



## SYLLABUS

### **Medieval Culture in the context of Siena and Today's Reality**

**Instructor: Daniele Di Lodovico**

**Contact Hours: 40**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**SIENA, ITALY**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This lecture course provides a broad overview of the history, culture and traditions of the city of Siena with significant emphasis on the Sienese/Italian society in the medieval and Renaissance years. Students will investigate the history of the city of Siena through an interdisciplinary approach, exploring the literary production, history, learning, devotion, philosophy, traditions in relation to the context of one of the most beautiful and influential medieval cities in Italy. Students will study about the history and culture of the Middle ages through places, historical figures, cultural context that they will experience directly Siena. By the end of the course the student will have acquired critical the knowledge and skills to understand the main thematic and chronological connections regarding the history of the Italian Middle Ages in relation to Siena.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Learn methods and techniques of academic inquiries
- Employ critical thinking to evaluate what they have been learning
- Be able to collaborate and listen to each other to reach common goals,
- Be able to create a productive dialogue between personal experience and a different culture for personal growth
- Develop the ability to build an opinion based on objective analysis and coherent arguments
- Develop interdisciplinary thinking and understand the importance of different methods of approach for an accurate analysis of what might be consider "different" or "unusual" in a different cultural and historical context

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

This course will be conducted through readings, seminar-style discussions, excursions, lessons on situ (such as museums, historical archives, churches, university), students' presentations.

## METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

20% Participation

30% Weekly Assignments / Discussions

25% "Writing History project"

25% Final Photo project / Oral in class presentations based on the topics and contents discussed and studied in this course

## COURSE OUTLINE (subject to minor changes)

The course will be organized into different topics. Each topic will have its own class discussions based on places, cultural aspects, traditions, and monuments around Siena. The students will contribute both individually and in groups to discuss the different topics and to explore them in a more meaningful way. Students will learn critical thinking skills that allow them to evaluate and understand what they read and what is in front of them. The course will end with a final project in which students will present and share what they learned in front of the class.

	TOPIC / Activity	Readings and Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>		
M / 24	<b>Course Introduction</b>  Class topics presentations and class discussion	
T / 25	<b>Intro to the Medieval History of Siena</b>  Class Discussion on readings, Methodology of History Inquiry <b>Short Walk around Siena</b> Search for topics for final project presentation	<b>Read:</b> Pdf, March Bloch, Chapter 1, History, Men and Time pag 20-43,(from The Historian's Craft: Reflections on the Nature and Uses of History and the Techniques and Methods of Those who Write it) Ferdinand Schevill, Author's Preface, Ch 1, "The Origin of the Medieval Siena" pag 13 – 36 / On Canvas  <b>Assignment:</b> <b>Class Discussion on Canvas</b>

W / 26	<p><b>Medieval Books:</b> the dialogue between knowledge and sacred object</p> <p><b>Visit Biblioteca Comunale degli Intronati</b></p>	<p><b>Read:</b> Pdf, Richard Hayman, “Book Production” and “Books and Their Illuminations” pag 21 – 55, in <i>Illuminated Manuscripts</i></p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> <b>Class Discussion on Canvas</b></p>
Th / 27	<p><b>How history is told and medieval literature</b></p> <p>Primary Sources Chronicles and Poetry</p> <p>Evaluation, Analysis and Approaches / Class Discussion</p>	<p><b>Read:</b> Pdf – Chronicles Dino Compagni, Giovanni Villani</p> <p>Poetry: Cecco Angiolieri, Folgore da San Gimignano</p> <p>Literature: Decameron, Ser Ciappelletto and Frate Cipolla.</p>

Week 2		
M / 31	<p>The Visualization of History Ambrogio Lorenzetti’s Allegory of the Good and Bad Government</p> <p><b>Visit Palazzo Pubblico</b></p> <p>Activity in the Museum</p>	<p><b>Read: Pdf - War and Peace" Murals</b> Revisited: Contributions to the Meaning of the "Good Government Allegory</p> <p>Ferdinand Schevill, Ch 10, “The Civic Spirit and the Adornment of the City”, pag 223 – 244, in <i>Siena The History of a Medieval Commune</i></p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> <b>Class Discussion on Canvas</b></p>
T / August 1	<p>Life in the Middle ages – Duccio and the art production in Medieval Siena</p> <p><b>Marco Caratelli / Medieval painting technique</b> <b>Demonstration in class</b></p>	<p><b>Read:</b> Pdf, Leslie Rose , “Introduction” The Medieval Artist – Questions and Considerations” pag 2 – 11 and Ch7 “The Panel Painter, Duccio and Company” pag 109 – 122, <i>Artists of the Middle Ages</i>.</p>
W / 2	<p>Saint Francis and Saint Catherine of Siena life and representation</p> <p><b>Visit Church of San Domenico</b></p>	<p><b>Read: Pdf – Eun-Kie Lee, “Art and Ritual Drama of the Flagellants Confraternities in 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Century Italy”</b></p> <p>Ferdinand Schevill, Ch 9, “Religious Spirit and Saint Catherine,” pag 205 – 222, in <i>Siena The History of a Medieval Commune</i></p>
Th / 3	<p>Art as Historical Documents</p>	<p><b>Assignment:</b></p>

