

Humanities I

Part II

Unit 11. Three Artists Discuss Their Art

Recognizing the general characteristics of Renaissance paintings, sculpture, and architecture and knowing the criteria that Renaissance men used to judge works of art.

Discussion questions and study notes:

- 1) What principles did each of the three artists in your e reading use to judge the art of their time? (Make a list of the criteria from the selections and be sure that you can defend all the statements by direct reference to passages in the reading.)

After viewing the filmstrip--

- 2) Do you like Renaissance art? Why? Do you think the principles that guided Renaissance artists are the reasons for your liking or disliking the art of the period?
- 3) Do you think these criteria should be applied to art and architecture today?

Take careful notes on the series of slides which you will see on Renaissance artists and the great works of The Pitti Palace.

Make special research on artists in whose art you are most interested.

Supplemental Reading:

The Lives of the Renaissance Artists. You will find an immense bibliography at the end of the Renaissance Unit in your text book.

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#### Unit 12. The Artist as Scientist: Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci pursued many interests as well as art, his interests included mechanics, anatomy, geology, and other sciences as well as the fine arts. He did not desire riches but hoped to be remembered by posterity; he most valued honesty and virtue.

#### Filmstrip F. 4. Leonardo Through His Notebooks.

Discussion questions and study notes:

- 1) What hypothesis can you make about the kind of man that Leonardo was and the values that he held?
- 2) Does the evidence in the reading confirm your hypothesis?
- 3) Why do you think Leonardo was so interested in science? Do you think this interest reflects any of his values or ideals? Are there clues in the readings to help answer these questions?
- 4) Do any of Leonardo's art works that you saw in the filmstrip reflect these concerns with the value of science? Which ones?
- 5) Should artists confine themselves to depicting the beautiful? Or should they also point out the truth of life even when the truth is ugly?
- 6) Is it as easy to devote one's life to so many activities today as it was in Leonardo's time? Do you think there is value in pursuing many interests?

Make research into the life and times of Leonardo da Vinci.

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#### Unit 13. The State and the Good Society

Machiavelli favoured a "mixed" government that combined elements of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy. He believed, that an active citizen could and should make substantial contributions to the betterment of society through government.

Discussion questions and study notes:

- 1) How does Machiavelli develop his political theories? How does he use history?
- 2) What does this selection from The Discourses imply about the purpose of government?
- 3) What sort of government does Machiavelli believe will be most likely to attain this goal? How does he support his argument?
- 4) Does Machiavelli believe that good men make good institutions, or that good institutions make good men?
- 5) What does Machiavelli's position imply about the role of the citizen in political affairs?
- 6) How would Machiavelli have citizens work for the betterment of society? Do you agree with him? Here is a good time to review the current discontent, politically, by considering whether it is better to work through existing institutions, or whether these institutions must be overturned in order to improve society.
- 7) How much of his time, energy, and resources should a citizen commit to serving his society?

Supplementary reading which is mandatory:

The Prince: Niccolo Machiavelli

Translated by A. Robert Caponigri. Chicago Henry Regnery Company  
1968 (Gateway)

Mandragola: Translated by Anne and Henry Paolucci: Indianapolis, Ind.  
The Bobs-Merrill Co., Inc. 1957 (also Machiavelli's work)

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#### Unit 14. Living the Good Life in the Good Society.

In this unit we shall find that we are clarifying ideas about the extent to which practicality is preferable to idealism, or vice versa.

The Ricordi are based upon Guiccardini's conception of the nature of man as drawn from his practical experience.

Discussion questions and study notes:

- 1) How do the maxims in the Ricordi compare with other maxims that you may have heard, or with other advice about how to live?
- 2) What does Guiccardini think is the nature of man? Where did he get this idea? How does this idea affect the nature of the advice he gives?
- 3) Look through the Ricordi again and choose the one maxim that most appeals to you.
- 4) If you followed the advice in the Ricordi, do you think you would be a good man?
- 5) If you followed this advice do you think you would be leading a good life?

Written Work: Write down the three most important criteria you could hold for defining a good man. You are free to compose these criteria for yourselves or you may draw them from existing guides to conduct such as the Ten Commandments or from ideals held by people studied in this course - or elsewhere.

- 6) Do you think that your life would be better guided by the criteria you have set down for yourself or by advice such as that given by Guicce

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### Part II. Renaissance Florence Unit 15. Ideal and Reality.

#### The Geographic Setting:

We must now use geographic concepts to make hypotheses about the relationship between the geographic setting and the culture of Renaissance Florence.

Discussion questions and study notes.

- 1) In studying the importance of geography, what elements ought to be considered? (list them in your notes.)
- 2) How did each of these <sup>basic</sup> elements of the Florentine geographic setting contribute to or limit the development of Renaissance culture?
- 3) Look again at the first and third selections in your reading. How would you describe these authors' attitudes toward the geography of Tuscany?
- 4) According to Burkhardt, what were some attitudes toward nature? (of Renaissance men)
- 5) How important is natural beauty to you in the pursuit of the good life? Why?
- 6) To what extent do modern cities provide for the enjoyment of natural beauty? What must be done to make enjoyment of natural beauty more attainable in the city?

To equip yourself for valuable discussion on this topic - make research from geography books and encyclopedias on the city of Florence and its ancient history. Compare the geographic terrain in Renaissance times with modern Florence.

*The word  
could be used  
here*