

Dr. Donald K. Mitchener  
Office: Wooten Hall Room 228  
e-mail: donald.mitchener@unt.edu

### Required Books:

Hale, John. *The Civilization of Europe in the Renaissance*.

### Purpose of this Course:

This course covers European political, social, intellectual, and cultural history ca. 1300-1600. A number of themes will be explored in an effort to give the student as complete a portrait as is possible in the time allotted of this very important period in the development of what would become the most dominant region of the world by the eighteenth century. It was during these years that Europe transitioned from the Middle Ages to the Modern era. It was the time of artists such as Masaccio, Da Vinci, Raphael, and Michelangelo; writers such as Petrarch, Machiavelli, More, and Montaigne; composers such as Machaut, Dufay, Josquin, and Byrd; and rulers such as Ferdinand and Isabella, Francis I, Charles V, and Henry VIII. It is hoped that the student will come away from this class with a better understanding of what the early humanists meant when they pronounced their time to be "modern" relative to the years that came immediately before their own.

### Course Requirements and Grading Policies:

Students will take two (2) major exams. In addition, they will write a 5-page and a 10-page paper. All will be graded on a strict 100-point scale. The final will **NOT** be comprehensive.

### The grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 90 - 100 points  
B = 80 - 89 points  
C = 70 - 79 points  
D = 60 - 69 points  
F = 59 and below

### Exams, and Papers (percentage of grade)

<b>5-page Paper Due (20%)</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 4</b>
<b>Midterm (25%)</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 11</b>
<b>10-page Paper Due (30%)</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 8</b>
<b>Final (25%)</b>	<b>Monday, May 11 (1:30 – 3:30 pm)</b>

## Lectures and Readings:

21 Jan.	Debates concerning the Renaissance	
26 & 28 Jan.	The Medieval Foundations of the Renaissance	Hale, chpts 1, 4
2 & 4 Feb.	Political History of the Italian City States	Hale, chpts 2, 3
9 & 11 Feb.	Economic and Social Change, 1350-1550	Hale, chapt 7, 8
16, 18, & 23 Feb.	Humanism and Renaissance Philosophy	
25 Feb. & 2 March	Renaissance Art	Hale, chpts 5, 6
4 & 9 March	Renaissance Music	
11 March	MIDTERM	
23 & 25 March	Science and Technology	Hale, chpt 10
30 March & 1 April	The Renaissance Church	Hale, chpt 9
6 & 8 April	States Outside of Italy	
13 & 15 April	War In and Over Italy	
20 & 22 April	Exploration and Expansion	
27 & 29 April	Christian Humanism	

4 & 6 May                      The Northern Renaissance

11 May                              FINAL

**No extra credit work will be assigned or accepted.**

**Structure of Major Exams:**

A review for each of the major exams will be given out three (3) weeks prior to the date on which each exam will be given. Six (6) of the questions on the review will be chosen by the instructor to include in the exam upon which the review is based. The chosen questions will be divided into three (3) pairs. The instructor will determine the pairings. Each student must select one question from each of the three pairs of questions for a total of three essays. Students are expected to use the list of possible essay questions on each review to prepare for the particular test for which that review has been prepared.

**Papers:**

**Five-page Paper**

The student will choose a primary source from the Renaissance period from a list provided by the instructor, read it, and write a five-page paper explaining what the source states and how the source relates to historical themes of the period.

**Ten-page Paper**

Students may write the paper on a subject of their choosing, but they must get the topic approved by the instructor if it is not on the list of suggested topics.

The body of papers will be ten (10) pages in length.

Papers will be double-spaced with margins (left, right, top, and bottom) of one inch.

Students will use 12 point Times Roman typeface.

Citations will be made in footnotes.

**DO NOT USE PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS!!!**

Students will cite sources using the style described in Turabian/Chicago Manual handout.

Failure to use the specified style will result in a deduction of points.

The instructor has established a turnitin.com site for the 10-page paper. Students will upload an electronic copy of their paper to the site and will hand in a paper copy to the instructor, both by the date indicated above (Wednesday, April 8, 2015).

