This course is an examination of the art, literature, and history of Florence during the first great flowering of the Renaissance. We will read literary texts and examine works of art in class, and discuss all aspects of the works we consider. The arrangement will be roughly chronological. We will consider questions of class, gender, theology, psychology, and more, as we examine some of the major cultural works of the period. We will try to understand why it was the Florentines who initiated a new period of human history, characterized by worldliness and individualism, rigorous craftsmanship, experimentation, resistance to authority, respect for the ancients, and an abiding belief that man is the measure of all things. We meet on Fridays 10am to 12 noon in the Poetry Center.


**Book List:**


Additional materials will be provided online.