

Graduate courses with a Renaissance / early modern focus offered in the fall of 2020

REN-R 501 The Culture of the Renaissance (4 cr.) will be taught by Robert A. Schneider and will meet with HIST-H 615 – Thursdays 6:15-8:15pm in Ballantine Hall 317.

TOPIC: *Intellectual Cultures in Early Modern Europe: The Republic of Letters*

This course will focus chronologically mostly on the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries and thematically on the many aspects that made up the evolving intellectual culture of Western Europe in this period. It will thus traverse such textbook categories as the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution, but will do so in terms of the production, cultivation, exchange and circulation of ideas, values and concepts that are fundamental to understanding these periods. Topics will include: printing and the history of the book; academies and learned societies; courtly cultures; the development of national languages; rising levels of literacy; the creation of vernacular literatures; the enduring importance of erudition; the impact of the exploration of non-Western lands; and the emergence of public spheres. While designed as a graduate course in history, students are welcome from all disciplines.

ART HISTORY

ARTH-A557 Topics in Renaissance and Baroque Art: Italian Art of the Fifteenth Century

Taught by Giles Knox

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30-03:45pm in WH 121

This course will cover the artistic revolution that swept the Italian peninsula during the fifteenth century. Our initial focus will be on Florence and the great artists of that city, including Brunelleschi, Donatello, Masaccio, and Botticelli. We will then turn our attention to the spread of Renaissance forms to other centers, including Mantua, Urbino, and Venice. The course will end with a discussion of Leonardo da Vinci, the figure who laid the groundwork for the High Renaissance of the sixteenth century. Students will write a research paper and present the findings of this study to the rest of the class.

ARTH-A638: Problems in 16th-Century Art Outside Italy: “Early Modern Prints and Visual Communication”

Taught by Bret Rothstein

Mondays, 2:30-5:30pm in AC C103

This seminar will investigate the socio-cultural impacts of the “exactly repeatable pictorial statement” in Europe between roughly 1400 and 1800. (Don't let the official title fool you.) Topics of study will include: the movement of motifs across geographical and/or linguistic boundaries; the social value technological change; the formulation and codification of epistemic images; shifting

relationships between word and image; the customization/hybridization of books; the commodification of the artist; changing conceptions of individual and corporate identity; and, of course, questions of interpretive authority. Our plan is to work extensively with objects from the Lilly Library as well as from the print collection of the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

ENGLISH

ENG-L625 (In)hospitality: Shakespeare and the Custom of Virtue
Taught by Joan Linton
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-10:45am in BH 338

A long-standing topic of interest for Shakespeare scholars, the problematics of hospitality has seen a recent surge in publications from diverse articles to anthologies like *Shakespeare and Hospitality* and *Shakespeare and Immigration*. This surge of interest that warrants focused attention, especially when it comes to addressing hospitality in practice, one can say that it is “a custom more honor'd in the breach than the observance,” to borrow from the critic-prince Hamlet. In reading a selection of poetry and plays, this course will explore a range of relational tensions built into practices of hospitality—those between host and guest, host and hostess, have and have not, citizen and stranger, humans and the natural world. Relational tensions prompt inquiry that brings on board a number of critical frames, from political theology and economy to the poetics of affects and cognition, to migration and cosmopolitanism, to ecology and the posthuman. Where appropriate, this inquiry will engage theorists on hospitality, including writings by Arendt, Aristotle, Butler, Derrida, Kant, Levinas, and Tracy McNulty.

Primary readings may include the sonnets, *Twelfth Night*, *Timon of Athens*, *King Lear*, and other texts to be negotiated among course participants. Discussion of the plays will also address adaptations and performances by way of making legible the relevance of the Shakespeare's plays—and the Humanities—to ongoing and emerging problems in our communities local and global. Finally, with oblique reference to William Bennett's *Book of Virtue* (1996), the course subtitle “custom of virtue” asks how Shakespeare might factor into an aesthetic education that can do justice to pressing concerns of hospitality today.

FRENCH AND ITALIAN

HISTORY

HIST-H 615 Intellectual Cultures in Early Modern Europe: The Republic of Letters
Taught by Robert A. Schneider
Thursdays 6:15P-08:15pm in BH 317

This course will focus chronologically mostly on the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries and thematically on the many aspects that made up the evolving intellectual culture of Western Europe in this period. It will thus traverse such textbook categories as the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution, but will do so in terms of the production, cultivation, exchange and circulation of ideas, values and concepts that are fundamental to understanding these periods. Topics will include: printing and the history of the book; academies and learned societies; courtly cultures; the development of national languages; rising levels of literacy; the creation of vernacular literatures; the enduring importance of erudition; the impact of the exploration of non-Western lands; and the emergence of public spheres. While designed as a graduate course in history, students are welcome from all disciplines.

