

Course Syllabus

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I. Description.

In this course you will learn how cities and palaces become the hubs, or “engines,” of cultural developments in the early modern period. You will become familiar with the operant principle, or “fuel,” that increasingly drives cultural developments as structured from Cities and Palaces, which is the primacy of individuality, the assumption that individuals and various individual cultural domains -- such as religion, politics, poetry, economics, etc. -- have to be understood first and foremost as functioning according to intrinsic principles. In readings and course assignments, you will observe how such cultural developments play out in religious, philosophical, and scientific thinking, art, architecture, engineering, poetry, music, and other ways in which people organize their lives in the early modern period.

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II. Due Dates of Assignments.

<u>Module #</u>	<u>Module material opens</u>	<u>Discussion Posts and Timeline Post Confirmations Due</u>	<u>Discussion Comments and all other Assessments Due</u>
Module 1	Monday, January 8, 12:05 am	Friday, January 12, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 14, 11:59 pm
Module 2	Monday, January 15, 12:05 am	Friday, January 19, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 21, 11:59 pm
Module 3	Monday, January 22, 12:05 am	Friday, January 26, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 28, 11:59 pm
Module 4	Monday, January 29, 12:05 am	Friday, February 2, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 4, 11:59 pm
Module 5*	Monday, February 5, 12:05 am	Friday, February 9, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 11, 11:59 pm
Module 6	Monday, February 12, 12:05 am	Friday, February 16, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 18, 11:59 pm
Module 7	Monday, February 19, 12:05 am	Friday, February 23, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 25, 11:59 pm
Module 8	Monday, February 26, 12:05 am	Friday, March 2, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 11, 11:59 pm (after Spring Break)
Module 9	Monday, March 5, 12:05 (beginning of Spring Break)	Friday, March 16, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 18, 11:59 pm

Module 10**	Monday, March 19, 12:05 am	Friday, March 23, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 25, 11:59 pm
Module 11	Monday, March 26, 12:05 am	Friday, March 30, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 1, 11:59 pm
Module 12	Monday, April 2, 12:05 am	Friday, April 6, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 8, 11:59 pm
Module 13	Monday, April 9, 12:05 am	Friday, April 13, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 15, 11:59 pm
Module 14***	Monday, April 16, 12:05	deadlines vary - see module	deadlines vary - see module

Discussions are due Fridays by 10:00 pm. Discussions posted between Friday 10:00 and Sunday 11:59 are late and will receive only half credit at best. No discussions will be considered after the Sunday deadline. Comments are due by the Sunday deadline.

All other assessments and quizzes (i.e. questions on the readings, videos, the "Virtual Visits," etc.) are due by Sunday 11:59.

If you need walk-in help from the UF Computing Helpdesk (392-HELP) with hardware, software, or any e-learning interface issues, make sure you take care of this in a timely way during the work week so that you will be able to submit by the Friday due date. You can receive help by phone from the UF Computing Helpdesk 24/7.

* Test #1 will be available from February 5, 12:05 am to February 7, 11:59 pm.

**Test #2 will be available from March 18, 12:05 am to March 20, 11:59 pm.

*** Test #3 will be available to take between Monday, April 20, 12:05 am until Wednesday April 27, 10:00 pm.

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III. Texts.

1. Joseph and Frances Gies, *Life in a Medieval City* (New York: Harper & Row, 1969).
2. Michael Hughes, *Early Modern Germany, 1477-1806* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1992).
3. [Dante Alighieri, The New Life \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.
4. [Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.


5. [Jacob Burckhardt, The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
6. [Martin Luther, Concerning Christian liberty \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
7. [Martin Luther, To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
8. First [log on for off-campus access \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) to the UF Library: [The Damnable Life and Deserved Death of Dr. John Faustus \(selections\). \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
9. Baroque Poetry (selections linked in Module 11)
10. [Gottfried Leibniz, "Explanation of Binary Arithmetic," \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
11. [Immanuel Kant, Essay: "What is Enlightenment? \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site."](#)
12. [Friedrich Schiller, Poem: "Ode to Joy" \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
13. [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Poem: "Prometheus" \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

Optional resources:

[Professor Giuseppe Mazzotta \(Yale University\) lecture on Dante's Vita Nuova \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#).

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IV. Assignments.

