

The University of Texas at Tyler
Renaissance Europe (History 3352)

Course Overview and Student Learning Outcomes: This course is a survey of European history from ca. 1300 to 1500. The course is designed for history and education majors as well as those with an interest in the topic. We will cover a variety of themes, including the meanings of the Renaissance and humanism, the legacy of medieval culture, Renaissance statecraft, diplomacy and warfare; dynastic politics; religious and intellectual life; art and music; and finally, the beginnings of European exploration and colonization of other parts of the world.

Course Requirements: The course will consist of lectures and discussions; regular attendance and participation are essential. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam and a term paper (approx. 6-8 pages). Each of these will be worth 1/3 of your final grade. The exams will consist of choices of terms (5 out of 10 possible) and essays (1 of 2). The paper will be a comparison of kingship and statecraft based on your reading of Machiavelli and Erasmus.

Grading Policy: Each assignment is worth 100 points for a course total of 300. The grading scale is A=270-300, B=240-269, C=210-239, D=180-209, F=180-0. Make-ups will not be given nor will late papers be accepted, *the only exception being officially documented family or medical emergencies.*

Final Withdrawal Date: Friday, June 27

Required Books:

Spitz, *The Renaissance*

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Erasmus, *The Education of a Christian Prince*

Topics and Assignments:

Week 1

The Legacy of the Middle Ages; the Beginnings of Humanism

Readings: Spitz, chapters 1 and 6

Week 2

The Italian City-States, Economic and Social Change

Readings: Spitz, chapters 4 and 5

Week 3

Art and Music; Science and Technology

Readings: Spitz, chapters 7 and 8

Midterm Exam

Week 4

The New Monarchies; the Renaissance Church, Warfare

Readings: Spitz, chapters 2, 3 and 11

Term Paper on the books by Erasmus and Machiavelli due

Week 5

Dynastic Politics and the Invasion of Italy; Exploration and Discovery

Readings: Spitz, chapters 9 and 10

Final Exam

(non-cumulative; covers only material since the midterm)