

Prof. K.M. Boughan
The Citadel
Spring 2015

Office: 427D Capers
Hours: MF 10-12; W 3-4

HIST 591: The Renaissance Course Syllabus

Course Description. This is a masters-level intensive readings course. While its title may suggest that it covers a grand cultural project common to much of Europe by the sixteenth-century, it will in fact limit its geographic scope to Italy, with special attention to Florence and Venice. Topics of particular concern will include "Renaissance" as a problematic historical term, socio-political order and disorder in the fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Italian commune (city-state), communal institutions, and affective bonds – spiritual, familial, sexual, professional, and neighborly – as a subject of historical study.

Required Reading. The ten print volumes listed below are required reading for all, and will be discussed at length in class (see "Discussion of Weekly Readings" below). In addition, each student will read two additional books (see "Written Work" below). All the books listed below can be purchased at the Citadel campus bookstore, except for Park, which your professor will make available to you in digital form.

Caferro, William. *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy*. Johns Hopkins U.P., 2006.

Chojnacki, Stanley. *Women and Men in Renaissance Venice: Twelve Essays on Patrician Society*. Johns Hopkins U.P., 2000.

Grafton, Anthony. *Cardano's Cosmos: The Worlds and Works of a Renaissance Astrologer*. Harvard U.P., 2001.

Kent, Dale. *Friendship, Love, and Trust in Renaissance Florence*. Harvard U.P., 2009.

King, Margaret L. *The Death of the Child Valerio Marcello*. U. of Chicago Press, 1994.

Muir, Edward. *Mad Blood Stirring: Vendetta in Renaissance Italy*. Reader's edition. Johns Hopkins U.P., 1998.

Najemy, John M. *A History of Florence, 1200-1575*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.

Park, Katherine. *Doctors and Medicine in Early Renaissance Florence*. Princeton U.P., 1985.

Rocke, Michael. *Forbidden Friendships: Homosexuality and Male Culture in Renaissance Florence*. Oxford U.P., 1996.

Ruggiero, Guido. *Machiavelli in Love: Sex, Self, and Society in the Italian Renaissance*. Johns Hopkins U.P., 2007.

In addition to the volumes above, the following textbook is recommended as a supplement, especially to any student whose undergraduate study did not give much attention to pre-modern Italy:

King, Margaret L. *The Renaissance in Europe*. McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Written Work. Written work for this course is of two kinds. The first is short reviews of 4-5 pages each of five of the common required books. Your professor will assign you the five books that you are to review. Each review is due by the class period in which the book is to be discussed. The second sort of written assignment is a 25-page review essay. In this essay, you will review together three books, one from among the common required readings, and two others that are related to it in some important way. The review essay is due at the end of the semester. You will choose the two other books, either from a list of books recommended by your professor, or, with your professor's approval, from your own research. Documents separate from this syllabus will explain the details of both assignments.

Discussion of Weekly Readings. After an introductory lecture in the first week, this course will be discussion-based. Your professor will pose probing questions about the reading and issues pertaining to it. These questions will be designed to help you become a more critical, informed, and reflective reader of difficult academic texts. For discussion to work, it is essential that you complete the week's reading so as to know it well, even if you happen not to be writing a review of it. Your professor will advise you about how better to meet the challenge of reading academic historical studies well.

Grading. Grades for written assignments will be standard letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) corresponding to a standard 4-point scale, with plusses and minuses. A plus adds 0.33 to the point value represented by a letter; a minus subtracts the same number. Class discussion counts for 30% of your total, final grade for the course. The five single book reviews together count for 40%; the review essay, 30%.

– K. M. Boughan
January 2015

K. M. Boughan – The Citadel – Spring 2015

HIST 591: The Renaissance Reading and Discussion Schedule

Week I (1/14)	Introduction to the course.
Week II (1/21)	John Najemy, <i>A History of Florence, 1200-1575</i> , pp. v-249.
Week III (1/28)	John Najemy, <i>A History of Florence, 1200-1575</i> , pp. 250-490.
Week IV (2/4)	William Caferro, <i>John Hawkwood</i> .
Week V (2/11)	Edward Muir, <i>Mad Blood Stirring</i> .
Week VI (2/18)	Stanley Chojnacki, <i>Women and Men in Renaissance Venice</i> .
Week VII (2/25)	Margaret L. King, <i>The Death of The Child Valerio Marcello</i> .
Week VIII (3/4)	Katherine Park, <i>Doctors and Medicine in Early Renaissance Florence</i> .
Week IX (3/11)	Anthony Grafton, <i>Cardano's Cosmos</i> .
Week X (3/18)	Dale Kent, <i>Friendship, Love, and Trust in Renaissance Florence</i> .
Week XI (4/1)	Michael Rocke, <i>Forbidden Friendships</i> .
Week XII (4/8)	Guido Ruggiero, <i>Machiavelli in Love</i> .
Week XIII (4/15)	No class. Professor available for consultation.
Week XIV (4/22)	No class. Professor available for consultation.
Week XV (4/27)	Conclusion to the course.