1. Three Tests. The three timed tests are the most challenging tasks in this course. You will do best if you familiarize yourself with the module materials as closely as possible. You will respond to questions in a 60-minute period, with an additional 30 minute review period allowed (i.e. total of 90 minutes), so you will need to make sure you feel in command of the material when you start your test. There will be short answer type questions in which you briefly discuss the significance of passages from the literary texts. There will be true-false, multiple-choice and multiple answer type questions about the content of my module lectures. [Click here for some example quiz questions](#) . I will randomly draw some questions from those on the books by Gies (*Life in a Medieval City*) and Hughes (*Early Modern Germany*) -- these are the questions you have already seen and to which you have already responded, so it should be relatively easy to prepare for this part of the test.

2. Midterm and Final Projects. Together with your Group members, you will complete collaboratively a midterm and a final project. Links in the course modules to the [Midterm](#) and [Final Project](#) provide additional information.

3. Discussions and Comments. Most modules have discussion prompts, which ask you to think both critically and creatively about the texts you are reading and other topics of interest in this course. **You will be graded both for the quality of your thinking and for the quality of your writing**, so might want to consider beginning the textual part of your discussions (and possibly even your comments) in a Word document and working on it there as a draft until you are sure it is ready to submit in the course. You will also be graded for completeness, so make sure you have addressed all parts of the discussion prompt and, as necessary, provided any illustrative visual material (i.e. such as pictures). In most cases you should be able to respond to discussion prompts with about 1-2 typescript pages of text (ca. 300-500 words), which of course should be your own writing. Try to not to go too far over 500 words. All of the aforementioned applies, though to a lesser degree (because they will be briefer), to the comments that you will make on one of your peer's Discussions. Comments have no word-limits, but make sure your comments are substantive, i.e. that you are not merely parroting something in the discussion, but that you are thinking some aspect of the discussion through and showing that you are able to understand and appreciate the implications and add a new perspective, however subtle it might be. **You will not automatically receive full points merely for the submission of discussion and comments; only very good ones will receive full points.** Consult the Discussion and Comment Rubric for details on the grading of Discussions and Comments.

4. Questions on the main secondary Texts: Gies' *Life in a Medieval City* and Hughes' *Early Modern Germany*

For each reading assignments in these texts (which are indicated in the "to do" lists in the individual modules) you will answer a number of graded content questions. If you do the reading carefully, you should not have much difficulty answering all of these questions correctly. Some questions in the three Tests will be drawn randomly from these study questions, so if you are familiar with these questions and their answers, you will be well prepared for this part of the tests.

5. Virtual Visits. As part of the course you will take "Virtual Visits" to individual sites of interest in this course, particularly sites connected to cathedrals and palaces. The aim of these visits is to provide some immediate impressions of the sights and sounds associated with these important historical buildings and their modern urban settings. You should find the questions associated with the Virtual Visits quite straightforward.

6. Video material and questions. This course employs a substantial amount of video material to complement and embellish the module topic. Students are responsible for watching the videos carefully, and then responding as necessary to any associated questions or tasks. Figures, events, artistic works, etc. that you see in the videos would be entirely appropriate material to use for your Dipity Timeline posts, by the way.

7. Timeline entries and posts in MyHistro, and final Timeline synthesis paper: [Click here for information.](#)

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V. Grade percentages.

Tests= 25%

Projects= 20% (10% each for Midterm and Final Project)

Comments/Discussions= 30%

Questions on readings in Gies and Hughes/Virtual Visits/Questions on Videos= 15%

Timeline entries, posts, and final synthesis paper= 10%

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VI. Grading Scale.

A 93

A- 90

B+ 87

B 83

B- 80

C+ 77

C 73

C- 70

etc.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Fri Jan 9, 2015	Module 1 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Jan 16, 2015	Module 2 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Jan 23, 2015	Module 3 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Jan 30, 2015	Module 4 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Feb 6, 2015	Module 5 Discussion due by 5pm

