class participation – You can expect frequent and unannounced quizzes on the reading assignments and perhaps on the visual material in Harbison’s *Mirror of the Artist* text as well. You will also be asked to write a short responses to some of the primary documents we will be reading from the Internet. As far as class participation is concerned, let me reiterate that you will be graded on *participation* and not simply *attendance*. I expect you to stay awake, take notes, and participate in discussions. Questions are welcome, but chatting with your neighbors is not. Let me reiterate that you need to turn off your cell phone before class begins. ***Again, if I see a cell phone in your hand during class you will be asked to leave and you will be counted absent for that day.*** If you are dealing with an *emergency situation*, tell me at the beginning of class. ***AGAIN, PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN FOUR CLASSES YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE. PERIOD. NO DISCUSSION.***

Grades:

95-100% = A	80-83% = B-
90-94% = A-	77-79% = C+
87-89% = B+	74-76% = C
84-86% = B	70-73% = C-

NOTE: I do not give grades in this class, students *earn* them. As to what these grades mean, please see the following explanations as outlined in the current HSU catalogue:

- A range – Superior
- B range – Good, above average
- C range – Average

Please again note that a *"C-" is the minimum passing grade for History majors*. If you want a higher grade, your work must demonstrate a "good, above average" or "superior" quality. ***DO NOT TELL ME WHAT GRADE YOU “NEED” IN THIS CLASS!*** You will get the grade you have *earned!*

Academic honesty: Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding academic honesty. For more information, visit: [Academic Honesty Policy](#) or [HSU Catalog](#)

Students with Disabilities: Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in House 71, 826-4678 (voice) or 826-

5392 (TDD). Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange. [Student Disability Resource Center](#)

Add/Drop policy: Students are responsible for knowing the University policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping or adding classes. [Schedule Adjustments \(Adding or Dropping\)](#)

Emergency evacuation: Please review the evacuation plan for the classroom (posted on the orange signs), and review [Campus Emergency Preparedness](#) (see http://studentaffairs.humboldt.edu/emergencyops/campus_emergency_preparedness.php for information on campus Emergency Procedures). During an emergency, information can be found campus conditions at: 826-INFO or [Emergency Conditions](#)

Attendance and disruptive behavior: Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding attendance and disruptive behavior: [Class Attendance and Disruptive Behavior](#)