**Punctuality and attendance:**

Students are expected to be on time for all class meetings and examinations. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students who miss more than five (5) class meetings during the semester will be dropped one letter grade. In addition, attendance will be used, at the instructor's discretion, to determine whether or not the student receives the instructor's "benefit of the doubt" when grades are assigned at the end of the semester.

**Office Hours:**

Monday and Wednesday 8 am – 11 am in Wooten Hall Rm 228

**Contacting Your Instructor:**

It is best to contact your instructor via email. I am not in my office outside of office hours very often, but I check my email regularly. I will get back with you as soon as possible.

**Information Concerning Grades:**

FERPA rules require that information concerning grades be communicated directly to students by the instructor. This means that **I cannot communicate information concern-**

**ing a student's grades via email or telephone.** The instructor and student must meet face-to-face.

**Handout and Test Return Policy:**

Those students missing class when instructional items and graded tests are distributed can pick up missed materials and graded tests during office hours.

**Class Notes:**

The instructor will ***not*** furnish class notes or copies of the presentations to students. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from one of your fellow students in the class.

**Student Behavior:**

Students are expected to act like responsible adults in class. This means no talking or engaging in any other disruptive activity once class has begun. Students may speak when called upon by the instructor or, within reason, when reacting to something done or said by the instructor. Students who fail to comply with this standard of behavior will receive two warnings. If a third warning proves necessary, then the offending student/students will be told to leave the classroom.

***Persons who are late getting to class on the day of a test or on the day of the final will not be allowed to take the test/final if they arrive after any students have completed and handed in their tests.*** Know what day your exams are being given and get to class on time.

***Students may not leave class while an exam is being administered.*** If you have special circumstances, you will need to meet with the instructor before the first exam so that arrangements can be made.

**Cell Phones:**

Cell phones will be turned ***completely off***. If a student needs to have the cell phone on vibrate for some reason, he or she must see the instructor before class for permission.

***During tests, cell phones must be put away so that they are not visible to the student. No text messaging allowed. Sending or receiving text messages during an exam will be considered prima facie evidence of cheating and will be handled accordingly.***

**Use of Computers in Class:**

Students may use computers to take notes in class. However....

While the instructor understands the popularity and convenience of laptops for this purpose, he also knows that far too often students use their computers to play games and surf the Internet. The misuse of a computer during class in this manner not only harms the student engaged in the activity, but it also is a distraction to others around the student who might actually be in class for the purpose of taking notes in preparation for the tests. To protect the studios, students who misuse their computers in this way will, when caught, be told to shut off their computer.

**Make-up Policy for Major Exams**

A student missing the First or Second Exam must make up the exam by the beginning of class the following week. A make-up exam will be placed in the History Help Center for students who **meet with the instructor** and arrange to take the make-up. Make-up exams will not be automatically placed in the

Help Center. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that a missed exam is made up within the specified one-week period. Unless other arrangements are made with the instructor, all students who do not make up a test within the one-week make-up period will receive a "0" ["zero"] for that exam.

**Disability Accommodation (ADA):**

“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.” The ODA liaison for the Department of History is Dr. Pomerleau (Wooten Hall Room 234; phone 940-565-4214).

**Academic Ethics (Cheating and Plagiarism):**

Students will be held accountable for acts of cheating, dishonesty, or plagiarism as defined in the student handbook. This includes, by the way, the use of cell phones to text answers to one another during an exam. Any student found to be engaging in any form of dishonest conduct during the taking of an exam will be expelled from that particular class period and will receive a “0” [“zero”] for that exam. A student who are found to have committed plagiarism in the writing of his or her paper will receive a "0" ["zero"] on the paper.

**History Help Center:**

Located in Wooten Hall, Room 220, the History Help Center provides assistance to students enrolled in history courses at UNT.

***The Instructor reserves the right to add to or to make changes to any and all of the forgoing descriptions, instructions and/or information at his discretion.***