Date	Details
Fri Feb 13, 2015	Module 6 Discussion due by 5pm Modules 1-6 Timeline Link Post due by 11:55pm
Fri Feb 20, 2015	Midterm Group Project due by 5pm
Fri Feb 27, 2015	Module 8 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Mar 13, 2015	Module 9 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Mar 20, 2015	Module 10 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Mar 27, 2015	Module 11 Discussion due by 5pm Modules 7-11 Timeline Link Post due by 11:55pm
Fri Apr 3, 2015	Module 12 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Apr 10, 2015	Module 13 Discussion due by 5pm
Fri Jan 12, 2018	Module 1 Discussion due by 10pm
Sun Jan 14, 2018	Building the Great Cathedrals due by 11:59pm Gies: Chapter 1 due by 11:59pm Gies: Prologue due by 11:59pm Module 2 Comments due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to Vatican City due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 19, 2018	Module 2 Discussion due by 10pm Module 2 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Jan 21, 2018	Gies: Chapter 2 due by 11:59pm Gies: Chapter 3 due by 11:59pm Gies: Chapter 4 due by 11:59pm Gies: Chapter 5 due by 11:59pm Medici - Episode 1 due by 11:59pm Module 3 Comments due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to Paris and Wissembourg due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 26, 2018	Module 3 Discussion due by 10pm Module 3 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Jan 28, 2018	Gies: Chapter 6 due by 11:59pm Gies: Chapter 7 due by 11:59pm Gies: Chapter 8 due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Module 4 Comments	due by 11:59pm
	Virtual Visit to the Imperial Cathedral - Kaiserdom - in Speyer	due by 11:59pm
	Medici - Episode 2	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 2, 2018	Module 4 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 4 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Feb 4, 2018	Gies: Chapter 10	due by 11:59pm
	Gies: Chapter 11	due by 11:59pm
	Gies: Chapter 9	due by 11:59pm
	Medici - Episode 3	due by 11:59pm
	Module 5 Comments	due by 11:59pm
	Virtual Visit to the Cathedrals in Siena and Pisa	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 9, 2018	Module 5 Discussion	due by 10pm
Sun Feb 11, 2018	Gies: Chapter 12	due by 11:59pm
	Gies: Chapter 13	due by 11:59pm
	Gies: Chapter 14	due by 11:59pm
	Module 6 Comments	due by 11:59pm
	Test 1	due by 11:59pm
	Who's Afraid of Machiavelli?	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 16, 2018	Module 6 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 6 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Feb 18, 2018	Gies: After 1250	due by 11:59pm
	Gies: Chapter 15	due by 11:59pm
	Gies: Chapter 16	due by 11:59pm
	Medici - Episode 4	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 23, 2018	Module 7 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Feb 25, 2018	Hughes: Chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
	Hughes: Introduction	due by 11:59pm
	Hughes: Preface	due by 11:59pm
	Modules 1-6 Timeline Link Post	due by 11:59pm
	Virtual Visit to the Medici Palace	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 2, 2018	Module 8 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 8 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm

Date	Details
Sun Mar 4, 2018	Module 8 Comments due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 11, 2018	Hughes: Chapter 3 due by 12:59pm Martin Luther - Driven to Defiance due by 11:59pm Module 9 Comments due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to the Palace of Albrecht von Wallenstein due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 16, 2018	Module 9 Discussion due by 10pm Module 9 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Mar 18, 2018	Hughes: Chapter 4 due by 11:59pm Martin Luther - The Reluctant Revolutionary due by 11:59pm Module 10 Comments due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to the Buckingham Palace due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 23, 2018	Module 10 Discussion due by 10pm
Sun Mar 25, 2018	Hughes: Chapter 5 due by 11:59pm Module 11 Comments due by 11:59pm Test 2 due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to Versailles Palace due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 30, 2018	Module 11 Discussion due by 10pm Module 11 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Apr 1, 2018	Hughes: Chapter 6 due by 11:59pm Module 12 Comments due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to the Palaces of Mannheim and Karlsruhe due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 6, 2018	Module 12 Discussion due by 10pm Module 12 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Apr 8, 2018	Hughes: Chapter 7 due by 11:59pm Module 13 Comments due by 11:59pm Virtual Visits to the Palaces of Schönbrunn and Sans Souci due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
Fri Apr 13, 2018	Module 13 Discussion due by 10pm Module 13 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Apr 15, 2018	Hughes: Chapter 8 due by 11:59pm Module 14 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to Kensington Palace in London due by 11:59pm Virtual Visit to the Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 25, 2018	Individual Timeline Synthesis Discussion due by 11:59pm Final Project Upload Here Final Timeline Link Post Midterm Project Upload Here Test 3