after:hours Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

**Course Descriptor**

**Course Title:** Garden History: Italian Renaissance Gardens

**Type of Course:** Adult Education

**Credit:** Not credit bearing

**Weekly Session Titles and Descriptions**

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| Week | Session Title |
| 1 | Introducing Renaissance Gardens: From Medieval to Modern |
| 2 | *Florence and the Medici Gardens* |
| 3 | Rome and the collector Popes |
| 4 | Veneto and Palladio |
| 5 | Water and Fountains |
| 6 | Sculpture in Gardens or Garden Sculpture? |
| 7 | Ovid and poetry |
| 8 | Nymphaeums and Grottoes |
| 9 | Planting and Botanic collections |
| 10 | Myths and Giants |

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| Course OverviewJoinus on a journey to discover how functional medieval gardens evolved into pleasure gardens during the Italian Renaissance.As we shall discover early garden-makers were inspired by classical literature, drawing on the descriptions of ancient Roman gardens in the letters of Pliny the Younger and the poetry of Ovid. But Italian Renaissance gardens were also full of political symbolism, especially in the Florentine gardens of the Medici, whose patronage had a huge impact on the cultural and artistic history Italy. Taught live online each week, we will look at gardens and villas ranging from the Villa Medici (Fiesole and Rome), to the Pratolino and Boboli Gardens, and the Sacro Bosco to the Villa Farnese (Caprarola), amongst many others. In them we will see how horticulture, art and political ambition fused into these unique visual spectaculars.Whether you enjoy gardening or visiting gardens, or are just fascinated by history, art history or the renaissance world, join us on this extraordinary exploration into the birth of the modern garden five centuries ago.Required Previous Experience (if any)NoneRequired Reading Material or Special Equipment Needed (if any)* None specified

Learning OutcomesAt the end of this course you should be able to1. Recognise and identify the stylistic qualities of a number of Renaissance gardens in Italy and their evolution from and differences to earlier garden forms
2. Identify the names and key works of art by some of the most significant patrons/gardeners from the Italian Renaissance tradition
3. Recognise and/or discuss a number of Italian Renaissance gardens in relation to their formal qualities, symbolism and social and historical context, and their relationship to Renaissance art.

**Possible Further Study**Further courses on the after:hours programme might be useful to you.Additional informationThis course descriptor may be subject to change during the delivery of the course, depending on the specific direction and nature of the learner cohort, and is intended to be responsive to the group dynamics as they emerge during the delivery of the course. |