



We increasingly recognize the trans-cultural and global roots and manifestations of Renaissance visual and literary culture. This interdisciplinary seminar critically examines concepts of Europe, Africa, and the Renaissance during the period associated with the emergence of modernity and increasing global contact. Through the study of primary and secondary texts and works of art in various media, we investigate Africa's fundamental but often neglected importance for the constitution of European identity and for constructions of the idea of the Renaissance. We examine art objects and literary texts which thematize and visualize connections and collisions between Africa and Europe. This seminar explores key terms including race and Renaissance, and also the ways in which identity and difference were visually marked in art and culture.

We investigate the African ancestry of rulers of lordly dynasties and the ways that this heritage was emphasized or concealed in portraits (such as Pontormo's *Alessandro de' Medici* in the Philadelphia Museum of Art). We consider the emergence of the Atlantic slave trade, but likewise the ways that the dominant image of the slave ship has obscured other histories. Texts by Mallory and Shakespeare among others, and images of the Three Magi or Saint Maurice, suggest the fraught nature of cross-cultural negotiations but also the reverence in which Africans might be held. This seminar is integrated with the important exhibition "Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe," on display at the Princeton University Art Museum beginning in February. We will take full advantage of this phenomenal opportunity, and a trip to the PUAM to view the exhibition will allow us to reach new insights and judgments through in depth, first hand engagement with the art and material culture studied throughout the seminar.

Course Requirements: Attendance and participation are vital to this seminar. The success of the class depends on your energetic participation. You are expected to come prepared to class, ready to contribute to the discussion of assigned readings.

NB: We do not expect you to understand everything. Some of the readings we will discuss are challenging. We do, however, expect that you put forth substantial effort to think about these texts. We will learn to read in order to better understand a scholar's methods and perspectives, and not just to gain specific information. Come to class with ideas, and with questions.

Required Text:

Joaneath Spicer, ed. *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe* (Baltimore, 2012). This book has been ordered and is for sale in the Villanova Bookstore (\$25.00). Note that it is not available on Amazon or seemingly elsewhere online.

Two additional important texts:

T. F. Earle and Kate Lowe, eds. *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe* (Cambridge, 2005).

David Bindman and Henry Louis Gates Jr., eds. *The Image of the Black in Western Art* (Cambridge, MA, 2010). A number of volumes of this series are available in Falvey Library.

A useful bibliography related to the exhibition is available at <http://thewalters.org/exhibitions/african-presence/bibliography.aspx>

It is **required** that you **attend the exhibition** at some point in the semester, preferably with the class as a group – and this visit is *tentatively* scheduled for Saturday March 16. Otherwise, you will have to get yourself to Princeton at some point, though we can help you figure out how to do that.

Notice as well the important guest lectures of April 2 and April 9. It is expected that you do your best to attend these lectures.

Grade breakdown and assignments: participation and attendance 25%; 8-10 page paper, due April 2, 25%; final 15-18 page paper, 25%; final group oral exercise 25%.

Your major assignment will wrestle with the conceptualization of race and Renaissance, and issues of their representation, through 3-5 images from the exhibition. This will be expanded with further discussion of historical and social context and approaches through various disciplines. Many of you will consider literary in addition to visual and artistic evidence.

Plagiarism and proper citation of sources are taken seriously. Issues of Academic Integrity will be discussed before students begin the research paper.

If you have a documented disability, please speak with me so I may meet your needs. It is Villanova's policy to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. You must present verification and register with the Learning Support Office (contacting 610 519 5636 or at nancy.mott@villanova.edu) before I can make necessary accommodations.

Jan 15 Africa, Europe, and the Renaissance

1. Ralph Hayward Keniston, "The Significance of Cervantes," *The Art World* 1/2 (1916), 104-107, 119.
2. Carlos Fuentes, "Don Quixote or the Critique of Reading," *The Wilson Quarterly* 1/5 (1977), 186-202.
3. María Rosa Menocal, "Pride and Prejudice in Medieval Studies: European and Oriental," *Hispanic Review* 53/1 (1985), 61-78.

Jan 17 Africa, Europe, and the Renaissance

1. Edward Rothstein, "Regarding Cervantes, Multicultural Dreamer," *New York Times*, June 13, 2005
2. Geraldine Johnson, "Introduction: whose Renaissance? whose art?" in *Renaissance Art: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2005), 1-12.
3. Joaneath Spicer, "Introduction" in *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 8-11. And look through the images of the "Checklist of the Exhibition," 119-138.

Jan 22 Race and Premodernity I

1. Thomas Hahn, "The Difference the Middle Ages Makes: Color and Race before the Modern World," *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 31/1 (2001), 1-37.
2. Robert Bartlett, "Medieval and Modern Concepts of Race and Ethnicity," *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 31/1 (2001), 39-56.

Jan 24 Race and Premodernity II

1. Peter Erickson, "'God for Harry, England, and Saint George': British National Identity and the Emergence of White Self-Fashioning," in *Early Modern Visual Culture: Representation, Race, and Empire in Renaissance England*, ed. Peter Erickson and Clark Hulse (Philadelphia, 2000), 178-212.
2. Geraldine Heng, "Jews, Saracens, 'Black Men', Tartars: England in the World of Racial Difference," in *A Companion to Medieval English Literature, c. 1350-1500*, ed. Peter Brown (Malden, MA, 2005), 247-269.