	<b>Visit Pinacoteca Nazionale di Siena</b>	<b>Activity and presentation in the Museum</b>
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<b>Week 3</b>		
M / 7	Old Traditions and today's time: Palio di Siena, Calcio Fiorentino, Carnevale d'Ivrea, Ceri di Gubbio and Procession of San Domenico at Cocullo	<p><b>Read:</b> Pdf – Ascheri Mario, The Contrade: Their Historical Development and Connection with the Palio, pag 19-62</p> <p>Falassi Alessandro_The Contagious Myth_an exploration of the Mythologies of the Palio, pag 63 – 90.</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> <b>Class Discussion on Canvas</b></p>
T / 8	<p>Palio di Siena: <b>Visit Museum Contrada Istrice</b></p> <p>Class Discussion / Activity in the Museum</p>	<b>Activity / Assignment:</b> <b>Contrada Visit and evaluation / On Canvas</b>
W / 9	<p>Palio di Siena: <b>Visit Museum Contrada Torre</b></p> <p>Class Discussion / Activity in the Museum</p>	
Th / 10	<p>Medieval University and today's context – what we learn and how</p> <p><b>Visit Siena University</b></p>	<p>Read: Pdf – Mariateresa Fumagalli and Beonio Brocchieri, "The Intellectual" pag 181 – 210, in <i>Medieval Callings</i> ed by Jacques Le Goff.</p> <p>Pdf – Veronica Sekules, "Image and Learning" pag 119 – 146, in <i>Medieval Art</i></p>
F / 11	<p>Florence <b>Santa Croce / Visit</b></p>	<b>Activity / Assignment:</b> <b>based on the visit in Santa Croce</b>

Week 4		
Th / 17	Final Exam	Presentations in Class

## COURSE READINGS

*\*Please include page numbers of chapters*

All the reading will be provided by the instructor and will be posted on canvas in pdf format.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note that complete assignment details are posted in the assignment section of our Canvas site.

### READING

- Read all required materials specified on the syllabus in advance of the session in which they are due. Come to class prepared to discuss and respond to key questions about the readings.

### CLASS DISCUSSIONS / IN CLASS ACTIVITIES (7)

- 4 class discussions on Canvas based on the exploration of the different topics (250 words each)
- 3 Assignments/Activities based on our visits around Siena

### PRESENTATIONS

- 1 individual, illustrated Seeing Siena presentation (5 min/student)

### ARTFUL WALKING AND ARTFUL LOOKING SESSIONS

Our class will be randomly divided into five small groups and announced during the first session. On a rotating basis, each group will have the opportunity to experience 5 different activities:

- 4 Artful Walking Sessions following the 4 different walks in *Strolling Around Siena*
- 1 Artful Looking Tutorial directed by Prof. Mondloch for one small group at a time

### WRITING HISTORY PROJECT

- Each student will be asked to choose a topic at the beginning of the course. Then

they will be in charge to write a sort of “historical account” of the topic of their choice (5 pages) based on their experience in Siena. At the end of the course the student will be asked to present this experience and each student will exchange what they wrote in order to document and create a memory through writing.

## FINAL EXAM

- For the Final Exam the students will need to create a photographic version of their writing historical documentation of their experience, put in a PowerPoint and present it the day of the exam in front of the class.

## Accessible Education Statement

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 360 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

## Academic Misconduct Statement

The University Student Conduct Code (available at [conduct.uoregon.edu](http://conduct.uoregon.edu)) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at [researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism](http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism).

## Reporting Obligations

I am a designated reporter. For information about my reporting obligations as an employee, please see [Employee Reporting Obligations](#) on the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance (OICRC) website. Students experiencing any form of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including sex or gender-based violence, may seek information and resources at [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu), [respect.uoregon.edu](http://respect.uoregon.edu), or [investigations.uoregon.edu](http://investigations.uoregon.edu) or contact the non-confidential Title IX office/Office of Civil Rights Compliance (541-346-3123), or Dean of Students offices (541-346-3216), or call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE

for help. I am also a mandatory reporter of child abuse. Please find more information at [Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

#### Expected learning outcomes

By the end of the course the student will have acquired critical the knowledge and skills to understand the main thematic and chronological connections regarding the history of the Italian Middle Ages. They will also be able to place the most representative events and figures in their chronological and geographical contexts. The student will be able to use linguistic tools (language properties, correct and specific lexicon) appropriately to express, in a clear and effective manner, concepts of a political, institutional, economic, religious nature. They will be able to read critically historiographical works and use the main tools, including digital tools, for the research and analysis of sources. These skills will be acquired through a direct and continuous meeting with the instructor in the classroom. The discussion around the proposed sources will be an essential moment of critical reflection and methodological learning. Participation in meetings and seminars organized within the Department of Historical Studies will also be of great importance.

Students opting not to attend the lessons will be able to make use of the educational tools provided by the instructor on Ariel, deepen their knowledge of main topics through special readings with the agreement with the instructor, and of course contact the instructor either by e-mail and during office hours.