

21H.311
FALL 2004

Fourth Paper: Topics

Please write a two to three-page paper in response to **ONE** of the topics below. The text should be double-spaced. The paper is due when we meet at the Fogg Art Museum on 10/13. Refer to the requirements found on the first paper topic handout for more guidance.

Topics

- 1) Leonardo Bruni wrote and circulated his *Panegyric to the City of Florence* in 1404. Why does he mention **Rome** so often in this document whose subject is Florence?
- 2) The year is 1404. Imagine you are one of the following residents of Florence: a banker or his wife, a manual laborer (male or female), a priest, the ambassador from Rome. Earlier today, you have heard Bruni's *Panegyric to the City of Florence* read aloud in the Piazza Pubblico (the central square of Florence) and you have returned home. There you come across a copy of Petrarch's *Secret*. Write a letter to a friend, or imagine a dialogue, in which you discuss your response to Petrarch's text in light of Bruni's oration. (Hint: you might wish to discuss the evolution of humanism since Petrarch's time.)