Jan 29 Africans in Renaissance Europe I

1. Kate Lowe, "The Lives of African Slaves and People of African Descent in Renaissance Europe," in *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 12-33.
2. Maghan Keita, "Africans in Europe Prior to the Atlantic Slave Trade," in *A Companion to African American History*, ed. Lewis Gordon and Jane Anna Gordon (Malden, MA, 2005), 23-47.

Jan 31 Africans in Renaissance Europe II

1. Natalie Zemon-Davis, "Leo-Africanus" Presents Africa to Europeans," in *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 61-79.
2. Paul Kaplan, "Isabella d'Este and Black African Women" in *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe*, ed. T. F. Earle and Kate Lowe (Cambridge, 2005), 125-154.

Feb 5 Blackness I

1. Joaneath Spicer, "European Perceptions of Blackness as Reflected in the Visual Arts," in *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 34-60.
2. William Shakespeare, *Othello*, selections
3. Kate Lowe, "The Global Consequences of Mistranslation: The Adoption of the 'Black but...' Formulation in Europe, 1440-1650," *Religions* 3/3 (2012), 544-555.

Feb 7 Blackness II

1. Anu Korhonen, "Washing the Ethiopian white: conceptualising black skin in Renaissance England," in *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe*, ed. T. F. Earle and Kate Lowe (Cambridge, 2005), 94-112
2. Megan Holmes, "'How a Woman with a Strong Devotion to the Virgin Mary Gave Birth to a Very Black Child': Imagining 'Blackness' in Renaissance Florence," in *Fremde in der Stadt: Ordnungen, Repräsentationen und Praktiken*, ed. Gerhard Wolf, Peter Bell, and Dirk Suckow (Frankfurt, 2010), 333-351.

Feb 12 Africa, Europe, and Ambassadors I

1. Kate Lowe, "Visual Representations of an Elite: African Ambassadors and Rulers in Renaissance Europe," in *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 99-115.
2. Kate Lowe, "'Representing' Africa: Ambassadors and Princes from Christian Africa to Renaissance Italy and Portugal, 1402-1608," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 17 (2007), 101-128.

Feb 14 Africa, Europe, and Ambassadors II

1. Elizabeth Horodowich, "Wider World: Foreigners, Travels, Geography," and Timothy McCall and Sean Roberts, "Art and the Material Culture of Diplomacy," in *Italian Renaissance Diplomacy: Texts and Translations (1350-1520)*, ed. Monica Azzolini and Isabella Lazzarini (Durham, UK, forthcoming 2014).

Feb 19 Turks I: Past and Present

1. James Harper, "Turks as Trojans; Trojans as Turks: Visual Imagery of the Trojan War and the Politics of Cultural Identity in Fifteenth-Century Europe," in *Postcolonial Approaches to the European Middle Ages: Translating Cultures*, ed. Ananya Kabir and Deanne Williams (Cambridge, 2005), 151-179.
2. Paul Kaplan, "Black Turks: Venetian Artists and Perceptions of Ottoman Ethnicity," in *The Turk and Islam in the Western Eye, 1450-1750*, ed. James Harper (Burlington, VT, 2011), 41-66.

Feb 21 Turks II: Tolerance and Cultural Exchange

1. Roberto Véquez, "'Don Quijote' and 9-11: The Clash of Civilizations and the Birth of the Modern Novel," *Hispania* 88/1 (2005), 101-113.

2. Sean Roberts, "Printing Tolerance and Intolerance," in *Printing a Mediterranean World: Florence, Constantinople, and the Renaissance of Geography* (Cambridge, MA, 2013), 134-170.

Feb 26 The Courts of Fifteenth-Century Italy

1. Elizabeth McGrath, "Ludovico il Moro and His Moors," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 65 (2002), 67-94.
2. Kate Lowe, "Isabella d'Este and the Acquisition of Black Africans at the Mantuan Court," in *Mantova e il Rinascimento italiano: Studi in onore di David Chambers*, ed. Philippa Jackson and Guido Rebecchini (Mantua, 2011), 65-76.
3. Timothy McCall, "Blanched Beauty, Nobility, and Power," from *Brilliant Bodies: Men at Court in Early Renaissance Italy* (forthcoming).

Feb 28 European Lordship and Africa: Alessandro de' Medici I

1. John Brackett, "Race and rulership: Alessandro de' Medici, first Medici duke of Florence, 1529-1537," in *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe*, ed. T. F. Earle and Kate Lowe (Cambridge, 2005), 303-325.
2. Gabrielle Langdon, *Medici Women: Portraits of Power, Love and Betrayal* (Toronto, 2006), 23-24, 32-47, 121-126.

