The Medici family is arguably the single most important family in Florentine history, generation after generation, all active patrons of the arts during centuries in which the city experienced its greatest cultural and artistic flourishing. This course will trace the family’s history as art patrons during the course of the 15th and early 16th century, examining the relations between specific members of the dynasty and the art produced under their auspices.

Beginning with the late 14th century, at the debut of the rise in wealth and power of the family, we will begin our exploration of the history and profiles of its various members: from Giovanni di Bicci, Cosimo the Elder, Piero the Gouty, Lorenzo il Magnifico, to the Medici popes, Leo X and Clement VII. On site experience of the art they promoted will allow us to explore: how each patron relates to the artists employed; how the art sponsored reflects personal philosophy and persona; how patronage relates and contributes to contemporary culture and philosophy; how the art produced under their auspices fits within the cultural, political and social make-up of the city. We will also see the significant role the Medici played in the complex game of art and politics with regard to other centers in Italy, some of which we will have the opportunity to visit during the course of the term.

While this course focuses on the major personalities of the early branch of the Medici as patrons, its goal is also to trace the development of the arts in 15th to early 16th century Florence. Thus, much of our attention will be given to the lives and works of the great protagonists of the century, many of whom were employed by the Medici and other patrons sharing their common culture.

Regular meetings fall the days and at the times indicated on the schedule below. Meeting times are scheduled in accordance to museum and monument openings. When we convene on site rather than in the class room, please plan your route and estimate travel time carefully to ensure prompt arrival. Punctuality is a must. Dress for conditions and be forewarned that 1) many times you will have little or no opportunity to sit 2) churches are not heated or air-conditioned 3) museums are minimally heated and air-conditioned 4) there are strict dress codes for entering religious sites 5) we cannot reschedule because of unfavorable conditions.

As indicated in the schedule, the morning sessions are 3 hour blocks of time. You will be given a break mid-way through the morning. There will be occasional in-class sessions aimed at consolidating (discussion, presentations, lectures, etc) our on-site studies.
Requirements and Grading:

- Attendance is mandatory. One unexcused absence (all should be notified to the instructor) will result in lowering your overall grade; more than 2 absences may seriously compromise your ability to pass the course.
- Class participation is calculated as a component of your grade (see percentage below). Command of assigned readings and basic manual preparation as well as participation in discussion is expected. Tardiness or obvious disinterest (sleeping in class, carrying on private conversations) will affect the participation grade negatively.
- Mandatory readings, illustrations and other didactic materials will be provided. Readings will be distributed by flash drive; any hand-out materials must be checked back in to the instructor in person, *unmarked and in otherwise good condition*. You must provide your own paper for printing out materials.
- Books from the ACM library placed on reserve for the course must *not* be removed from ACM spaces at Linguaviva, 4th floor.

Grading for the course is based on a scale of **100 points**. See percentages below. In fairness to your peers, **late work** is not allowed. When the deadline has passed, expect considerable reduction in your grade. To ensure parity, all written assignments must be presented by email or in hard copy on or before the deadline.

All of the following assignments must be completed in full before you leave Florence in order to pass the course.

Assignments:

- Written presentation on the persona and patronage of Cosimo de’ Medici in relation to a specific artist and commission: 25% (due Feb. 14, 5 pages, 1 ½ spacing; font 11, by 16:30 in the office or by email attachment at 20:00 in Pdf format if possible)
- Term paper on a topic to be discussed with the instructor, generally centering on issues regarding an artist and/or masterwork created within the historical/cultural milieu of the later Medici (Piero the Gouty, Lorenzo il Magnifico, Lucrezia Tornabuoni, Leone X): 30%. (due March 15, 5-7 pages, 1 ½ spacing; font 11, by 16:30 in the office or by email attachment at 20:00 by Pdf format if possible)
- Final oral presentation (on term paper topic), 15 minute PowerPoint presentation due March 15, 2013: 15%
- Oral report : 10% (to be assigned)
- Participation (punctuality and engagement): 20%
The Medici as Patrons of the Arts

Tentative Weekly Schedule

This is a tentative schedule that may undergo changes. You will be advised of all changes via email and by announcements posted at Linguaviva. Students are responsible for checking both for updates.

MEET AT FIRST MONUMENT MENTIONED AT DESIGNATED TIME
WEDNESDAY SESSIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED

Week I (4):
Introduction: Florentine art in the early Quattrocento
  January 29: 9:00 in-class / S.Lorenzo
  January 31: 15:00 Duomo/Battistero/Opera del Duomo

Week II (5):
Early Medicean Patronage
  February 5: 9:00 S. Croce
  February 7: 14:45 Brancacci Chapel / S.Spirito (depart LV at 14:45 with instructor)

Week III (6):
Cosimo de’ Medici as patron and humanist
  February 12: 9:00 San Marco
  February 14: 15:00 Palazzo Medici

Week IV (7):
Piero di Cosimo and ‘ornata prospettiva’
  February 19: 9:00 Bargello National Museum
  February 20: 9:00 S. Apollonia/SS. Annunziata
  February 21: 15:00 San Miniato (Take 12 bus and meet instructor @ church S. Miniato)

Week V (8):
Lorenzo ‘Il Magnifico’ as patron of the arts
  February 26: 9:00 S. Trinita /SMNovella
  February 28: 15:00 Rome vs. Florence; in-class

Week VI (9):
The ‘neo-platonic academy’ and Garden of San Marco
  March 5: 9:00 Uffizi
  March 6: 9:30 Casa Buonarroti/Bargello
  March 7: 15 in-class session

Week VII (10):
Michelangelo and the Medici
  March 12: 9:00 Galleria dell’Accademia
  March 13: 9:00 Medici Chapels/Laurentian Library
  March 15: 9:00 Final Oral Presentations

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