

Rome 250 announcements:

Final exam is not cumulative,  
but will begin with Christianity

For early final on Sat March 12 (about 1pm)  
e-mail Prof. O'Neil [oneilmr@uw.edu](mailto:oneilmr@uw.edu)

Second paper topics will be posted this week

Medieval history courses: Charity Urbanski,  
Robin Stacey

Renaissance Lecture:

Humanist learning in Italy: Florence &  
Rome

The Avignon Papacy & Great Schism

Roman politics: Cola di Rienzo and  
Petrarch

Medici Florence and Machiavelli

## **HUMANIST LEARNING: revival of classics**

**FRANCESCO PETRARCA ARETINO 1304-1374**

**“Father of Humanism”**

**Family:** exiled from Florence in 1302

Avignon: father notary at Papal court

**Poetry:** Canzoniere, Rime Italian poems,  
including sonnets to **Laura** (d. 1348)  
Africa Latin epic poem about Scipio Africanus  
republican hero of the Punic Wars

1341 crowned Poet Laureate on Capitoline Hill  
patronage of King Robert of Naples

# RENAISSANCE HUMANISM

revival of classical literature, learning and art  
recovery of Latin texts 14th C

Greek texts (Plato) 15th C

social context: literate laymen, lawyers  
notaries (legal documents, letter writing)

**new curriculum:** use classical texts for study of  
human life, morality, how to live

## \* studia humanitatis:

study of things human (not divine, not natural)  
curriculum: grammar, rhetoric, poetry,  
history, moral philosophy

## **compare medieval scholastic curriculum**

**trivium:** grammar, logic, rhetoric

**quadrivium:** arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy

## **Humanism as guide to living:**

classical Latin literature as moralizing, practical,  
this-worldly virtues aim to teach good conduct,  
responsibilities in social & political relationships

## **14<sup>th</sup> C. HUMANISM: revival of Latin literature**

### **Petrarch as humanist**

manuscript hunting in monastic libraries  
desire to go ad fontes (to the sources)

### **Latin edition of Livy's History of Roman Republic De Viris Illustribus (Concerning Illustrious Men):**

biographies of Romans as models of virtue  
humanist view of history based on Rome

**Letters to Famous Men:** writes to classical authors  
Cicero, Socrates

### **Secretum (Secret Book)**

dialogue with St. Augustine internal struggle:  
pursuit of fame, love versus Christian goals

# 14TH CENTURY ROMAN POLITICS

## **Context: Papacy in Avignon 1305-1377**

due to conflict of Pope Boniface VIII and  
King of France over taxation of French clergy

**French Pope** elected 1305

establishes new court in Avignon 1309

## **City of Rome:**

**Comune** – republican city government  
head quarters on Capitoline Hill

**Barons** - noble families (Orsini, Colonna)  
struggle for power, fortify different areas  
(Castel Sant'Angelo, Colosseum, other  
neighborhoods)

Avignon, Palace of the Popes 14<sup>th</sup> C





Portraits of the 14<sup>th</sup> C. Avignon Popes in Papal Palace



## **COLA DI RIENZO**

Roman notary: studies classical history, archeology

1342: sent to Avignon by city of Rome

Petrarch hears Cola speak before Pope

## **1347: ROMAN REPUBLICAN REVOLUTION**

Cola leads revolt, takes title of

"Tribune of Freedom, Peace & Justice;

Liberator of the Holy Roman Republic"

calls council in Rome of Italian city states:

proclaims Roman jurisdiction over entire world

1348 overthrown by Roman nobility,

prisoner of Emperor, then Pope; escapes,

returns to Rome as Senator; executed 1354

## **Petrarch's correspondence with Cola:**

supports revival of Roman Republic

**poem: Spirito Gentil 1337-38**

lament on the decline of Rome

COLA DI RIENZO STATUE 19<sup>th</sup> century, at foot of Capitol Hill

became symbol for Italian nationalism



Petrarch

O Spirito  
gentile

For  
Cola  
di  
Rienzo

O gentle spirit, that rules those members  
in which a pilgrim lives,  
a brave lord, shrewd and wise,  
now you have taken up the ivory scepter  
with which you punish Rome and her wrongdoers,  
and recall her to her ancient ways,

.  
I don't know what Italy expects or hopes for,  
she seems not to feel her trouble, old, lazy, slow,  
will she sleep forever, no one to wake her?  
I should grasp her by the hair with my hand.

