The seminar aims at discussing some of the recent developments in the field of Renaissance studies. Starting from the current debate on the interpretation of the term 'Renaissance', it will then focus on key concepts such as identity, curiosity, invention, court culture, luxury and the birth of a cosmopolitan taste. Particular stress will be put on the study of visual and material culture, which will be pursued especially through visits to museums and collections that exemplify the evolution of European Renaissance values.

Seminar 1. The Concept of the Renaissance  (13 January)

Core Readings


Further Readings


Seminar 2. Identities  (20 January)

Core Readings


Further Readings


Seminar 3. An Age of Curiosity  (27 January)

Core Readings


Further Readings


Seminar 4. Inventions, Technology and the Dissemination of Knowledge  (3 February)

Core Readings


M. Biagioli, ‘From Print to Patents: Living on Instruments in Early Modern Europe’, History of Science, 44 (2006), pp. 139-186


Further Readings


P.O. Long, Openness, Secrecy, Autorship. Technical Arts and the Culture of Knowledge from Antiquity to the Renaissance, Baltimore-London 2001


Seminar 5. Courts and Court Culture - Prof. Marcello Fantoni, Kent State University (10 February)

Core Readings


Further Readings

N. Elias, The Court Society, New York 2006

D. Starkey, Intimacy and Innovation: The rise of the Privy Chamber, 1485-1547, in The English Court: From the Wars of the Roses to the Civil War, ed. Idem, London 1987, pp. 71-118

P. Burke, The Fortune of the Courtier: The European Reception of Castiglione’s Cortegiano, Oxford 1995


Seminar 6. Renaissance Luxury Arts in Context (17 February)

Core Readings


Further Readings


Seminar 7. A Global Renaissance? (24 February)

Core Readings


Further Readings


J. Goody, *Renaissances. The One or the Many?*, Cambridge 2010

Visits to Florentine Museums and Collections (Davanzati, Horne, Bargello, Bardini, Pitti)

Dates and times to be announced (late February – early March)

Introductory Readings to the Visits


M. Belozerskaya, *Luxury Arts of the Renaissance*, Los Angeles 2005

M. Ajmar-Wollheim and F. Dennis, *At Home in Renaissance Italy*, London 2006

E. Welch and M. O’Malley (eds.), *The Material Renaissance*, Manchester 2007