

IT324-15 Renaissance Florence

26/27

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

David Lines

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module aims to provide an exploration of key figures and topics within Renaissance cultural and intellectual history, usually starting with Italy but developing in a pan-European context. Topics vary every year. In the past, we have explored personalities such as Machiavelli, writings on utopias, discussions on power and resistance, or particular disciplinary fields in the Italian and European Renaissance (such as science and medicine; philosophy).

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This module's main aims are:

- (a) to introduce students to a number of key figures and a wide range of selected written materials related to these topics
- (b) to build on their skills in mediating between text and context

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Module structure (in term 1 or 2 —according to that year's module list).

Topics in Renaissance Italy is available in three formats; only one format will run each year.

Topic 1: Machiavelli and Renaissance Political Thought (Term 2, 2021-22)

Wk 1: Introduction to 16C Italy

Wk 2: The background of Renaissance political thought (I)

Wk 3: The background of Renaissance political thought (II)

Wk 4: Machiavelli as political thinker: The Prince

Wk 5: Machiavelli and The Prince (cont'd)

Wk 6: Reading Week

Wk 7: Machiavelli as political thinker: the Discourses on Livy

Wk 8: Machiavelli as political thinker: the Discourses on Livy (cont'd)

Wk 9: Machiavelli and history: the History of Florence

Wk 10: Machiavelli and history: the History of Florence (cont'd)

Topic 2: Renaissance Science and Medicine

Wk 1: The landscape of learning

Wk 2: The influence of the past: Aristotle, Galen, Ptolemy

Wk 3: Natural philosophy: the study of animals and plants in Ulisse Aldrovandi

Wk 4: Natural philosophy: physics and motion in Galileo

Wk 5: Natural philosophy: cosmology in Galileo

Wk 1: Reading week

Wk 6: Renaissance mathematics and Galileo

Wk 7: Renaissance medicine: theory and practice in Bologna and Padua

Wk 8: Renaissance medicine: theory and practice in Bologna and Padua

Wk 9: The role of astrology, alchemy and 'pseudo-science'

Topic 3: Italian and European Thought in the Renaissance

Wk 1: Petrarch, humanism and letters

Wk 2: Petrarch, the Secret

Wk 3: Leon Battista Alberti, I libri della famiglia

Wk 4: Lorenzo Valla, De vero falsoque bono

Wk 5: Ficino, De religione

Wk 2: Reading week

Wk 6: Machiavelli, The Prince

Wk. 8: Erasmus, selections from his Colloquies

Wk 9: Thomas More, Utopia

Wk 10: Montaigne, the Essais

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Use knowledge acquired in lectures, seminars and from prescribed reading as a basis for individual research
- Demonstrate relevant factual knowledge about the Italian Renaissance, and contexts and issues under discussion and demonstrate

- understanding of the texts at a thematic as well as linguistic and stylistic level
- Successfully communicate what they have learnt both orally and in writing.
- Critically analyse the texts and engage where appropriate with scholarly debates surrounding the extract texts and cultural issues studied
- Develop IT skills

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Independent reading and the writing of an essay will depend on and develop skills in research.

Interdisciplinary

Interaction between historical, linguistic, literary, and philosophical elements.

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting exchange students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' linguistic skills through engaging with primary materials in the target language. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of Italian culture through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of Renaissance culture & thought will be enhanced through lectures and seminars which engage in scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with cultural products and the context(s) in which they developed. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading of primary and secondary sources; use of library resources.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Essay 2	60%		Yes (extension)
An essay on an assigned topic, or one devised by the student in consultation with module tutor 2000-2250 words.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Essay 1	20%		Yes (extension)

Weighting**Study time****Eligible for self-certification**

An essay on an assigned topic, due in the first half of term 800-1000 words.

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

In-class test

20%

No

A combination of multiple choice and close questions on the content of the lectures and seminars.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion.

Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focussed on key transferrable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

Availability**Courses**

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UHPA-QR34 Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies
- Year 2 of UHPA-QR3B Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies (3 year)
- Year 3 of UFRA-R102 Undergraduate French Studies (3 year)
- Year 3 of UFRA-R1VB Undergraduate French and History (3 year)
- Year 4 of ULNA-R1A3 Undergraduate French with Italian
- Year 2 of UGEA-RN21 Undergraduate German and Business Studies

- Year 4 of UHPA-R400 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4V1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and History

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-QR37 Undergraduate English and German
- Year 3 of UHPA-QR3B Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies (3 year)
- Year 2 of ULNA-QR38 Undergraduate English and Italian
- Year 4 of UGEA-R2V1 Undergraduate German and History
- Year 2 of UHPA-R401 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies (3 year)
- UHPA-RP44 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Film Studies
 - Year 2 of RP44 Hispanic Studies with Film Studies (3 Year)
 - Year 3 of RP44 Hispanic Studies with Film Studies (3 Year)
- Year 4 of UITA-R3V2 Undergraduate History and Italian
- Year 2 of UITA-R3W5 Undergraduate Italian with Film Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UFRA-QR3C Undergraduate English and French (3 year)
- Year 4 of UHPA-QR34 Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R1L4 Undergraduate French and Economics (4-year)
- Year 4 of ULNA-R1A8 Undergraduate French with Japanese
- ULNA-R2L4 Undergraduate German and Economics (4-year)
 - Year 2 of R2L4 German and Economics (4-year)
 - Year 4 of R2L4 German and Economics (4-year)
- Year 2 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
- UHPA-R400 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies
 - Year 2 of R400 Hispanic Studies
 - Year 4 of R400 Hispanic Studies
- Year 2 of ULNA-R4V1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and History
- UHPA-R4W4 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
 - Year 2 of R4W4 Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
 - Year 4 of R4W4 Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
- Year 4 of UHPA-RP43 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Film Studies

