BLHS 106: The Renaissance
Renaissance Humanism and Renaissance Art

Professors
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Schedule
Thursdays 4:50-7:50. Hybrid format. Class sessions include traditional classroom meetings, individual and group online work, and online class meetings. Two Saturday Museum visits, February 24 and April 7, 10:00-12:20.

Course Content
Deriving in part from a rediscovery of ancient writings and arts, and in part from a new interpretation of the human spirit, Renaissance humanism expressed itself in great works of literature and art. This course emphasizes both key humanist writings and the glorious works of painting, sculpture, and architecture that express this new understanding of the human spirit. Humanist Leon Battista Alberti's reformulation of the pre-Socratic assertion that "a man can do all things if he will" is a Renaissance keynote. It exudes the fundamental mood of the age: confidence. Over time that initial confidence is modified and qualified, as humanists turn a secular and analytical eye on the ideas and behaviors of their era. We will study humanistic thought, from Petrarch's antiquarian enthusiasms to Pico's idealism to More's skepticism. Likewise, Renaissance art is one of the crowning glories of human achievement. We will consider the elements of this art, whose images and structures address the eternal question of what it means to be human. From the transformative work of Italian artists to the very different northern European evolved of a visual language, we will consider how art conventions, materials, and social contexts influence the individual artist's creative vision.

Learning Goals and Outcomes
After completing this course a student should be able to:
1.   Distinguish among Classical humanism, Christian humanism, and Renaissance humanism
2.   Recognize, define, and evaluate the principal ideas and values of Renaissance humanists as expressed in the assigned writings of the Renaissance era.
3.   Explain the influences of Renaissance humanism on European culture
4.   Recognize and define the basic principles, values, techniques, and social contexts of Renaissance art
5.   Recognize, define, and compare the genres, styles and major works of Renaissance artists as assigned in this class.
6.   Compare and contrast arts of the Italian Renaissance, Northern Renaissance, and Mannerism
7.   Write well-constructed short argument essays containing thesis, evidence, and reasoning
8.   Write cogent Discussion Board postings and deliver constructive peer critiques
9.   Demonstrate familiarity with assigned reading in clear, constructive, classroom dialogue
10.   Work cooperatively with peers to prepare and deliver in-class reports

Assessment of student learning will be achieved through consideration of a number of components, as follows:
- *Classroom Participation:* Students must read the course material carefully, take notes, and participate fully in class discussion. We encourage questions as well as critical commentaries.
- *Attendance:* See full discussion below.
- *Discussion Board Postings:* For the five sessions that are labeled "Individual online work," students must post critical analyses (500 words minimum) based of a selection of topics, as well as replies to two postings by other class members (200 words minimum). The suggested minimum length for these

postings is 500 words for the analysis and 200 words for each reply. Less substantive postings may be graded down. Details for each posting are on Canvas.

- *Essays:* Three essays requiring critical analysis (minimum 750 words) are assigned. Topics, based on interpretation of assigned reading and artwork, are found on Canvas, along with essay criteria. Students must use MLA citation style for all sources. Essays not meeting the stated criteria will be returned before being graded.
- *Group Work:* The class will be divided into study groups. Each group will present a report on the week's assigned reading once during the semester. All groups will present during the last class meeting of the semester. Topics and criteria are given on Canvas.

Evaluation
First class exercise, 5%; Attendance and participation, 15%; Discussion Board, 25%; Essays, 30%; Group presentations, 20%; final posting, 5%.

Grade Computation
All work except essays will be graded using letter grades. The letter course grade will be determined by entering all grades into Canvas and calculating a weighted average percentage. That percentage will then be converted back to a letter course grade according to the following ranges:

A = 100.0 to 92.5	B+ = 89.999 to 87.5	C+ = 79.999 to 77.5	D+ = 69.999 to 67.5
A- = 92.499 to 90.0	B = 87.499 to 82.5	C = 77.499 to 72.5	D = 67.499 to 60.0
	B- = 82.499 to 80.0	C- = 72.499 to 70.0	F = 59.999 to 0.0

Course Requirements
- *Attendance:* Students are expected to **attend all class meetings and to participate in all assigned activities**. In keeping with BALS policy, missing more than two two or more absences, excused or unexcused, may receive a failing grade for the course. Late arrivals and/or early departures of more than seven minutes count as ½ of an absence. Students missing a Discussion Board assignment deadline will receive an absence for that week's class. **Excused absences are given *only* if student and instructor discuss the circumstances in advance.**
- *Late Work:*
    - Discussion Board Postings will receive the grade of "zero" if they are posted after the due date.
    - Essays are submitted by posting to the Canvas site. They must be posted before 4:55 p.m. on the assigned due date. A late essay arriving after 5:00 p.m. is lowered one full grade. An essay received 48 hours late is lowered two full grades. Essays received one week or more late receive an "F." Essays not submitted receive a zero.
    - **Essays and Postings will be excused *only* if student and instructor discuss the circumstances in advance of the deadline.**
- *Incomplete Semester Grades:* Extension of time to finish coursework will be granted only in unusual and clear documented situations. Extensions must be mutually agreed upon between student and instructor no later than the last class meeting. Then all such agreements must be approved by the Associate Dean. In no case will the extension exceed three additional weeks. Work not received by the extension date will result in a change of the semester grade to "F."
- **All work must be done to pass the course.**

