

History 103

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

"Medieval history is always slowly turning into romance"

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Office: University Hall 327

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

Spring 2011

MWF 10:30 – 11:20

MTHW 210

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Natalie Latteri, REC 419 (office hours: Monday, 12:30-2:30) nlatter@purdue.edu

Rebecca Venter REC 409 (office hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 2:00-3:00) rventer@purdue.edu

This course is an overview of medieval history from the fall of the Roman Empire to the birth of Renaissance Europe. We explore political, religious, and social changes as well as economic, technological, and cultural developments. We seek to understand the complexity of the medieval past, including an awareness of the roles that men and women played, how they understood their world and how they interacted with it and each other.

Required Texts:

Judith Bennett, *Medieval Europe: A Short History* 11th edition (McGraw, 2011)

William Levitan, trans. *Abelard and Heloise: The Letters and Other Writings* (Hackett, 2007)

Bernard O'Donoghue, trans. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Penguin Classics, 2006)

David Wright, trans. *Beowulf: A Prose Translation* (Penguin Classics, 1957)

David Herlihy, *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West* (Harvard, 1997)

Requirements:

Students will write two short analytical essays (3 to 4 pages) which will be based on the assigned readings. The essays will answer questions handed out in class and must be turned in on the day they are due in class. Late papers will be penalized. No papers will be accepted via email.

Students will also take three in-class essay exams which will be based on the lectures and the textbook.

In-class quizzes will be administered approximately every third or fourth lecture and will be based on the lectures and readings. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

A variety of extra-credit assignments will be made available throughout the semester for those students who are eager to improve their grade.

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the papers, exams, quizzes, class attendance and participation. The grade will be calculated as follows:

Quizzes & Participation	10%
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	20%
Midterm Exam 1	15%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

Rules of the Game:

Attendance to all class meetings is mandatory. Be on time: walking in late is rude. If you are late, however, I would rather you came in than missed class. Simply do not make a habit of it. Turn off all phones, watches, and pagers. Phones that ring during class will be confiscated. Anyone caught texting will be escorted out of the class. ***Laptops are not allowed without my permission.***

Understand that plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade for the entire course, and that the Dean of Students Office will be informed. The penalty for plagiarism at Purdue University is suspension.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS:

January 10	Introduction to the Course
January 12-14	The Birth & Spread of Christianity Read Chapter 1 in <i>Medieval Europe</i> , 4-19
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No Class
January 19-21	The Glory That Was Rome Read Chapter 1, 5-27
January 24-26	Sailing to Byzantium Read Chapter 3, 51-65

January 28	Library Day (No Class)
January 31	Monks & Missionaries Read Chapter 2
February 2-4	Barbarian Nations Read Chapter 1, 19-25; Chapter 4, 80-101; Chapter 5, 114-116
February 7	Discussion Beowulf First Paper Option due
February 9	First Exam
February 11-14	Islam & Islamic Civilization Read Chapter 3, 65-79
February 16	The Feudal World Read Chapter 6, 162-66
February 18	Feudalism in Action Read Chapter 4, 115-116; Chapter 10, 248-252
February 21-23	The Crusades Read Chapter 9
February 25	Knighthood Read Chapter 5, 118-120; Chapter 6, 162-3
February 28	The Agrarian Revolution Read Chapter 6, 131-50

March 2	The Commercial Revolution Read Chapter 6, 141-56
March 4-7	Abelard & The Rise of the Universities Read Chapter 11, 273-81 Discussion of Abelard and Heloise Second Paper Option due
March 9-11	World of the Peasantry Read Chapter 4, 144-50
March 14-19	Spring Break – No Classes
March 21-23	Conflict Between Church & State: In 3 Dramatic Acts Read Chapter 7, 167-77 Read Chapter 10, 251-54 Read Chapter 7, 183-87; Chapter 10, 243-44
March 25	Second Exam
March 28	The Church at Its Height Read Chapter 8, 205-10
March 30-April 4	Heresy, Witchcraft & Minority Groups Read Chapter 8, 197-99 Read Chapter 12, 316-21
April 6-8	Women in Medieval Europe: A Golden Age for Women? Read Chapter 6, 156-60
April 11	The Troubadours and King Arthur's Court Discussion of Sir Gawain & the Green Knight Third Paper Option due

April 13-15	Late Medieval Kingship in France & England Read Chapter 10
April 18	Henry V & Agincourt Chapter 13, 322-32
April 20	Gloom & Doom and the Late Medieval World Read Chapter 12
April 22-25	Late Medieval Piety Read Chapter 12, 314-21
April 27	The Black Death Discussion of Herlihy, The Black Death and the Transformation... Fourth Paper Option due
April 28	Rebirth: Renaissance in Europe Read Chapter 14