

UW-Madison  
 HS 350: Special Topics in the History of Science  
 Topic: Florence and the Idea of the Renaissance (2 cr.)  
 Michael Shank (instructor)  
 Fred Gibbs (TA)

Office hours: Shank ([mhshank@wisc.edu](mailto:mhshank@wisc.edu); 2-3972) 2-3:30 Wednesdays (7135 Social Science); Gibbs ([fgibbs@wisc.edu](mailto:fgibbs@wisc.edu)), TBA, Meiklejohn House (corner of Charter and Johnson)

As you know, this course (HistSci 350) has an unusual structure. Together with History of Science 512 (4 cr.; taught in Florence), it constitutes 6 credits of honors study abroad credit. This overall credit structure covers two 3-credit courses: one on Galileo with the name of HS 512 taught by Michael Shank (UW--History of Science) and one on the idea of the Renaissance taught by Enoch Brater (UM-English). During this spring semester, students at the UW and U of M are getting a head start on the Florence course. Please note: the grade for this spring course is contingent upon completing the summer version; provided the student is making good press, it will show as a P at the end of the semester and will be converted to a letter grade when the grades are handed in mid-June. (University of Michigan students have their own credit structure and course names, all amounting to 6 credits as well)

Books (to be used in Florence too) have arrived at A Room of One's Own, 307 W Johnson St (257-7888)

Dava Sobel, Galileo's Daughter (Penguin)

Stillman Drake, trans., Discoveries and Opinions of Galileo (Anchor, 1957).

Galileo on the World Systems: A New Abridged Translation and Guide, trans and ed. by Maurice Finocchiaro (U. of California Press, 1997).

Richard J. Blackwell, Galileo, Bellarmine, and the Bible (University of Notre Dame Press, 1987).

Maurice Finocchiaro, ed., The Galileo Affair (Univ. California Press, 1989).

Mary McCarthy , The Stones of Florence (Harvest)

E.M. Foster, A Room with a View (Bantam edition)

A. Richard Turner, Renaissance Florence: The Invention of a New Art.

Ross King, Brunelleschi's Dome (Penguin)

Bertolt Brecht , Life of Galileo (Grove edition)

need to talk about [[Stillman Drake, Galileo at Work: His Scientific Biography [1978] (Dover, 1995) 0-486-28631-2]] out of print/

**Course reader (available History of Science Dept, 7143 Social Science**

**Requirements:**

- Active involvement in reading and in discussion
- Two short analytical paper on Galileo texts
- Two 3-page reviews
- Two response papers
- Work on Florence research project(s) (topic selection, preliminary bibliographical research, photocopying)

The Summer school component of the Honors Program course in Florence (HS 512) will involve a substantial research and writing assignment. Given the schedule and the modest library resources at the villa, this will be feasible only if preliminary research is well underway in Madison and Ann Arbor: the exploration of a topic, the narrowing of its focus, the selection of an appropriate working bibliography (including the collection of materials to be taken to Florence). These phases of the research must be well in hand at the end of the spring semester.

The usual format will be a two-hour meeting, combining lecture and discussion. I hope that it may be possible to find a time to schedule one or two "marathon sessions" that would obviate the need to meet every week. (e.g., skip week 2, but meet for 3.5 hours the following week and talk about the whole book. Ditto for other weeks)

Week 1: F 1/23 Intro to Florence and the courses

Week 2: F1/30 Ross King, Brunelleschi's Dome, ch. 1-9 (pp. 1-81)

Week 3: F 2/6: Ross King, Brunelleschi's Dome, ch. 10-19 (pp. 82-175)  
**3-page review of book.**

Week 4 F 2/13 Dava Sobel, Galileo's Daughter, part 1 (pp. 1-95)  
Hand in up to 3 possible paper topics for 2 courses

Week 5 F 2/20: Dava Sobel, Galileo's Daughter, part 2-3 (pp. 99-227)

Week 6 F 2/27: Dava Sobel, Galileo's Daughter, part 4-6 (pp. 231-end)  
**3-page review of book**

Week 7 [possible marathon session; readings plus paper session]  
F 3/5 Readings: Drake, "Vincenzio Galilei and Galileo," Galileo Studies, pp. 43-62; Tim Carter, "Music and Patronage in Late Sixteenth-Century Florence: The Case of Jacopo Corsi, (1561-1602)" in I Tatti Studies: Essays in the Renaissance 1 (1985) 57-79 (skim notes and appendices); Blackwell, Galileo, Bellarmine, ch. 1, Appendices 1-3, pp. 5-27, 181-194; Drake, Galileo at Work, ch. 1-2, pp. 1-32; Shank, "Setting the Stage," pp. 1-9. [88pp]

Week 8

F 3/12 Paper session (here or moved to Week 7 marathon?); **hand in tentative paper bibliography before the break**

**March 13-21: Spring Break** (Become acquainted with A. Richard Turner, Renaissance Florence: The Invention of a New Art)

Week 9 F 3/26: Lindberg, Beginnings of Western Science, pp. 290-307; Galileo on World Systems, pp. 1-38; Shank, "Setting the Stage," 9-15. [73 pp]  
**bibliography progress report**

Week 10: F 4/2: Drake, Galileo at Work, ch. 3-7 (pp. 33-133)

Week 11: F 4/9 Read "Comrades in Truth" (Galileo-Kepler correspondence); Skim the intro to Discoveries and Opinions (1-19) and read "Starry Messenger" (1610), pp. 23-58; Westfall, "Scientific Patronage: Galileo and the Telescope," Isis 76 (1985) 11-30; Drake, Galileo at Work, ch. 8-9, pp. 134-176.

**Paper: 3-page analysis of dedication to Starry Messenger (pp. 23-26)**

Week 12 F 4/16: Galileo, "Letters on Sunspots" (1613) in Discoveries and Opinions, pp. 89-144 (skim the intro, pp. 59-85); "Letter to Castelli" (1613), in Blackwell, pp. 195-201; Drake, Galileo at Work, skim ch. 10, read ch. 11 (pp. 195-213), skim ch.12.

**Paper: 3-page analysis of pp. 140 ("I believe...") to 144 (end) of third Letter of Sunspots**

Week 13 F 4/23: Brecht, Life of Galileo  
**2-page response paper**

Week 14 F 4/30. Mary McCarthy, The Stones of Florence (Harvest)  
**2-page response paper**

Week 15 F 5/7 Forster, A Room with a view  
Discussion

Pack books, photocopies, and anything else you may need in Florence!  
See you on May 17 at the villa!