## **AVIGNON PAPACY**

**1305 election of first French Pope Clement V**

**1309 French Pope establishes seat in Avignon**

**1309-1378**

Popes actually living in southern France

## **GREAT SCHISM (1378-1414)**

after return from Avignon, French elect rival Pope

two Popes, one in Avignon and one in Rome

## **CONCILIARISM**

theory that highest authority in Church is

General Council of Bishops, not Pope

evolves to end Schism, but becomes a |

threat to idea of papal monarchy

## **CONCILIAR MOVEMENT:**

meetings of general councils of church

**1409 Council of Pisa:** elects new Pope,  
Avignon & Rome refuse to resign;  
now three papal lines (Rome, Avignon, Pisa)

**1414-1417 Council of Constance:**  
all three Popes deposed

1417 election of **Martin V Colonna**  
papal forces have to re-conquer central Italy to return to Rome

1420 new Pope enters Rome: start of Renaissance in Rome



Florence

## **Medieval Florence as Republican City State**

**Florentine factions: 1248-1265 urban civil war**  
**Guelfs (papacy) versus Ghibellines (Empire)**

Towers leveled during phases of the war;  
ultimately Guelfs were the victors

**GUELF ALLIANCE: Papacy, France, Guelf city states;**  
anti-Imperial, anti-German focus  
(similar to early Franco-Papal alliance against Lombards)



