

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester I Year 82-83

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572-3	The World of the Medici	M. Mazzaoui

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar will explore the role of the Medici in the evolution of Florentine society and culture. Commencing with Cosimo I, the course will examine the economic basis of Medici power, the rise of the family to political prominence, the mechanics of holding power, the patronage of the arts under Lorenzo, the ouster of the family during the revived republic and the subsequent reestablishment of Medici rule. Also included will be a brief epilogue on the later Medici princes. The course will focus on the cultural and artistic milieu of Medicean Florence in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Readings will include selections from major literary, philosophical and political works of the period.

LECTURES

Informal lectures and discussions. Active participation in the discussion is expected.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Midterm and Final examinations. 2-3 short papers with oral delivery as well as written format

GRADING SYSTEM

Average of all grades.

REQUIRED READINGS

Required paperbacks plus reserve library reading.

ENROLLMENT LIMITED TO 15-16 STUDENTS.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THIS COURSE PLEASE SEE LINDA NEWMAN

Directions: Choose THREE essay questions. Confine your answers to a total of seven pages. Students should avoid those questions that overlap their paper topics. Due no later than Wednesday morning December 15.

1. Trace the evolution of Medicean government from Cosimo through Lorenzo the Magnificent.
2. Do the records of the Medici bank accurately reflect long-term shifts in the Florentine and international economy?
3. Evaluate the sources that have been utilized by historians to illuminate the conditions of the lower classes in Renaissance Florence.
4. "For [its citizens] Florence existed for the sole benefit of some three thousand privileged Florentines and the Florentine dominion existed solely to be governed and exploited by the dominant city." Is this a fair assessment of the relations between the capital city and its subject territories in the fifteenth century?
5. Analyze the fundamental weaknesses underlying the failure of Republican regimes in Florence to 1530.
6. What interpretations have been put forth regarding changes in the structure of the Florentine patrician family?
7. Discuss the political purpose of Machiavelli's Prince in the context of Republican aspirations and the Medici restoration.
8. Discuss the means used by Duke Cosimo I to establish monarchical rule in Tuscany.