CC 201: The Renaissance

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CORE CURRICULUM
Tuesday, 12:30-2 pm, CAS Room 522, 685 Commonwealth Avenue
Fall 2011

COORDINATOR
Diana Wylie, dwylie@bu.edu
Office: 226 Bay State Road, Room 517

FACULTY
Jennifer Formichelli, jlf@bu.edu
David Green, dgreen@bu.edu
Christopher Ricks, cricks@bu.edu

SEMINARS
B2 Wylie PSY B49 TR 11-12:30
B4 Formichelli EIB 106 MWF 1-2
B6 Formichelli STH 113 TR 2-3:30
B3 Ricks EIB 106 MWF 12-1
B5 Green MUG 205 MWF 2-3
B7 Formichelli CAS 119B TR 3:30-5

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The third semester of the Humanities Core continues our multidisciplinary survey with some of the most significant literary, artistic, musical, and philosophical works from the Renaissance, an era in which the foundations of the modern world were laid. The semester will carry us from the early fourteenth century through the late seventeenth century.

Your seminar instructor determines your final grade, based on the following components: participation 20%; seminar papers 60%; final exam 20%. Attendance at lectures and seminar discussions is an important part of the course. Absences from lecture and seminar will be weighed seriously by your seminar leader, and will bring down your final grade.

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works read in the Core. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core office or call 617-353-5404. The tutors’ office is found in CAS 129.

On the Core website—http://bu.edu/core—students will find faculty office hours, reading lists, supplemental course material, a department activities and academic calendar, syllabi, tutor appointment forms and writing FAQs, and other resources. We hope you will also take advantage of the Core Blog at blogs.bu.edu/core, where you can stay up to date with Core events and participate in a wide-open conversation with Core lecturers and faculty about the issues of the course.

Academic Conduct: All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity; we have the same expectations of each other in this course. Seminar leaders take the issue of plagiarism seriously and expect all the work you do in this course to be your own. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people’s work, consult the Academic Conduct Code (http://bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code) or speak with your instructor.

TEXTBOOKS are available at the BU Bookstore and are on reserve in Mugar Library:

1. Francesco Petrarch: The Canzoniere (Oxford, 9780199540693)
2. Miguel de Cervantes: Don Quixote (Penguin, 9780142437230)
5. René Descartes: Discourse on Method (Pearson, 9780023672606)
6. Michel de Montaigne: Selections from the Essays (Harlan Davidson, 9780882951058)
7. Niccolò Machiavelli: The Prince (Hackett, 9780872203167)
8. Jonathan Swift, Gulliver’s Travels (Penguin, 9780141439495)

Students should refer to Hacker’s Rules for Writers (6th ed.) when completing papers for the course.
1) Tuesday, 9/6/11: Introduction to the Renaissance: Francesco Petrarca (1304-1374)
   Lecturer: William Kennedy, Dept. Comp. Lit., Cornell University, with Christopher Ricks
   Reading: “The Ascent of Mount Ventoux” (pp. 11-19); from Canzoniere: Poems 1, 3, 5, 16, 35, 126, 128, 134, 189, 199, 264, 365; “Letter to Posterity”

2) Tuesday, 9/13/11: Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)
   Lecturer: Michael Corgan, Dept. of International Relations, BU
   Reading: The Prince
   September 16: Core Open House, 3-5 PM in CAS room 119

3) Tuesday, 9/20/11: Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)
   Lecturer: Jodi Cranston, Dept. of Art History, BU
   Viewing: Images from the Sistine Chapel, at http://bu.edu/core/galleries/sistine.htm

4) Tuesday, 9/27/11: Michel de Montaigne (1553-1592)
   Lecturer: Barbara Diefendorf, Dept. of History, BU
   Reading: Essays: “To the Reader”; “Of Idleness”; “Of the Education of Children”; “It is Folly to Measure the True and False by Our Own Capacity”; “Of Cannibals” (Xerox); “Of the Inconsistency of Our Actions”; “Of Experience”; “Apology for Raymond Sebond”

5) Tuesday, 10/4/11: Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)
   Lecturer: Victor Coelho, Dept. of Musicology, BU
   Listening: Selections at http://bu.edu/core/galleries/monterverdi.htm

6) Tuesday, 10/11/11: René Descartes (1569-1650)
   Lecturer: Walter Hopp, Dept. of Philosophy, BU
   Reading: Meditations, Books 1-5 (pp. 67-126)

7) Tuesday, 10/18/11: Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616)
   Lecturer: Patricia Grieve, Dept. of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University
   Reading: Don Quixote, Book I: Chapters 1-52 (pp. 11-479); Book II: Prologue, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 483-509), 8-11 (532-57), 16 (581-90), 18 (600-08), 22-23 (630-47), 30 (687-92), 40-41 (750-65), 45 (785-91), 72-74 (966-82)

8) Tuesday, 10/25/11: Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez (1599-1660)
   Lecturer: Michael Zell, Dept. of Art History, BU
   Viewing: http://bu.edu/core/galleries/velazquez.htm

9) Tuesday, 11/1/11: William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
   Lecturer: Jennifer Formichelli, Core Curriculum, BU
   Reading: Hamlet

10) Tuesday, 11/8/11: John Milton (1608-1674)
    Lecturer: Christopher Ricks, BU Editorial Institute
    Reading: Paradise Lost, Books 1-4, Books 9-10, and Book 12 lines 466-end (pp. 229-57, 293-99)

11) Tuesday, 11/15/11: Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669)
    Lecturer: Michael Zell, Dept. of Art History, BU
    Viewing: Selected painting at http://bu.edu/core/galleries/rembrandt.htm

12) Tuesday, 11/22/11: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
    Lecturer: James Johnson, Dept. of History, BU
    Listening: Selections at http://bu.edu/core/galleries/passion.htm
    Fall Recess: Wednesday, November 23-Sunday, November 27

13) Tuesday, 11/29/11: Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)
    Lecturer: Jenny Davidson, Depts. of English and Comp. Lit., Columbia University
    Reading: Gulliver's Travels

14) Tuesday, 12/6/11: Course conclusion.
    Final Exam: date and location TBA.