Course Overview: This course is an advanced examination of various topics pertaining to the history of Renaissance Europe. We will be covering a variety of themes ranging from politics and art to science and women’s issues; a general knowledge of the period is assumed. For background or to review, you may wish to consult a good textbook, such as Lewis Spitz, *The Renaissance*. In addition to gaining advanced knowledge of the above-mentioned topics, the course is designed to sharpen your reading and writing skills through analysis of contemporary scholarly works (monographs) and significant primary sources.

Course Requirements:
Attendance and participation in all discussion meetings (10%)
Three oral book reports (30%)
Four written book reviews (60%)

Reviews and reports should analyze the author’s arguments, use of evidence, methodology and perspective or bias, in addition to providing a brief summary.

Books to be Purchased:
Martines, *Power and Imagination*
Goldthwaite, *Wealth and the Demand for Art in Italy*
Alberti, *The Family in Renaissance Florence*
King, *Women of the Renaissance*
Debus, *Man and Nature in the Renaissance*
Skinner, *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought, vol 1*
Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*

Topics and Assignments:
Introduction

Discussion of Martines, chs. 1-10.

Discussion of Martines, chs. 11-16.

Discussion of Goldthwaite. Book review on Goldthwaite due in class.

Oral reports on art topics.

Discussion of Alberti.

Discussion of King. Book review on King due.

Discussion of Debus.
Oral reports on science topics.

Discussion of Skinner, chs. 1-5.

Discussion of Skinner, chs. 6-9.

Discussion of Castiglione, Books 1 and 2.

Discussion of Castiglione, Books 2 and 4.
    Written analysis of *The Book of the Courtier* due.

No class.

Oral reports on Renaissance rulers and courts.

Written analyses of rulers/courts due.