Course Format: Importance of Blackboard Site
This is a **hybrid** course, which means that some class assignments are done online rather than in the classroom. Online weeks may include individual and group work, or online meetings of the whole group. Online work is done on the course Canvas site, where you will also find details of all course assignments.

Weekly Course Schedule

(Reader = *The Italian Renaissance Reader*; Sayre = *The Humanities: Culture, Continuity, Change*)

January 11   Introduction to Humanism and Renaissance Art AB & NM
Medieval Background: Humanists and Artists Reader, Introduction (ix-xviii).
Renaissance writing assigned.

January 18   **Online Class Meeting:** Renaissance Dawns: Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio AB
Sayre, 17-34; Reader: Petrarch, 14-21, and Canzoniere Nos. 1, 3, 16, 23, 90, 134,
189, 298; Boccaccio, 60-61, and Preface, Introduction, 1st day 1st story; 1st day 4th
story; 3rd day 9th story; 6th day 7th story.
Renaissance writing submitted online.   Short essay #1 assigned.

January 25   **Individual online work:** Renaissance Humanism: Pico Della Mirandola AB
Reader: Pico, 178-184. See Canvas for Posting assignment.

February 1   Renaissance Humanism: Pico and Machiavelli AB
Group presentation: Pico; Reader: Machiavelli, 258-297; Short essay #1 due.

February 8   **Individual online work:** The Florentine Renaissance NM
Sayre, 6-17, 37-70. See Canvas for Posting assignment.

February 15   Rennaissance Art: Florence: Massaccio, Piero della Francesca, Botticelli NM
Group presentation: Florentine art

February 22   **Individual online work:** Humanism: Alberti, More, Elizabethan England AB
Reader, Alberti, 164-177; Sayre 176-202. See Canvas for Posting assignment.

February 24   **Museum Class:** Italian Renaissance NM Meet at National Gallery of Art, 10:05 a.m.

March 1   **Online class meeting:** Humanism: More, Erasmus, Elizabethans AB
Erasmus material posted on Canvas; Short essay #2 assigned

March 15   **Individual online work:** Art: Rome/Venice and Mannerism NM
Sayre, 74-114, 206-228; See Canvas for Posting assignment. Short essay #2 due.

March 22   Renaissance Art: Rome/Venice and Mannerism NM
Group presentations: Rome/Venice; Mannerism   Short essay #3 assigned.

April 5   **Individual online work:** Renaissance Art: Durer and the North NM
Sayre, 118-140, 156-168. See Canvas for Posting assignment.

April 7   **Museum Visit:** Northern Renaissance NM Meet at National Gallery of Art, 10:05 a.m.

April 12   Renaissance Art: Durer and the North NM
Group presentation on Northern Renaissance Art; Short essay #3 due.

April 19   Renaissance Humanism: High Renaissance and Mannerism AB
Sayre, 57-59; 100-104; 113-114; 160-163; 171-172; 221-228; Renaissance Reader,
205-226, 347-354: Castiglione, Cellini, Woman humanists, Rabelais, Montaigne,
Cervantes, John of the Cross.

April 26   Reflection and synthesis: Group Presentations AB & NM

May 10 (Fri.)   **Individual posting:** Reflection & synthesis AB & NM See Canvas for assignment.

Required Textbooks
Sayre, Henry M. *BLHS 106: The Renaissance.* Pearson Custom ed. Available only from GU bookstore. ISBN:
          978-1323537794. Also available as etext rental.
Bondanella, Julia Conway, and Mark Musa. *The Italian Renaissance Reader.* Plume. ISBN: 978-0452010130.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
Disabilities
If you are a student with a documented disability who requires accommodations or if you think you may have a disability and want to inquire about accommodations, please contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 or arc@georgetown.edu. Accommodations will not be applied retroactively.
Turnitin.com
Students acknowledge that by taking this course all required papers can be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.
Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity
During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university's Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings.
The university recently has acquired the capability to send text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.
Georgetown Honor System
All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code, and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will all be submitted to turnitin.com for checking. Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:
In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.
Plagiarism
In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail.
If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student will receive a grade of F for the course.
Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances
The following is university policy:
Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.