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 2 of ULNA-QR37 Undergraduate English and German
- Year 4 of UITA-R3W5 Undergraduate Italian with Film Studies
- Year 2 of UITA-R3V3 Undergraduate Taught Italian and History of Art

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 3 of ULNA-R2L5 Undergraduate German and Economics (3 year)

This module is Core option list D for:

- Year 2 of UFRA-R101 Undergraduate French Studies

This module is Core option list E for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-R4L1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Economics (4-year)

This module is Core option list G for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-R1A4 Undergraduate French with Spanish

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 2 of UHPA-QR34 Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies
- UFRA-R10P Undergraduate French Studies
 - Year 4 of R10P French Studies (Part-Time)
 - Year 5 of R10P French Studies (Part-Time)
 - Year 6 of R10P French Studies (Part-Time)
- Year 2 of UFRA-R102 Undergraduate French Studies (3 year)
- Year 2 of UFRA-R1VB Undergraduate French and History (3 year)
- UFRA-R1WC Undergraduate French with Film Studies (3 year)
 - Year 2 of R1WC French with Film Studies (3 year)
 - Year 3 of R1WC French with Film Studies (3 year)
- Year 2 of UGEA-R200 Undergraduate German Studies
- Year 4 of UGEA-RN21 Undergraduate German and Business Studies
- UGEA-RN22 Undergraduate German and Business Studies
 - Year 2 of RN22 German and Business Studies (3Yr)
 - Year 3 of RN22 German and Business Studies (3Yr)
- Year 4 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
- UGEA-RW25 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies (3-year)
 - Year 2 of RW25 German and Theatre Studies (3-year)
 - Year 3 of RW25 German and Theatre Studies (3-year)
- Year 2 of UGEA-RP33 Undergraduate German with Film Studies
- Year 3 of UHPA-R401 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies (3 year)
- Year 2 of UHPA-R4W5 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
- UHPA-RP43 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Film Studies
 - Year 2 of RP43 Hispanic Studies with Film Studies
 - Year 4 of RP43 Hispanic Studies with Film Studies
- UHPA-RP44 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Film Studies
 - Year 2 of RP44 Hispanic Studies with Film Studies (3 Year)
 - Year 3 of RP44 Hispanic Studies with Film Studies (3 Year)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UFRA-QR3C Undergraduate English and French (3 year)
- Year 4 of UFRA-R101 Undergraduate French Studies
- Year 2 of UFRA-R10P Undergraduate French Studies
- Year 3 of UFRA-R102 Undergraduate French Studies (3 year)
- Year 4 of UFRA-R1VA Undergraduate French and History
- Year 2 of ULNA-R1WB Undergraduate French and Theatre Studies
- Year 2 of UFRA-R1WA Undergraduate French with Film Studies

- Year 2 of UFRA-R1WC Undergraduate French with Film Studies (3 year)
- Year 4 of UGEA-R200 Undergraduate German Studies
- Year 2 of ULNA-R2L5 Undergraduate German and Economics (3 year)
- Year 2 of UGEA-R2V1 Undergraduate German and History
- Year 2 of UGEA-RW25 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies (3-year)
- Year 4 of UHPA-RP43 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Film Studies
- UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 2 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 3 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 4 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 3 of UFRA-R10P Undergraduate French Studies
- ULNA-R1L5 Undergraduate French and Economics (3 year)
 - Year 2 of R1L5 French and Economics (3 year)
 - Year 3 of R1L5 French and Economics (3 year)
- Year 3 of UFRA-R1WC Undergraduate French with Film Studies (3 year)
- Year 4 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
- Year 2 of UGEA-RP33 Undergraduate German with Film Studies
- Year 2 of ULNA-R4L1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Economics (4-year)
- Year 2 of UHPA-RP43 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Film Studies

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of ULNA-QR38 Undergraduate English and Italian
- Year 2 of ULNA-R1L4 Undergraduate French and Economics (4-year)
- Year 2 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
- Year 3 of UGEA-RW25 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies (3-year)
- Year 4 of UGEA-RP33 Undergraduate German with Film Studies
- Year 3 of ULNA-R4LA Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Economics (3-year)
- Year 2 of UHPA-R4W4 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies

This module is Option list F for:

- Year 4 of UFRA-R1WA Undergraduate French with Film Studies
- Year 4 of UGEA-RP33 Undergraduate German with Film Studies

This module is Option list G for:

- Year 2 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 2 of UFRA-R1VA Undergraduate French and History
- UFRA-R1WA Undergraduate French with Film Studies
 - Year 2 of R1WA French with Film Studies
 - Year 4 of R1WA French with Film Studies