

## History 41202 (42492)

### Cultural History of the Middle Ages

2010-2011, semester 2

#### **INSTRUCTOR**

John Contreni  
Office: ENAD 121  
Hours: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. and any other mutually convenient time.  
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**Course Goals:** This course has **two goals**.

The **first goal** is to introduce students to the rich and varied cultural traditions of the first thousand years of Western European civilization--from the age of the Germanic Barbarians to the age of the great universities. For the purposes of this course, "culture" will be understood in its widest sense: it will embrace intellectuals and Barbarians, saints and heretics, aristocrats and peasants.

The **second goal** of the semester's work will be to enhance the student's ability to read historical material critically, analytically, and sensitively and to write history forcefully and with clarity.

The Department of History has designated this course as a "writing intensive" course. To fulfill this requirement, the course will integrate carefully planned writing assignments of at least 5000 words (approximately 15-20 pages) into the course so that they increase student learning and enhance student writing.

This course will achieve this goal by providing students with the opportunity to write **5 brief papers** totaling five pages, a **progress report** (2 pages), and a long **research paper** (10-15 pages). The brief papers will be based on the weekly document readings. Topics are described on the weekly discussion guides. Papers will be evaluated for their analytical content and their mastery of correct prose style. Brief papers are due the Tuesdays of Weeks 2-6.

#### **Research Paper:**

Research papers focus on a significant, but manageable topic and are based on primary documents. They also include information and interpretations from the best modern scholarship. They are written in clear, interesting, and forceful prose. Guidelines for the research paper can be found in the "Research Paper" folder on the Blackboard site for the course.

**Procedures:** The work of the course will consist of **readings, lectures, discussion, and writing**.

## **Required Texts:**

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston and New York: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2010. ISBN 13: 978-0-312-53503-2

*Reading the Middle Ages: Sources from Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic World*, ed. Barbara H. Rosenwein. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010. ISBN 9781551116938

## **Reading, Lectures, and Assignments Schedule**

### **WEEK 1: 10 January**

**Read and Discuss:** *Pocket Guide*, pp. 1-38

*Reading the Middle Ages*, 1.1, 1.2

Lectures: INTRODUCTION: MEDIEVAL CULTURE?

- I. WHERE IT ALL BEGINS: CULTURAL LEGACIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
  - a. Greek Culture
  - b. Hellenistic Culture
  - c. Roman Culture
  - d. Late Antique Culture, A. D. 180-400

### **WEEK 2: 17 January**

**Read and Discuss:** *Pocket Guide*, pp. 39-65

*Reading the Middle Ages*, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6

Lectures: II. CONSTRUCTING A MEDIEVAL CULTURE, 400-750

- a. The Problem of the "Dark Ages"
- b. The Survival of Classical Culture

**Assignment: Tuesday: Submit brief essay # 1 on one of the documents (1 page)**

### **WEEK 3: 24 January**

**Read and Discuss:** *Pocket Guide*, pp. 66-93

*Reading the Middle Ages*, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13

Lectures: II. CONSTRUCTING A MEDIEVAL CULTURE, 400-750

- c. The Patristic Tradition
- d. Monastic Culture

**Assignment: Hand in choice of topic for paper (Tuesday, 25 January)  
Tuesday: Submit brief essay # 2 on one of the documents (1 page)**

**WEEK 4: 31 January**

**Read and Discuss:** *Pocket Guide*, pp. 94-132  
*Reading the Middle Ages*, 1.14, 1.15, 1.16, 1.17  
**Lectures:** II. CONSTRUCTING A MEDIEVAL CULTURE, 400-750  
e. Barbarian Culture

**Assignment:** **Tuesday: Submit brief essay #3 on one of the documents (1 page)**

**WEEK 5: 7 February**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 2.12, 2.13, 2.15, 3.17  
**Lectures:** III. THE CULTURE OF THE FIRST EUROPE, 750-1050  
a. Introduction: The Carolingian Renaissance  
b. The Liberal Arts and the Bible

**Assignment:** **Tuesday: Submit brief essay # 4 on one of the documents (1 page)**

**WEEK 6: 14 February**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 3.1, 3.4, 3.15, 3.16, 3.19  
**Lectures:** III. THE CULTURE OF THE FIRST EUROPE, 750-1050  
c. Counting, Calendars, and Cosmology  
d. Aristocrats and Peasants

**Assignment:** **Tuesday: Submit brief essay # 5 on one of the documents (1 page)**

**WEEK 7: 21 February**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.7, 3.13, 3.14  
**Lectures:** III. THE CULTURE OF THE FIRST EUROPE, 750-1050  
e. The Carolingian Legacy  
f. Other Cultures of the First Europe

**WEEK 8: 28 February**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5  
**Lectures:** IV. THE CHALLENGE OF THE TWELFTH-CENTURY RENAISSANCE  
a. Introduction: The Year 1000 and All That  
b. The First Great Public Controversy

