

## Lecture 1

### Renaissance

- Renaissance: it's the great flowering of many fields of knowledge (art, architecture, Politics, and the study of literature)
- It's break from the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Modern world.
- It's influence of Greek and Roman models
- It's start in Italy, in late of 14<sup>th</sup> cent, and got reach top in the early 16th cent <<(the period of \*Michelangelo and \*Machiavelli  
Machiavelli → in phonetics.  
Michelangelo → in Art.
- It's preferred go to human dimension, on regarding the human figure and reason without a necessary relating of it to the superhuman ← the value of man or human.
- Neoplatonic tradition in writers , such as : Pico della Mirandola
- The word Renaissance has been applied in the 20<sup>th</sup> cent, to earlier periods which manifested a new interest in and study of the classics, such as the 12th cent, and the period of Charlemagne.
- The Italian Renaissance : still seen as a watershed in the development of civilization(( source of Europeans civilization)), both **because** of its extent and because of its emphasis on the human, whether independent of or in association with the divine.

### literature of Elizabethan and Stuart England (1558–1649).

This course chiefly to:

1. undergraduate students.
2. postgraduates looking to refresh or consolidate their knowledge.
3. lecturers preparing or teaching Renaissance courses.

The beginnings of 'Renaissance' = 'Early Modern' English literature precede the accession of Elizabeth I (1558)

- it's established in England in the second half of the sixteenth century.
- On other side we could say while the literature produced between 1649 and the Restoration of the Monarchy (1660).
- Unusual historical context which produced it make the interregnum period of time Ultimate morally. ← This is why this book concentrates on the literature of the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Renaissance Definition:

The period in European history that marked the end of the Middle Ages. It began in Italy in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. In broad terms, it is usually seen as spanning the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries

although it did not reach Great Britain, for example, until the 1480s or so.

It's saw an awakening in almost every sphere of human activity, **especially** science and philosophy and the arts.

The period is best defined by the emergence of a general philosophy that emphasized the importance of the intellect, the individual and world affairs. It contrasts strongly with the medieval worldview, characterized by the dominant concerns of faith, the social, collective and spiritual salvation.

## The writing during the Renaissance:

Niccolo Machiavelli and Baldassare Castiglione **in Italy**

Miguel de Cervantes and Lope de Vega **in Spain**

Jean Froissart and Francois Rabelais **in France**

Sir Thomas More and Sir Philip Sidney **in England**

Desiderius Erasmus **in Holland.**

We will focus in this course on the major literary genres: drama, poetry and prose.

- This century, like a golden age, has restored to light the liberal arts, but almost forgotten since. (Marsilio Ficino, 1482)

## THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

- The '**Renaissance**' (meaning '**rebirth**')
- describes the movement which saw renewed European interest in classical culture between the late 14<sup>th</sup> and mid-17<sup>th</sup> centuries
- in the beginning it's Emulate the achievements of **Greek** and **Roman empires**
- The first one who used the specific term 'Renaissance' (or *rinascita*) is the **Italian art historian** **Giorgio Vasari** in his *Lives of the Most Eminent Painters*(1550)

**Giorgio Vasari**: he is describe the achievements of recent artists; achievements he saw as marking a revival in the arts.

- Some modern scholars are arguing to use of the term 'Renaissance', and they prefer to describe the period as 'early modern'; but this label has its drawbacks

, too, potentially overemphasising the similarities between Renaissance and modern culture.

## Religion:

- Religion was central to life in Renaissance England.
- everyone was Christian
- religion was not simply an ideology it was a way of life
- the Renaissance strength by Catholic Church (led by the Pope). ← In 1500 all the major Western European states and their people belonged to it.
- Recast religion and the development of policies and behavior → **Martin Luther** In 1517, he's (an ex-monk).
- **Henry VIII**= هنري الثامن wanted to marry and, of course, was not in the Christian monk allowed to marry so that the Pope did not approve his.
  - ✓ **He** established a Protestant church in England and became the Chairman and the reason is to challenge the authority of the Pope and the Catholic Church
  - ✓ **He** Wanted a way out of the Christian law, to marry has been married 6 times already, He became a defender of the faith and follow where his own views
  - ✓ In 1527 **he** was thinking of divorcing his first wife to marry Anne Boleyn.
- In Europe there was not only Protestant, but there was also Islam and Judaism.
- Both religions were not a question in that period and they are traditionally stigmatized if they were in the literature of that period.
- Judaism associated with greed and usury, and Islamic barbarism it, is trustworthy
- Image of the two religions in the Renaissance was wrong and based in the elaboration of this is indirect to the traders and diplomats Muslim.
- Western hostility to Islam existed since the Crusades, but strengthened in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when the increased power of the Ottoman Empire (Turks) and expanded westward and formed a threat to the West
- Expulsion of Jews from England in 1290 but returned later in small groups at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and formed small communities of Jews in London and Bristol.

## Magic:

- In Europe, they believe in witchcraft, even kings and great men of religion, and take the magic seriously.

- ✓ Elizabeth first consulting Juggler John Dewey to give her a tip about the most appropriate time of her coronation.
- ✓ James I participated in a series of witchcraft trials and published his own study of the subject, Demonology (1597).
- ✓ Magic spread texts in the late 16th and early 17th century.
- ✓ This literature in England to ensure non-fiction books about magic, relying on the witch trials, and a large collection of poems, plays and prose Romance on the magicians and Witches
- ✓ James first expressed interest in the Jacobite period and joined her
- ✓ Example of literature magic Yacoubi (**Macbeth**) by William Shakespeare, speaking for the following chorus of witches prophesies the future.

## برويه

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