Baptistry  
of Florence

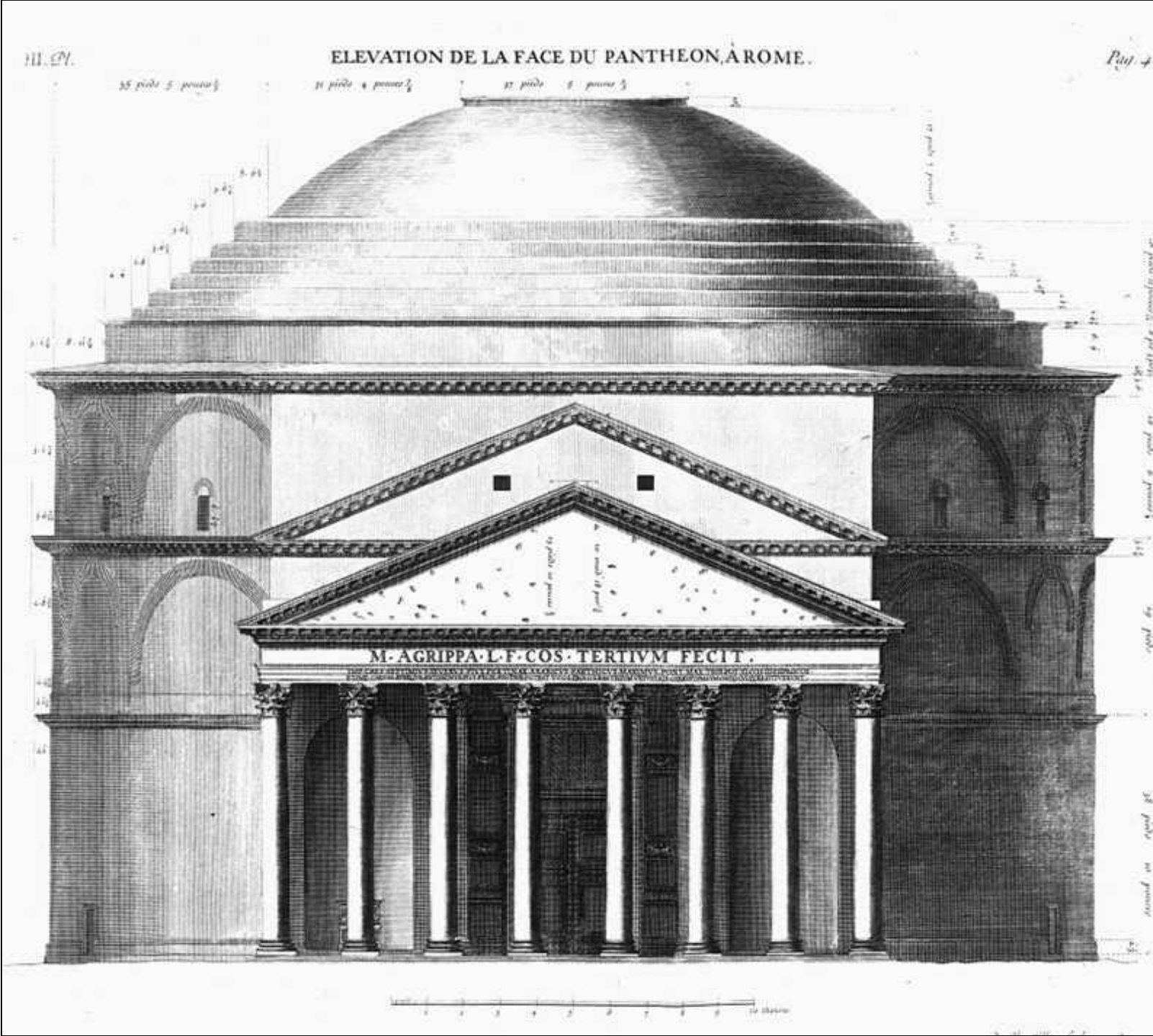




Florence Duomo (cathedral) aerial view

Brunelleschi travels to Rome to study the Pantheon

only free-standing dome to survive from Antiquity.





Duomo by  
Brunelleschi  
15<sup>th</sup> C

first  
freestanding  
dome since  
ancient Rome

Italy in 15<sup>th</sup> C. Major powers are Venice, Milan, Florence Naples & Papal State



# **Pope Sixtus IV 1471-84**

Francesco della Rovere

Nepotism: appointing nephews  
as Cardinals and political  
rulers in Papal states

Buildings: named after himself

Sistine Chapel

Ponte Sisto for

Jubilee Year of 1475

Melozzo da  
Forlì

Sixtus IV with  
his nephews



ILLIUS DOMVM EXPOSITIS VICOS FORAM MOENIA PONTIS  
VIRGINIAM TRINIS QUOD REPARARE A QVAM  
PRISCA LICET NAVTIS STATVAS DARE COMMODA PORTVS  
ET VATICANVM GINGERE SIXTE IVGVN  
PIVS TAMEN VRBS DEBET NAM QVAE SVA LORE LATERAT  
CERNITVR IN CELLERE BIBLIOTHECA TOCO

## **Melozzo da Forli : painting 1477**

Pope Sixtus IV della Rovere inaugurating  
Bartolomeo Platina (kneeling)  
as head of Vatican Library

with four of his nephews

Cardinal Giuliano della Rovere = tall, central  
(later Pope Julius II)

Girolamo Riario, Duke of Imola

Pietro Riario

Giovanni della Rovere

Cancelleria

Largest  
new  
building in  
Rome'

built by  
papal  
nephew



1489-1513 Cancelleria built by Raffaele Riario, nephew of Sixtus IV



Ponte Sisto



## **15th C. FLORENCE: MEDICI vs REPUBLIC OF 1494**

1434-1494 Medici family controls Florentine Republic:  
through manipulation of electoral system

