

Age of the Renaissance: HY 313

Syllabus Fall Term 2009

General Education Information:

Hist 103 – Section 01 (MWF 11 – 11:50 AM)
Instructor: Professor William J. Wright, PhD
Office: Brock 408e
Office Hours: MWF 12 -12:50 & 2 – 2:30 PM
Phone & E-mail: 423 425-4563 & Bill-Wright@utc.edu

The Age of the Renaissance is a critical study of the historical phenomena associated with the 'rebirth' of ancient Roman culture and its historical context. The Renaissance began in the bustling Italian centers of commerce and learning. The course will entail an examination of political, economic, social, intellectual and artistic human endeavors in Western Europe from roughly 1300 to 1500. It will focus especially on the literary and artistic achievements in Italy. The goal of each student will be to master the body of knowledge about this historical period commonly learned by North American students. Specifically, the class will study the demise of feudalism and other medieval institutions, on the one hand, and the rise of capitalism, an urban, class society, the modern state, and humanism on the other hand.

Basically, the Renaissance was one of four great movements that transformed traditional European society. With the Reformation movement that followed, it clearly laid the groundwork for modernity in some ways, although the Scientific Revolution and Industrialization completed other aspects of modernization. Humanism, however, was fully matured by the Renaissance and it was the most characteristic feature of the period. For that reason, this course will focus on humanism in thought, literature, and the arts.

Office and office hours:

Brock 408e. Regular office hours are: MWF 12:00-1:00, and 2:00-2:20. One may also make an appointment.

Texts for the course are as follows:

- Spitz, Lewis, The Renaissance, vol. I of The Renaissance and Reformation Movements, (TR)
- Benjamin Kohl and Ronald Witt, The Earthly Republic (ER)
- Ernst Cassirer, Renaissance Philosophy of Man (RP)
- Christopher B. Coleman, ed., The Treatise of Lorenzo Valla (Donation of Constantine) (DC)

Term Papers:

A Term Paper will be required and is due on the last Wednesday of class. See the term paper guide.

Class routine and grades:

The class routine will consist mainly of lectures and some class discussions. It is imperative that the student regularly read the material assigned and study the problems encountered. Students are responsible for learning the names of the people, places, events, ideas and other phenomena encountered in the lectures and readings; i.e., terms. They should develop a definition and an explanation of the historical significance (context) of each term. The outline for the course indicates the appropriate readings in the textbook and supplementary sources.

There will be two mid-term examinations and a final exam. A term paper will be required. A separate description of this research and writing assignment will be available. Students are expected to be present for exams. It is up to the student to contact the professor within a week of a valid absence from an exam (e.g., severe illness, death in the family, court summons), to demonstrate the validity of the absence to the professor, and to arrange a makeup date. The final grade will be determined by averaging the letter grades for these requirements, with the final exam counting double. The instructor may add an extra class grade to raise the final grades of students who work hard, attend class regularly and actively participate in class discussions.

Semester grades will represent the semester average. Letter grades on the term paper the two one-hour exams, and the comprehensive final exam will be averaged, with the final exam counted as a double grade. Calculations will be made using this six-point system; i.e., A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0, and zero = -1.

Special assistance:

ATTENTION: If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or special accommodations in this class or any other class, call the Office for Students with Disabilities at 425-4006 or go to the office at 110 Frist Hall.

If you find that personal problems, career, indecision, study and time management difficulties, or similar problems are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438.

Electronic connections:

All of the class information, syllabus, bibliography, term paper guide, and announcements are available by internet. The course homepage address is **www.utc.edu/Faculty/Bill-Wright/** I will also encourage submission of certain assignments by e-mail. You may also contact me by e-mail at **bwright@utc.edu** If you do not have a personal computer, please make use of the university facilities in the Hunter Student Lab, Library, and other locations. Help in using this medium may be obtained at the Hunter Student Lab and in the Library.

All students automatically receive an account upon registration. To enhance student services, the University will use your UTC e-mail address (firstname-lastname@utc.edu) for communications. (See <http://onenet.utc.edu> for your exact address.) Please check your e-mail on a regular basis. If you have trouble accessing your e-mail account, contact the Help Desk at 423/425-4000.