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE & MEDICINE

HPSC-X 705: Investigations of Nature in the Enlightenment

Taught by Domenico Bertoloni Meli

Mondays 12:30-03:00pm in BH 123

This course covers investigations of nature in the long 18th century, from the time of Newton and Leibniz to the *Encyclopédie* and beyond. I am planning to discuss a wide range of issues, starting from concepts of nature and the changing nature of investigative practices. Topics include, but are not limited to, philosophical reflections on space and time, astronomy and geodesy, collecting and museums, the classification of plants and animals, electricity and chemistry, changing perspectives on the human body in health and disease – including the sadly topical debates on smallpox inoculation. We will read a combination of primary and secondary sources, starting from excerpts from Newton's *Principia* and contemporary works in anatomy and natural history from the late the 17th century. [*For this course to count towards the Renaissance Studies minor, the final project needs to be on a pre-1700 topic.*]

MUSICOLOGY

MUS-M 502: Composers: Heinrich Isaac

Taught by Giovanni Zanovello

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00-2:15pm in Music Addition 006

Heinrich Isaac (ca. 1450-1517) was one of the most versatile and accomplished Flemish composers of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century. His output includes outstanding examples of virtually every genre practiced in his times – Masses, motets, songs in several languages and different traditions, pieces with a possible instrumental destination, as well as a rarest complete set of Mass Propers for the whole liturgical year. Through Isaac we will develop a high familiarity with late-fifteenth-century musical styles across genres and geographical areas and discover some of the contrapuntal masterpieces of the era. The class time will include a combination of lecturing, discussion, and team work. No textbook is needed for this class. Readings and scores will be available through Canvas.

SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

HISP-S 558 Colonial Spanish American Literature
Taught by Kathleen Myers
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-10:45am in AC C103

Through a study of canonical texts from Colonial Spanish America this course will focus on the development of colonial discourse and on theories about it. First we will examine the chronicles of exploration, conquest and colonization (ca. 1492 – 1600), focusing in particular on the foundation of European concepts about the “New World” (Columbus, Cortés, Bernal Díaz, Las Casas). We will then study indigenous and mestizo authors who draw on these concepts but combine them with local indigenous systems to create a dynamic re-interpretation of colonial processes (Sahagún, El Inca Garcilaso, Guaman Poma). Lastly, we will study the formation of a “barroco de Indias” during the mid-colonial period (ca. 1600-1750) and its flowering in a variety of poetic and dramatic texts (Catalina de Erauso, Ercilla, Balbuena, and Sor Juana). We will study primary sources from the period in conjunction with recent critical works to help us reformulate traditional paradigms about conquest and colonialism. As an extension of our work on primary texts, students will conduct archival research on first editions and manuscript materials at the Lilly Library.

HISP-S 628 Topics in Early Modern Spanish Literature: Reading & The Rise of Leisure in Early Modernity
Taught by Steven Wagschal
Thursdays 4:00-6:30pm in BH 123

Reflecting on time spent in the library of his Château, Montaigne wrote that “I only look to books to give me pleasure through honest amusement” (*Essays* II.10). The private library, as a dedicated room for collecting books and for the solitary and silent reading of those books, rose in prominence throughout the sixteenth century and became an increasingly common possession for the highly privileged by the time that Francisco de Quevedo wrote his famous sonnet on reading from his own tower.

Charting the rise of this practice among figures of far less power and authority than either Montaigne or Quevedo, Cervantes depicts a rural gentleman who keeps a private library, locked with key, with “more than a hundred great volumes, extremely well bound, and a good many smaller ones too. . . .” (I.6). In the pages that follow, the reader learns that this collection is organized by genre. Books of chivalry abound, as do volumes of all kinds of poetry, all, that is, but one: There is a conspicuous absence in Don Quixote's library of devotional poetry. This lack is key to understanding his use for reading: as Edward Baker has noted, like Montaigne's, these books are meant for his “pleasure” and “amusement.”

Much critical emphasis has been placed on the continuation in Renaissance Spain of medieval practices of aural reading. Yet clearly Don Quixote's keeping of a private library points to the emergence in the mid-sixteenth century of new types of reading practices that coincide with developments in bookmaking technologies, the increased humanist interest in vernacular poets (like

Sánchez de las Brozas' lengthy commentary on the poetry of Garcilaso de la Vega), and importantly, the development of a notion of what we now call “leisure time,” time in which the reader was not seeking to cultivate a skill or improve morally, but for pleasure and amusement.

In this course, we will examine the expansion of the modern concept of leisure time as we read volumes meant for *entretenimiento*, including many that were found among those in Cervantes' fictional library, as well as books collected and read by historical readers in their actual private libraries. In addition to historiographical and theoretical readings on leisure, Renaissance collecting, and the History of the Book, primary texts will include at least one chivalric novel (*Amadís de Gaula* or *Tirant Lo Blanc*), lyric poetry by Ausiàs March and Garcilaso, and a pastoral novel (*La Diana*).

Translations into English are available for all primary readings.