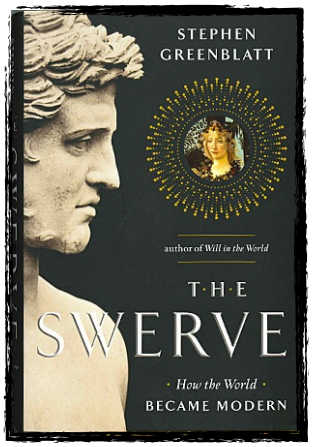
Transitions and Rebirth:

The Idea of Renaissance in Europe, ca. 750-1600

Texts and Readings

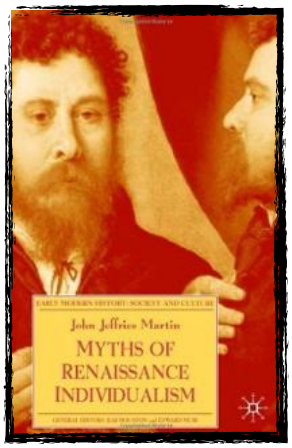
A Kingdom of Stargazers
Michael A. Ryan

Cornell University Press, 2011.
ISBN 0801449847



The Swerve
Stephen Greenblatt

W.W. Norton Company, 2012
ISBN 0393343405



Myths of Renaissance Individualism
John Jeffries Martin

Palgrave, 2006
ISBN 023000640X

Readings on Blackboard
Please download directly from our BlackBoard course site.

Key Information

Overview

In this humanities course, we will explore how Europe transitioned from what are commonly known as the Middle Ages, the period after the fall of the Roman Empire, through its transformative rebirth as a global cultural and economic empire by the 17th century. Drawing from music, manuscripts, architecture, and the arts, we lead the class in an exploration of the intellectual regeneration of Europe as it wrestled with its distinct internal communities (English, French, Italian, and Spanish), as well as the Mediterranean influences of Islamic civilization.

Our Teaching Approach

Our approach focuses on three elements: personal best efforts, improvement, and engagement. Although we must evaluate your work in relationship to your peers, we are most interested in your personal effort to do your best. We absolutely take into consideration your improvement over time and the level of effort you dedicate to your work.

Four Requirements

- **Attend all class meetings and participate regularly.** Two or more unexcused absences are grounds for an automatically failure in the course. Always contact us via email if you will be missing class.
- **Complete all assignments on time and per instructions.** Always ask questions if you are unclear about an assignment. Late work is not accepted.
- **Abide by the University's Student Code of Conduct.** For specifics see: http://www.uccs.edu/oja/student-conduct/student-code-of-conduct.html
- **If you have a disability for which you are requesting an accommodation**, you are encouraged to contact Disability Services (DS) within the first week of classes. DS is located in Main Hall 105.

People, Places, Times

- **Dr. Roger L. Martínez**
  Dept. of History, Columbine Hall 2046,
  ph 719.255.4070, rmartin8@uccs.edu
  Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm and by appointment
- **Dr. Colin McAllister**
  Dept. of Visual and Performing Arts, University Hall 229
  ph 719.255.5134, cmcallis@uccs.edu
  Office Hours: Friday 9-11:00 am and by appointment
- **Class Meetings**: Wed, 1:45-4:15 pm
  Centennial Hall 188
- Course handouts and grades posted on UCCS BlackBoard

What is the Renaissance

Jan 22 - Course Introduction (Martinez and McAllister)
Read: XXX on on BlackBoard

Jan 29 - McAllister on the Renaissance
Read: See readings on BlackBoard

Feb 5 - Martinez on the Renaissance
Read: See readings on BlackBoard

Feb 12 - Film: ***The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance***
Submit: The Renaissance in Your Life One-Page Response.

The Swerve

Feb 19 - On ***The Swerve*** **(McAllister)**
Read: Pages I-109

Feb 26 - On ***The Swerve*** **(Martinez)**
Read: Pages 110-202

Mar 5 - On ***The Swerve*** **(McAllister)**
Read: Pages 203-263

Mar 12 - Film: ***The Power of the Past with Bill Moyers: Florence***
Read: None
Submit: The Swerve Response Paper

A Kingdom of Stargazers

Mar 19 - On ***Stargazers*** **(Martinez)**
Read: Pages 1-54.

Mar 26 - Spring Break

Apr 2 - Renaissance Symposium (McAllister)
Read: Pages 55-123

Apr 9 - On ***Stargazers*** **(McAllister)**
Read: Pages 124-182

Apr 16 - Film: ***Goya's Ghost***
Read: None
Submit: Stargazers Paper

Assignments & Grades

- **"The Renaissance in Your Life" One-Page Response.** In this one-page response you will explore how the Renaissance has impacted your life. 10% of total course grade. Due on Feb. 12 at 12 midnight. Submit it via BlackBoard.
- ***The Swerve*** **Paper.** A three page assignment on . 25% of total course grade. Due on Mar. 12 at 12 midnight. Submit it via BlackBoard.
- **Extra Credit Opportunity - Symposium Response Paper.** Two-page paper. Earn up to 5 extra credit points added to you final grade. Due on Apr. 9 at 12 midnight. Submit it via BlackBoard.
- ***A Kingdom of Stargazers*** **Response Paper.** In your three page paper you discuss how the Spanish history of the occult and astrology can be compared to contemporary 21st century worries about "dangerous ideas" and "beliefs". 25% of total course grade. Due on Apr. 16 at 12 midnight. Submit it via BlackBoard.
- ***Myths of Renaissance Individualism*** **Response Paper.** In your three page paper you will explore the author's ideas about what it means to be an individual. More importantly, you will explore the problematic question of whether or not you are an individual. 25% of total course grade. Due on May 14 at 12 midnight. Submit it via BlackBoard.
- **Attendance and Participation.** 15% of total course grade.

Myths of Renaissance Individualism

Apr 23 - On ***Renaissance Individualism*** **(Martinez)**
Read: Pages ix-40

Apr 30 - On ***Renaissance Individualism*** **(McAllister)**
Read: Pages 41-82

May 7 - On ***Renaissance Individualism*** **(Martinez)**
Read: Pages 83-134

May 14 - Course Conclusion (McAllister and Martinez)
Submit: Myths Paper

FAQ

- **Do I have to attend all classes?** Yes.
- **When will we receive assignment instructions?** Typically 2 weeks before the due date.**When will we get our graded assignments back?** Typically 2 weeks.
- **What if I have a question?** Send your professor an email or come see us during office hours.
- **How do I succeed?** Participate in class discussions. Ask questions. Read the books. Be curious.