HSTEU 401

The Italian Renaissance

Mary O’Neil

Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-3:20

Italian history and culture from the medieval city states to the Renaissance era (11th-16th centuries). Beginning with the rise of the communes (city states that became five larger states), we will focus on the "most serene" Republic of Venice, turbulent Florence of the Guelphs and Ghibellines, the guild republic and the Medici, and finally Papal Rome after the return from Avignon. The rebuilding of that city was due to the lavish spending of the Renaissance Popes, known for their patronage of the great artists and architects such as Raphael and Michelangelo, but also for their mistresses and children. Readings will include Italian novellas (short stories) along with a textbook and selected primary sources such as merchant diaries and the writings of Machiavelli. The course uses visual images to convey the richness of Italian Renaissance architecture, art and culture.