  SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

**History 103**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDIEVAL WORLD**

**"*Medieval history is always slowly turning into romance*"**

**Dr. Melinda Zook**

Phone: 494-4134 Spring 2017

Email: [mzook@purdue.edu](mailto:mzook@purdue.edu) MWF 10:30-11:20

University Hall 327 WTHR (Wetherill) 320

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

**Course Description**:

This course is a survey of medieval history in Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the birth of the Renaissance. We explore political, religious, and social changes as well as economic, technological, and cultural developments, seeking to understand the complexity of the medieval past, including an awareness of the experiences of peasants, townsfolk, students, the religious, knights and nobles. Topics include: the Birth of Christianity and decline of the Roman Empire; Barbarian nations; the Feudal World and Crusades; Chivalry, Medieval Warfare, and the Arthurian legend; Cities, Education and Daily Life; the Church, Heresy & Witchcraft; and The Black Death.

**Graduate Teaching Assistants:**

Mr. Alexander Dessens

Email: [adessens@purdue.edu](mailto:adessens@purdue.edu)

Office: REC 410

Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30 to 2:30

Ms. Stephanie Matos Ayala

Email: [smatosay@purdue.edu](mailto:smatosay@purdue.edu)

Office: REC 403

Office Hours: Fridays, 12:30 to 2:30

**Required Texts:**

[Barbara H. Rosenwein](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Barbara+H.+Rosenwein&search-alias=books&text=Barbara+H.+Rosenwein&sort=relevancerank), *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, 4th Edition (Toronto, 2014)

[Einhard](https://www.amazon.com/Einhard/e/B0034PT5JU/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1) & [Notker the Stammerer](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=UTF8&text=Notker+the+Stammerer&search-alias=books&field-author=Notker+the+Stammerer&sort=relevancerank), *Two Lives of Charlemagne* (Penguin Classics, 2008)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Penguin Classics, 2006)

Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron* (Penguin Classics, 2003)

**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. 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. Extra-credit assignment points can only be used to improve your quiz 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 and electronic gadgets. Anyone caught texting will be escorted from the class***.

Please take notes using pen and paper. Studies show that this is a more effective way to learn than using a laptop. However, if you are wedded to using a laptop, you must sit in the first rows of the classroom and you must use a word processing program only. ***Students viewing any other sites will be escorted from the classroom.***

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.

Students must use proper email etiquette when emailing myself or the TAs (an email should begin with a salutation such as “Dear Professor Zook” or “Dear Ms. Matos Ayala” and end with a proper closing, such as “Sincerely” or “Yours,”).

**Schedule of Lectures and Discussions:**

January 9 Introduction to the Course

January 11-13-18 The Birth & Spread of Christianity

Read in [Rosenwein](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Barbara+H.+Rosenwein&search-alias=books&text=Barbara+H.+Rosenwein&sort=relevancerank), pages 1-21

January 20-23 The Glory That Was Rome

January 25 Sailing to Byzantium

Read pages 29-34, 39-50

January 27 Monks and Missionaries

Jan. 30-Feb. 1 Barbarian Nations

Read pages 21-28, 58-72

Feb. 3-6 Islam & Islamic Civilization

Read pages 50-7, 87-90

February 8 Review for First Exam

February 10 **First Exam**

February 13 The Last Invasions

Read pages 127-130

February 15 No Class

Attend Melinda Hall Lecture for Love Liberal Arts Week

February 17-20The World of Charlemagne

Read pages 96-112

Discuss Paper Option 1

Begin Reading *The Two Lives of Charlemagne*

February 22 The Feudal World

Read pages 131-139

February 24 Feudalism in Action

**Paper Option 1 Due**

Feb. 27-March 1 The Crusades

Read pages 155-58, 170-173

March 3 Knighthood & Chivalry

Begin Reading *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Discuss Paper Option 2

March 6-8 The Agrarian and Commercial Revolutions

Read pages 160-164, 244-50

March 10 No Class: Library Day

March 20 The Medieval City

Read pages 218-228

**Paper Option 2 Due**

March 22-24 The Rise of the Universities

Read pages 178-181

March 27-29 World of the Peasantry

Prepare for Second Exam

March 31 **Second Exam**

April 3-5 Conflict Between Church & State: In 3 Dramatic Acts

Read pages 164-170

April 7 The Church at Its Height

Read pages 228-233

April 10-12 Women in Medieval Europe: A Golden Age for Women?

April 14 Heresy, Witchcraft & Minority Groups

Read pages 232-236, 250-252

April 17 The Troubadours and King Arthur’s Court

Revisit *Sir Gawain*

Read pages 214-218

April 19-21 Late Medieval Kingship in France & England

Read pages 289-297

Begin reading *The Decameron*

April 24 Late Medieval Piety

Read pages 258-59, 300-304

April 26 The Black Death

Read pages 276-79, 283-286

**Third Paper Option due**

April 28 The Birth of Modernity

Read pages 316-325