



## Text – Memory – Monument The use of the past in Italian Renaissance culture

Summerschool Rome, 17-29 July 2012

### Course description

### Course parameters

- Language of instruction: English
- Level of course: BA/MA: The course may be used for the following disciplines in the study plans of Classical Philology (2007 and 2010) and Classical Studies (2011): BA 10 Frit Emne/ Elective Subject (15 ECTS); BA 11 Valgfag indenfor Antikken/ Elective Subject or Antikreception/ Classical Tradition (both 10 ECTS); MA 2007 Valgfag 1/ Elective Subject 1 (10 ECTS); 2011 Internationalt Valgfag 1/ International Elective Subject 1 (10 ECTS)
- Semester/quarter: 17-29 July 2012; access to course website and reading material available from 1 May 2012
- Hours per week: 2 weeks full time at teaching location, plus preparatory reading period
- Capacity limits: Max. 25 students. If the number of applicants exceeds the total number of seats (25), seats are distributed according to:
  - Relevant Study Experience
  - Grade Point Average
- Application deadline: 15 March 2012
- Teaching location: Rome (housing at the Danish, Finnish and Swedish Institutes)
- Main area: Danish and Finnish Institutes in Rome

### Objectives of the course

In the evaluation, graders assess to what extent the student:

- has a good knowledge of the Italian Renaissance
- has a thorough knowledge of the chosen topic
- is able to treat the chosen topic on the basis of original sources (written or material)

- demonstrates ability to view the chosen topic with methods from more disciplines
- critically assesses modern literature on the chosen topic

### **Course contents**

The Italian Renaissance (c. 1350-1550) is a key period in European cultural history. It has been called the origin of our modern world view, but it is also central to our conception of classical Antiquity. Italian Renaissance writers and artists were instrumental in modelling our view of the individual, of nature and the surrounding world, they formed a more secularized worldview and by reviving a number of the literary and artistic idioms of classical Antiquity they effectively decided the development of European art and literature for centuries afterwards. The core intellectual movement of the Italian Renaissance is normally termed Humanism; the course will show how during the fifteenth century Humanism came to influence almost every aspect of cultural life, from language and literature to art and architecture, science and religion, and philosophy and political thought. The broad spectrum of new political, philosophical and scientific ideas, and artistic developments, which began in Italy and subsequently spread north of the Alps, became key elements in the formation of modern Europe.

The course purports to provide the students with a basic understanding of the Italian Renaissance, its origins and its influence, both as period and as a cultural movement. Taking as its point of departure Renaissance Humanism lectures will address such themes as reception of Antiquity, neo-Platonism, political thought, development of artistic theory, the genres of Renaissance literature, the relationship between Latin and the vernaculars, the development from manuscript to printed book, and more. The cultural development will be placed in a historical context, and all themes will be treated through analyses of contemporary texts (mostly in modern translation) and monuments, as well as of modern literature dealing with the period. The course is cross-disciplinary, i.e. it aims to present the changes brought about by the Renaissance from a broad historical and comparative perspective, but in order to secure coherence all modules will be planned with methodologies from cultural memory studies, reception theory and intertextuality.

### **Prerequisites**

To take the course at BA level you must have a minimum of 90 ECTS in a relevant BA study programme (archaeology, art history, classical philology, history, literature, modern languages or related disciplines).

To take the course at MA level you must hold a bachelor's degree (or a minimum of 180 ECTS in your study programme) in one of the disciplines named above.

### **Name of lecturers**

Leonardo Cecchini, Trine Johanne Arlund Hass (coordinator), Marianne Pade, and guest lecturers

### **Type of course / teaching methods**

The course consists of modules centred on geographical locations (e.g. the Capitol, Florence), types of buildings (e.g. the villa, the palace), or other kinds of

monuments (e.g. pictures, manuscripts or printed books). All modules and related subthemes will be introduced in lectures by leading Renaissance scholars and discussed on the basis of both contemporary literature and sources and modern scholarly treatments. In connection with each module there will be excursions and visits to relevant monuments.

The language of teaching is English. Applicants to the summer school are expected to be able to read the relevant literature in English and follow lectures and participate in discussions in English, see <http://www.au.dk/en/summeruniversity/application/admissionforotherinternationalstudents/>.

### Literature and monuments

Examples of relevant contemporary authors:

Francesco Petrarca, Giovanni Boccaccio, Leonardo Bruni, Leon Battista Alberti, Lorenzo Valla, Poggio Bracciolini, Marsilio Ficino, Benvenuto Cellini, Baldassare Castiglione, Ludovico Ariosto, Giorgio Vasari.

Examples of relevant monuments and artists:

The Capitol, St Peter's, the Vatican, Villa Giulia, Villa Pia, Villa Farnesina, Castel St Angelo, Palazzo Spada, Palazzo Altemps, Accademia di San Luca – Bramante, Perugino, Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Luca Signorelli, Pinturicchio, Piero di Cosimo, Andrea Bregno, Raphael, Giulio Romano, Michelangelo.

Examples of relevant secondary literature:

- R. Black (ed.), *The Renaissance. Critical Concepts in Historical Studies* (London & New York, 2006)
- L. Kekewich (ed.), *The Renaissance in Europe: A Cultural Enquiry. The Impact of Humanism* (New Haven & London, 2000)
- J. Kraye (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism* (Cambridge, 1996)
- A. Rabil (ed.), *Renaissance Humanism: Foundations, Forms, and Legacy* i-iii (Philadelphia, 1988)
- J. Woolfson (ed.), *Palgrave Advances in Renaissance Historiography* (London, 2004)

### Academic regulations and assessment

Subject to active and regular class participation (min. 75% participation in the course, as well as in the activities related to the course), including a written or oral presentation during the course (for MA students and/or students taking 15 ECTS), the exam is a free written home assignment.

Participants will have decided on the general topic during the preparation period and received a reading list from the instructor who has approved the topic. Required reading will differ according to level and ECTS taken. The finished paper will be submitted 2 weeks after the end of the course.

Max. 15 pages per student.

17 January 2012