

Medieval Technology and Urban Life (TIBCG 440)
Schedule for Winter 2005

Week	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
I 3 & 5 January	Introduction, expectations, methods, scope; resources	Boccaccio's preface to the Decameron (plague) (for Wed) Figure out how to use UW library resources such as e-reserves and www.jstor.org . The librarians at UWT can help.	On Wed, 5 Jan, note of any technologies depicted or alluded to in the Boccaccio reading. Note the city's response to the plague.
II 10 & 12 January	Ideas about the Middle Ages	Decameron Day I --Gies, <u>Cathedral, Forge, Waterwheel</u> , 1-38	List all technologies used, depicted, or alluded to in Boccaccio this week. Watch out for clocks. Write a one sentence summary of Gieses' thesis and note their main points of evidence. Both due Tuesday
III (no class Monday) 19 January	Commercial Revolution Doing Book Reviews	--Dec. II --Bruni, "Panegyric"* --Thorndike, "Sanitation"* --Bowsky, "Impact of Black Death"*	List all technologies used, depicted, or alluded to in Boccaccio, Villani, and Bruni this week. Essay: Compare Villani, Bruni's, and Boccaccio's depictions of Florence (1 page)
IV 24 & 26 January	Using visual and written sources critically	--Dec. III --Gies, 39-81 --Lopez, "European Merchants"* --TBA*	List all technologies used, depicted, or alluded to in Boccaccio and Lopez this week.
V 31 Jan & 2 Feb	High Middle Ages	--Dec. IV --Gies, 82-104 --Singer, "Epilogue"* --TBA*	List all technologies used, depicted, or alluded to in Boccaccio and "Milan, Florence, Fez" this week. Book Review 1 (see instructions on course web site, 5 pages)
VI 7 & 9 February	Boccaccio's World: Florence in 1350	--Dec. V -- Iris Origo, "Domestic Enemy"* --"Milan, Florence, Fez"*	List all technologies used, depicted, or alluded to in Boccaccio or Origo this week. Essay: Compare Milan, Florence, and Fez based on all readings to date (5 pages)

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VII 14 & 16 February	Power from Water and Wind	--Pizan, <u>Book of the City of Women</u> 1-45 --Gies, 105-165 --TBA	List all technologies used, depicted, or alluded to in Pizan this week.
VIII (no class Monday) 23 February	Gothic Cathedrals Clockwork: The Mumford thesis	--Dec. VII --Gies, 166-236 --Mumford, "Monastery & Clock"*** --Cipolla, Clocks*	List all technologies used, depicted, or alluded to in Boccaccio this week. Note all the appearances of clocks of any sort in all primary sources during course so far.
IX 28 Feb & 2 March	Engineering and Visual Information; Machine Books	--Dec. VIII & IX --Gies, 237-292 --Ferguson, "Mind's Eye"* --Pegolotti, "Road to Cathay"* --White, "The Eurasian Context of Medieval Europe"*	Written discussion points (but not a formal essay i.e. analyze) Pegolotti
X 7 & 9 March	Conclusion: Was there a "Renaissance"?	--TBA --Dec. X --Leonardo's "Resume"* --Taccola's "Resume"*	Compare Taccola's and Leonardo's "resumes". What do they say about the skills market of their day? (One page)

Dec. = Decameron

R= Reading is on Tacoma Reserve (physical)

* = Reading is on e-reserves (electronic)

J = Reading is at JSTOR

H= Handout in Class

All writing page lengths: plus or minus 10%

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subject to change