

## Art and Literature of the Italian Renaissance

Humanities 211

Section: D100

Term: 2012 Spring

Instructor: Alessandra Capperdoni

acapperdi@sfu.ca

**Discussion Topics:** This course introduces students to the study of art and literature of the Italian Renaissance, one of the most productive periods in the history of Italian culture. A time witnessing the rise of cities and mercantile culture, strong economic growth and subsequent decline, political alliances and internal strife, the Renaissance also marks a central moment in the full development of Italian literary language, for which Dante's late medieval poetry sets the stage. Through the reading and analysis of literary texts, students will learn to understand the significance of themes, literary forms and patterns in relation to the social and political upheavals of the period studied, while appreciating its continuing fascination for our times. The course also exposes students to the history of Italian Renaissance art through in-class analysis of masterpieces of visual art and secondary readings.

By the end of the course, students will be able to identify major poets, artists, and works from the 13th to the late 16th century in Italy and understand their significance in the context of the political, social, and cultural developments of this time. Classes will consist of lectures, in-class exercises in textual and artistic interpretation using relevant terminology, and discussions.

**Grading:** 15% Attendance & participation

20% One short paper (6 pages)

10% Textual analysis

25% Midterm

30% Final exam

**Required Texts:** Dante, *The Divine Comedy*. Trans. Musa. (3 Volumes) Penguin, 2002

Ludovico Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*. Tr. David L. Slavitt. Harvard UP, 2009

Torquato Tasso, *Gerusalemme Liberata/Jerusalem Delivered*. Tr. Anthony M. Esolen. Johns Hopkins, 2000

Giorgio Vasari, *Lives of the Artists* (Oxford Worlds Classics) Oxford UP, 2008

Maria Bellonci, *Lucrezia Borgia* (Women in History Series) Phoenix, 2003

Frederick Hartt and David G. Wilkins. *History of Italian Renaissance Art*. 6th ed. Pearson: Upper Saddle River, 2007

**Recommended Texts:**

**Art and Literature of the Italian Renaissance**

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.