**Cosimo de Medici:** (1434-1464)

merchant banker, title “Pater Patriae”  
given after his death (“father of the fatherland”)

### **1454 Peace of Lodi**

Balance of power between major Italian powers:  
Milan, Venice, Florence, Papal States, Naples:

1454-1494 Period of (relative) peace in Italy  
before French invasions of 1494

Cosimo  
de'Medici

ruled  
Florence  
1434-1464



Medici palace  
in Florence



Medici Chapel

Benozzo  
Gozzoli

Procession of  
the Magi











Portrait of  
Byzantine  
Emperor  
John Palaeologus

in Florence for  
Council 1438=39





Botticelli

Magi



**Lorenzo the Magnificent (1469-1492)** Cosimo's grandson

1494 Medici overthrown & expelled by Republic of 1494

1512 Medici re-instated as rulers of Florence

**first Medici Pope Leo X 1513-1521**

Giovanni, son of Lorenzo

made Cardinal at age 13 through deal

with Pope Innocent VIII

(Pope's son marries Lorenzo's daughter)

Italy in 1494: Major powers are Venice, Milan, Florence Naples & Papal State



## **Florentine Republic (1494-1512)**

Context of French invasion of 1494: Valois King Charles VIII

Role of **Girolamo Savonarola**, Dominican preacher  
moral reformer; opposed to corruption and luxury;

republican government higher standards of civic virtue  
conflict with Papacy:

denounces corruption of Borgia Pope

1497 excommunicated by Alexander VI

1498 executed by Republic

Borgia Pope

Alexander VI  
1492-1503

In Pinturicchio  
Resurrection



Execution of Savonarola as heretic, 1498  
critic of Alexander VI Borgia



**Execution of Savonarola in Florence: 1498**



Lucrezia Borgia  
daughter of Pope

as Saint Catherine  
of Alexandria  
by Pinturichio

Same age as Pope's  
Mistress  
Giulietta Farnese

(her brother made  
a Cardinal by  
Alexander VI, later  
became Pope Paul III)





Cesare Borgia

Son of Alexander VI  
Head of Papal armies

Machiavelli's hero  
because of military ability  
(virtù)



## **Dwarfing of Italy, 1494-1527**

### **French Kings (Valois) invasions of Italy:**

1494 Charles VIII asserts claim to Naples,

Medici expelled from Florence

1499 Louis XII called in by Venice against Milan

1515 Francis I - military victory, occupation of Milan  
but defeated at Pavia 1525 by Charles V

### **Emperor Charles V of Holy Roman Empire**

1519 Imperial election: Hapsburg Charles I of Spain  
elected as German Emperor

1520 alliance with Charles V against France

Portrait  
of  
Machiavelli

in Palazzo  
Vecchio



## The Career of Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527)

under Republic: diplomatic missions to  
Emperor, French King, Cesare Borgia, Pope Julius II

1512: fall of Republic, return of the Medici with aid of Emperor  
Machiavelli exiled to his country villa, begins to write

1513 Letter to Vettori: describes his life in exile (link on Notes page)

**1512-1513 The Prince** (Italian = *principe* or *princeps*)  
addressed to Medici ruler, hoping for job as political advisor

advice to a “new Prince” on how to maintain his state  
need for strong military to end foreign invasions of Italy  
last chapter

“Exhortation to Free Italy from the Barbarians”



# **Machiavelli**

## **1512-1513 Discourses on Livy (Friday)**

republican governments as best  
comparison of Roman Republic with  
Florentine Republic

Central concepts:

**virtù** (Latin *virtus*) versus

**fortuna** (fortune, chance, luck)

Political leaders must be have the ability (virtù)  
to deal with changing events (fortune)

**Civic religion:** ancient versus modern  
what kind of religion is better for the state?

**Critique of Christianity**, but especially of  
the role of the Papacy in Italian politics