

# THE RENAISSANCE

## THE RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION IN EUROPE

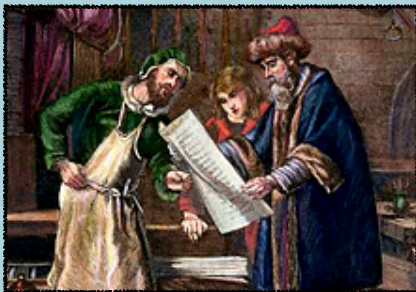
### Overview

This course is a study of two key events in European history: the Renaissance and Reformation. The Renaissance was a time of great creativity and discovery in art, music, politics, economics and science. We begin by examining the transition from a medieval worldview to the humanist perspective in Italy, then consider the rise of secular learning, the emergence of capitalism and trade, and the formation of a particular aesthetic culture. The course then turns to northern Europe, where Renaissance values were manifest in the Reformation by men like Luther, Erasmus and Thomas More. In the final weeks, we will examine various challenges to Church hegemony in the 16th century, and the impact these had on the course of European history.



*"We judge worthy of honour and praise those men who are...versed in certain skills, and particularly in those which have always been prized by both the Ancients and Moderns. One such skill is architecture, founded upon the arts of arithmetic and geometry, which are foremost of the seven liberal arts because they depend upon exact certainty."*

*--Duke of Federico da Montefeltro*



Understand the Renaissance as an intellectual period with one foot in the classical past, and the other in a new world of skepticism and empiricism.



Gain familiarity with the great thinkers, artists and leaders of the 15th and 16th centuries, from Michelangelo to Lorenzo Valla to Erasmus.



Become versed in the religious debates of the Renaissance and the changing role of the Church in Europe as seen through Erasmus, Luther, Thomas More and Henry VIII.

## Course Assignments

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**Essay:** You will be given two prompts to choose from with different due dates. Choose one of the essays to complete for **100 pts.**

**Presentation:** On an assigned day, you will present a work of art (approved by the professor) from the Renaissance period. For your chosen work, you need to explain who created the work and when, the various influences on the work, the patronage behind the work, and the impact and reception of the work in the period. The presentation is worth **50 points.**

**Presentation write up:** A 600-800 word write-up is due the day you deliver and is also worth **50 points.**

**Exams:** There will be a midterm and final exam, both in essay format. The midterm will be in week 6. Details on exams will be announced. **100 points each.**

## COURSE ACTIVITIES



✧ Put Thomas More on trial for failure to support the King of England. Does he hang? Or do you set him free, in a land where the Pope no longer rules?



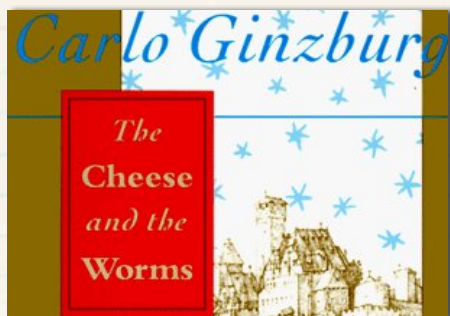
Letterpress Printing Activity: make copies of a piece of classical text in the spirit of Gutenberg, Aldus Manutius and Jean Garamond.

**Participation:** Active participation in this course is required. The class will run much like a seminar, with very limited lecture and a great deal of discussion, reading, writing and debate. While I will not take attendance on a regular basis, if you miss more than three classes you can

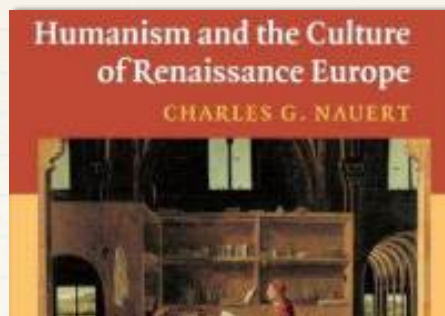
expect your final grade to be affected. There will be numerous in-class activities that cannot be made up. If you know you'll miss class, arrange to get the class materials in advance. Each week's readings will be posted in advance on Blackboard.

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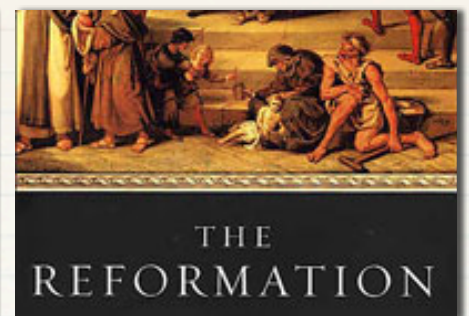
## COURSE TEXTS



"A study of the popular culture in the sixteenth century as seen through the eyes of one man, a miller brought to trial during the Inquisition."



"Nauert charts the rise of humanism as the distinctive culture of the social, political and intellectual elites in Renaissance Europe"



MacCulloch "brilliantly re-creates the religious battles of priests, monarchs, scholars, and politicians, from the zealous Martin Luther to the radical Loyola."



## ABOUT ME

**Name:** Nicole Howard

**Dept:** History

**Rank:** Associate Professor

**Education:** Indiana U.

**Degree:** History and  
Philosophy of Science

**Favorite Period:** 16th  
and 17th centuries

**Interests:** History of the  
Book, History of Medicine

**Recent Reading:**  
Mantel's *Bring up the Bodies*,  
Andrey Platonov's *Happy  
Moscow* and Troy Jollimore's  
*At Lake Scugog*



### COURSE POLICIES

EOU places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found guilty of an act of academic misconduct may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or being expelled from the University—or a combination of these. Please see Student Handbook.

### COURSE ASSISTANCE

If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem and need accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Program in Loso Hall 234. Telephone: 962-3081.



1. The Waning Middle Ages
2. Humanism in Italy
3. Art & Architecture
4. The Church & Politics
5. Northern Humanism
6. Reform Movements
7. The English
8. Counter-Reformation
9. Age of Discovery
10. The Movies

## Weekly Schedule