Mar 12 European Lordship and Africa: Alessandro de' Medici II

1. Leo Steinberg, "Pontormo's Alessandro de' Medici, or, I Only Have Eyes for You," *Art in America* 63/1 (1975), 62-65.
2. Carl Strehlke, ed., *Pontormo, Bronzino, and the Medici: the Transformation of the Renaissance Portrait in Florence* (Penn State UP, 2004), catalogue entries 25-32.
3. Mario de Valdes y Cocom, "A View on Race and the Art World," from PBS Website: *The Blurred Racial Lines of Famous Families*, January 2005.

Mar 14 Slaves and Free Men and Women

1. Joaneath Spicer, "Free Men and Women of African Ancestry in Renaissance Europe," in *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 81-97.
2. Rick Scorza, "Messina 1535 to Lepanto 1571. Vasari, Borghini and the Imagery of Moors, Barbarians, and Turks," in *The Slave in European Art: From Renaissance Trophy to Abolitionist Emblem*, ed. Elizabeth McGrath and Jean Michel Messing (London, 2012), 121-163.
3. Mark Rosen, Unpublished paper: "Captive City: Livorno and the *Quattro Mori*."

Mar 16 Class trip to Princeton University Art Museum

Mar 19 Recap and discuss objects and exhibition

Mar 21 Africa, Europe, and the Americas I

1. Rebecca Parker Brienen, "Black, Brown, and Yellow: Eckhout's Paintings of Africans, Mestizos, and Mulattos," in *Visions of Savage Paradise: Albert Eckhout, Court Painter in Colonial Dutch Brazil* (Amsterdam, 2006), 131-169.
2. Tom Cummins, "Three Gentleman from Esmeraldas: A Portrait Fit for a King," forthcoming in *Portraits of Slaves*, ed. Agnes Lugo-Ortiz and Angela Rosenthal (Cambridge UP, 2013).

Mar 26 Africa, Europe, and the Americas II

1. Stephanie Leitch, "Burgkmair's *Peoples of Africa and India* (1508) and the Origins of Ethnography in Print," *Art Bulletin* 91/2 (2009), 134-159.
2. Lia Markey and Jessica Keating, "Indian Objects in Medici and Austrian-Habsburg Inventories: A Case Study of the Sixteenth-Century Term," *Journal of the History of Collections* 23/2 (2011), 283-300.

Apr 2 **Paper due**

Afternoon lecture: Lia Markey, Princeton University, "Imaging the Americas in Medici Florence."

Apr 4 Crossing Cultures: Missionaries and Conversions

1. Cecile Fromont, "Collecting and Translating Knowledge Across Cultures: Capuchin Missionary Images of Early Modern Central Africa," in *Collecting Across Cultures: Material Exchanges in the Early Modern Atlantic World*, ed. Daniela Bleichmar and Peter Mancall (Philadelphia, 2011), 134-154.
2. Kate Lowe, "Black Africans' Religious and Cultural Assimilation to, and Appropriation of, Catholicism in Italy, 1470-1520," *Renaissance and Reformation* 31/2 (2008), 67-86.

Apr 9 Paul Kaplan visit

1. Essays provided by Dr. Kaplan and related to the PUAM exhibition
2. In addition, there will be a public lecture by Dr. Kaplan this afternoon.

Apr 11 Juan Latino

1. Baltasar Fra-Molinero, "Juan Latino and His Racial Difference," in *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe*, ed. T. F. Earle and Kate Lowe (Cambridge, 2005), 326-344.
2. Reading TBD, investigating Cervantes and Juan Latino

April 16 Globalizations

1. Maghan Keita, "Africans and Asians: Historiography and the Long View of Global Interaction" *Journal of World History* 16/1 (2005), 1-30.
2. Geraldine Heng, "The Global Middle Ages: An Experiment in Collaborative Humanities, Or Imagining the World, 500-1500 C. E.," *English Language Notes* 47/1 (2009), 205-216.

Apr 18 Afro-Portuguese Ivories

1. Peter Mark, "Portugal in West Africa: The Afro-Portuguese Ivories," in *Encompassing the Globe: Portugal and the World in the 16th and 17th Centuries*, ed. Jay Levenson et al (Washington, DC, 2007), 77-95.

2. Mario Pereira, reading TBD

Optional trip to Princeton for evening colloquium on the exhibition

Apr 23 Revisiting Race

1. Geraldine Heng, "The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages I: Race Studies, Modernity, and the Middle Ages," *Literature Compass* 8/5 (2011), 315-331.
2. Geraldine Heng, "The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages II: Locations of Medieval Race," *Literature Compass* 8/5 (2011), 332-350.

Apr 25 Revisiting Race and Representation

1. Kim Hall, "Object into Object? Some Thoughts on the Presence of Black Women in Early Modern Culture," in *Early Modern Visual Culture: Representation, Race, and Empire in Renaissance England*, ed. Peter Erickson and Clark Hulse (Philadelphia, 2000), 346-379.
2. Jane Fair Bestor, "Titian's Portrait of Laura Eustochia: The Decorum of Female Beauty and the Motif of the Black Page," *Renaissance Studies* 17/4 (2003), 628-673.

May 2 Course recap and reflections

Finals papers due May 8; group final oral examinations as well