**History 3460 (Autumn 2016): Late Medieval & Renaissance Italy**

Prof. Kenneth Gouwens ([kenneth.gouwens@uconn.edu](mailto:kenneth.gouwens@uconn.edu))

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30–4:00, & by appointment (Wood Hall #318, tel. 486-3750)

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Aimee Loiselle ([aimee.loiselle@uconn.edu](mailto:aimee.loiselle@uconn.edu))

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00–4:00 (Wood Hall #206)

***Required Books:***

Thomas V. Cohen, *Love and Death in Renaissance Italy*

Paula Findlen, ed., *The Italian Renaissance: Essential Readings*

Kenneth Gouwens, ed., *The Italian Renaissance: Essential Sources*

Antonio Manetti, *The Fat Woodworker*

Lorenzo Valla, *Correspondence*

***Course Requirements:*** The final grade comprises: participation (in-class writing assignments and informed engagement in discussions), 20%; two midterm examinations, 20% each; and a two-hour comprehensive final examination, 40%. Discussions of the readings are integral to this course, and so you need to finish readings ***before*** the class sessions for which they are assigned. The examina­tions consist mostly of essays. The essay on the first exam and one of those on the final are textual explications.You are responsible for all materials covered and handouts distributed in class. Follow­ing an absence, you may want to arrange to copy notes and handouts from one of your peers.

***Academic Misconduct:*** See <http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html>, Appendix “A.”

***Policy on Cellphones:*** The use of cell phones, including for text messaging, is prohibited in this class. Please turn cell phones completely off, including vibration setting, and put them away. It is disturbing to the entire class — and disrespectful to the instructor — when students get up during class to receive phone calls or when they are text-messaging during lecture. If you have a particular emergency, please inform the instructor before class that you are expecting a call, set the phone to “vibrate,” and quietly leave the room before responding to the call.

***Policy on Laptop Computers:*** Their use in class is prohibited. Surfing the internet during class may lead to revocation of this privilege. Rationale: Recent research has shown that even even for those students who resist the temptation to multitask when taking notes, the use of laptops “results in shallower processing.” See Pam A. Mueller and Daniel M. Oppenheimer, “The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking,” *Psychological Science* 25:6 (June 2014): 1159-1168. Students with a documented medical need for using a laptop in class may do so in the front row.

***Recording Devices:*** Students who either need or wish to record the lectures are asked to submit a request in writing to the instructor via email, stating their reasons for doing so. This applies only to audio recording. Video recording will not be permitted under any circumstances.

***Responses to E-mails:*** It is a privilege rather than a right to receive rapid responses to queries sent via email. Emails sent Wednesday through Sunday may not be answered until Monday morning. The professor will respond promptly to emails on Mondays and Tuesdays.

***Schedule of Classes***

***Date Subject Readings***

Aug. 29 (M) Introduction -----

Aug. 31 (W) Dante, Giotto, & Italy ca. 1300 Gouwens, 1–23

Sep. 5 (M) Labor Day — no class meeting

Sep. 7 (W) Petrarch & Humanism Findlen, 3–7, 219–36; Gouwens, 24–38

Sep. 12 (M) Florentine Politics to 1434 Findlen, 7–16, 43–63; Gouwens, 43–47

Sep. 14 (W) Florence under the Medici Findlen, 64–90, 299–316; Gouwens, 94–95

Sep. 19 (M) State Dynamics in 15th Cent. Findlen, 16–26; Gouwens, 51–70

Sep. 21 (W) Quattrocento Art & its Significance ------------

Sep. 26 (M) Encountering Ancient Texts Findlen, 215–18, 237–72

Sep. 28 (W) Savonarola, Florence, & Invasion Findlen, 26–33

Oct. 3 (M) The Role of the Family Findlen, 93–123; Gouwens, 108–25

Oct. 5 (W) Merchants, Artists, Urban Values Gouwens, 96–107; Manetti

Oct. 10 (M) Religion and Morality Findlen, 124–66

Oct. 12 (W) **First Examination**

Oct. 17 (M) Crime and Sexuality I Cohen, 1–70

Oct. 19 (W) Crime and Sexuality II Cohen, 173–227

Oct. 24 (M) Wives & Mothers Findlen, 169–91; Gouwens, 137–69

Oct. 26 (W) Learned Women Findlen, 273–91; Gouwens, 197–205

Oct. 31 (M) Philology as Tool & Weapon Valla, *Correspondence*, selections TBA

Nov. 2 (W) Neoplatonism & Harmony Gouwens, 187–96

Nov. 7 (M) Renaissance Rome & the Papacy -----

Nov. 9 (W) **Second Examination**

Nov. 14 (M) Renaissance Roman Art -----

Nov. 16 (W) Patronage & Gender Findlen, 295–98, 317–40; Gouwens, 224–43

[Nov. 21& 23: No class meetings; Thanksgiving Break]

Nov. 28 (M) Machiavelli & Politics Gouwens, 71–90, 126–34

Nov. 30 (W) The Sack of Rome (1527) Gouwens, 206–18

Dec. 5 ( M) Remembering the Renaissance Gouwens, 223, 244–77; Findlen, 33–40

Dec. 7 (W) The Importance of Historical Memory

**Date & Time TBA:** **Final Examination**

**If you cannot take the final exam as scheduled, you must visit the Dean of Students Office, which will provide further instructions. Vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, weddings (unless part of the wedding party), and other large or small scale social events, are not viable excuses for missing a final exam. Contact the Dean of Students' office with any questions.**