**Assignment:** **Hand in Progress Reports on papers (T, 1 March)**

**Exam:** **On Lecture Topics I-III and relevant Readings (Th, 3 March)**

**WEEK 9: 7 March**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 5.6, 5.8, 5.14, 5.15, 5.16, 6.26  
**Lectures:** IV. THE CHALLENGE OF THE TWELFTH-CENTURY RENAISSANCE  
c. Schools and Scholars  
d. Mystical Spirituality

**WEEK 10: 21 March**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 6.18, 6.19, 6.20  
**Lectures:** IV. THE CHALLENGE OF THE TWELFTH-CENTURY RENAISSANCE  
e. Popular Culture

**WEEK 11: 28 March**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 7.19, 7.20  
**Lectures:** V. THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY: DYNAMISM AND DIVERSITY  
a. Introduction: The Thomistic Synthesis and All That  
b. The Intellectuals

**WEEK 12: 4 April**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 6.5, 6.7, 6.12, 6.14, 7.14, 7.18  
**Lectures:** V. THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY: DYNAMISM AND DIVERSITY  
c. Statecraft  
d. Science and Technology

**WEEK 13: 11 April**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, 6.21, 6.22, 6.24, 6.25, 6.26, 6.27  
**Lectures:** V. THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY: DYNAMISM AND DIVERSITY  
e. Literature and Learning  
f. Popular Culture  
g. Gothic Art

**Assignment:** **Hand in Polished First Draft of Paper (T, 12 April)**

**WEEK 14: 18 April**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, catch-up

Lectures: VI. THE LATE MIDDLE AGES AND THE MEDIEVAL CULTURAL LEGACY  
a. Introduction: The Decline of the Middle Ages and All That  
b. The Crisis of Scholasticism

**WEEK 15: 25 April**

**Read and Discuss:** *Reading the Middle Ages*, catch-up

Lectures: VI. THE LATE MIDDLE AGES AND THE MEDIEVAL CULTURAL LEGACY  
c. Vernacular Culture  
d. Toward the Future

**Assignment:** **Hand in final version of papers (Th, 28 April)**

**FINAL EXAM WEEK: 2 May**

**Exam On Lecture Topics IV-VI and relevant Readings (TBA)**

**Writing Assignment**

In addition to attending all lectures and reading attentively the assigned readings, students will have an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of medieval culture by undertaking an independent research project on a text from the Middle Ages.

Each student will choose one text from the List of Medieval Sources (see in “Research Paper” folder on the Blackboard site for the course). This text will serve as the focus of the research project. The **primary goal** of the project is to discover and to discuss the cultural significance of the chosen text. What aspect (or aspects) of medieval culture does the text exemplify? What does the text tell us about medieval culture?

A **second goal** of the project will be to provide students with the opportunity to do historical research, to analyze critically documents, and to present their findings in clear and interesting prose.

See the “Guidelines for History 412 Paper” in the “Research Paper” folder on Blackboard for further details on this project.

Students must report their **choices** of texts on **January 25**. A **progress report** on the project will be due on **March 1**. A **polished first draft** will be due on **April 12**. The **final version** will be due on **April 28**.

## Evaluation of Student Achievement

Student achievement will be measured by evaluating the results of two exams and the quality of the written assignment.

Exams will be essay in nature and will focus on lectures and readings. In determining the overall grade for the course, the exams and written assignment will have the following weight:

Exam 1 (5 March)	=	30 pts.
Discussion		10 pts.
Research Project		30 pts.
Brief Essays (5 pts.)		
Choose topic		
Progress (5 pts.)		
First draft (10 pts.)		
Final draft (15 pts.)		
Exam 2 (TBA)	=	<u>30 pts.</u>
TOTAL	=	100 pts.

## Final Grade Scale

A+ = 97-100	B+= 86-87=	C+ = 79-81	D+ = 67-68	F = 0-58
A = 92-96	B = 82-85	C = 76-78	D = 62-66	
A- = 88-91	B- = 79-81	C- = 72-75	D- = 59-61	

## Final Words

1. At all stages of the semester's work, you are encouraged to **consult with the instructor** after class, during office hours, or via e-mail or phone to discuss the material or the work of the course or any matter affecting your academic progress and successful achievement in the course.
2. Unless one owns the text on which one is writing, **under no circumstances should one mark up or write in a text.** There are few things more disconcerting than to find a book disfigured by highlighter or other markings. Respect the property of others and think of generations of future Purdue students! (P.S.: You may wish to photocopy your text, in which case you are free to write your comments, thoughts, and queries directly on it).
3. **Plagiarism**--taking someone else's insights, thoughts, words, etc. and pretending that they are one's own--**is intellectual piracy and must never be tolerated.** This is particularly important in a writing intensive course. See chapter 6 in the *Pocket Guide* for tips on avoiding plagiarism. For University regulations regarding student conduct, see [http://www.purdue.edu/univregs/pages/stu\\_conduct/stu\\_regulations.html](http://www.purdue.edu/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_regulations.html).

