

HIS 301.03
Renaissance Florence

Satisfies: ESI

Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:50pm

Prof. Alix Cooper

This writing- and research-intensive course, aimed at History majors as preparation for the HIS 401 senior seminar, will examine the social, cultural, and political unfolding of the Italian Renaissance during the 13th through 17th centuries in one of its key sites: the city-state of Florence. Home to such illustrious figures as Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Cosimo de' Medici, Niccolò Machiavelli and Galileo Galilei, Florence grew over the course of the Middle Ages to become one of the largest and most cultured of the Italian city-states, with a distinctive political system that showcased the aspirations of the rising mercantile class. Readings for the class will include numerous primary sources (original documents) written by the people of Renaissance Florence, as well as secondary sources (such as scholarly articles) by modern historians. Since this is a writing- and research-intensive class, like all 301s, there will be considerable attention paid to writing and revising. Requirements will include several shorter assignments and a final research paper that will be written in multiple drafts and critiqued for both historical form and historical content.