

History 103-2: Fall 2009
Introduction to the Medieval World
MWF 9:30-10:20, UNIV 219

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Office Hours: Monday 10:30 -12:30 and by appointment

Course Overview and Goals:

Casual reference to the Middle Ages conjures up a variety of images drawn from the imagination of popular culture. The mysterious “Dark Ages” populated by a cast of knights, monks and peasants. While entertaining, the stereotypical understanding of the Medieval World engendered by these popular myths creates very real barriers to understanding the depth and complexity of the historical Middle Ages. One of the major goals of this course will be to address the origins of the “Dark Age” moniker and assess it in terms of the continual intellectual activity throughout the course of the Middle Ages. Also, the Middle Ages all too often is represented through the perspective lens of Western Europe’s political elite. This course will attempt to illustrate the geographical and social diversity of the medieval experience by focusing on the regional variation of social structures, the cultural interchange between medieval Western Europe, the Byzantine East and the Islamic World, as well as the historical perspective of marginalized groups. Additionally, throughout the length of the course students will be exposed to a variety of primary medieval source documents. Through reading, discussing and intellectually engaging these sources the course will allow students to appreciate the methodology used to interpret historical documents and begin to develop their own skill set of interpretive tools.

Course Requirements:

- Required texts: *A Short History of the Middle Ages* (third edition) – Rosenwein

Course Grading:

- Examinations 60%
 - There will be three examinations
 - Examinations will include two essay questions and a mix of short identification
- Short Papers 30%
 - There will be two short papers
 - These assignments will be based on the primary source readings and will evaluate understanding of the texts and their relation to broader themes discussed in lecture
 - Detailed instructions for each assignment will be distributed in class no later than three weeks prior to the due date
 - Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day they are late unless accompanied by a documented excuse

- Quizzes 10%
 - There will be a combination of scheduled and pop quizzes throughout the semester
- Exam 1 = 10 %
- Exam 2 = 20 %
- Exam 3 = 30 %
- Paper 1 = 10 %
- Paper 2 = 20 %
- Quizzes = 10 %

Course Policies and Student Expectations:

- Attendance at each lecture is expected and is also essential for performing well in this course. Class will begin promptly at 9:30, so please be on time.
- Students should come to class prepared for the day's lecture. Preparation includes having completed any assignments that are due, being ready to listen and answer questions during the lecture, and finishing all the assigned readings for the class.
- Once in class, it is expected that students will be attentive, including taking notes, and that students will show respect to their classmates and the instructor.
- No class work will be accepted via email. All papers must be submitted as a hard copy on the date they are due. Late papers will be penalized.
- Students must bring a Blue Book to each exam.
- Please turn off all cell phones, watch alarms, etc. in class unless you have extenuating circumstances that you have spoken with the instructor about.
- Cheating in any form, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, copying directly out of a book (including the assigned readings) or from the internet without correct citation or even using the ideas and conclusions of other people without giving them credit. Cheating on any assignment or test will result in a failing grade for the assignment or test and may also result in a failing grade for the course. Please note that each student is responsible for the work he or she turns in. Students who cheat will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone.

Evaluations

During the last two weeks of the semester, you will be provided an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor. To this end, Purdue has transitioned to online course evaluations. On Monday of the fifteenth week of classes, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation in this evaluation is an integral part of this course. Your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.

LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Week 1: The Roman Past

- August 24: Introduction to HIST 103 – What are the Middle Ages?
 - ◆ Reading: Read the syllabus; Explore the textbook
- August 26: The *Pax Romana*
 - ◆ Reading: None
- August 28: And Then the Sky Falls – The 3rd Century Crisis and Recovery
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 21-24 and 44-56

Week 2: The Christian and Germanic Pasts

- August 31: Multiple Christianities of Late Antiquity
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 25-32
Blackboard, *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas*
- September 2: The Plundering Hordes
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 40-44
Blackboard, Procopius's *Alaric's Sack of Rome*
- September 4: Regional Variation of the Transformation
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 80-87

Week 3: Transformation of the Western Roman World

- September 7: NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
- September 9: Organizing Western Christianity: Bishops and Monks
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 97-99
Blackboard, Pope Gelasius's *On the Two Powers*
Blackboard, Pope Leo I's *On the Petrine Doctrine*
Blackboard, *The Rule of Saint Benedict*, excerpt
- September 11: Intellectual Light in the "Dark Ages" I
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 87-90
Blackboard, Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*, excerpt
Blackboard, Gregory of Tours's *History of the Franks*, excerpt

Week 4: Rome's Other Children

- September 14: Intellectual Light in the "Dark Ages" II
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 90-97
Blackboard, Bede's *The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*,
excerpt
Blackboard, Isidore of Seville's *Etymologiae*, excerpt
- September 16: The Byzantine World
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 61-70
- September 18: The Islamic World
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 70-75

Week 5: The Carolingians

- September 21: A Family Reunion: Contact Among Rome's Three Successors
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 114-118
- September 23: The Rise of the Carolingians
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 118-123
- September 25: The World of the Carolingians
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 123-126
 - Blackboard, *The General Capitulary of the Missi*, excerpts
 - Blackboard, *Admonitio Generalis*
 - Blackboard, *Vision of the Poor Women of Laon*

Week 6: Continued

- September 28: Carolingian Renaissance?
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 126-135
 - Blackboard, *Dhuoda's Handbook*, excerpt
- September 30: Evaluating the Carolingians – Exam Review
 - ◆ Reading: None Review for Exam #1
- October 2: EXAM #1

Week 7: The Invaders Strike Back

- October 5: Longships and Horsemen– Vikings and Magyars
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 152-161
 - Blackboard, *The Annals of St. Bertin*, excerpt
- October 7: England Besieged
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 161-164
- October 9: Life after the Carolingians
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 165-172

Week 8: The Tenth Century

- October 12: NO CLASS – FALL BREAK
- October 14: The Continuity of the Emperors in Purple
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 101-108 and 139-147
- October 16: Islamic Reorganization
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 108-114 and 147-151
 - Blackboard, Ibn Rushd, *Religion and Philosophy*, excerpt

Week 9: Life in the New Millennium

- October 19: Agricultural Changes
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 182-184
- October 21: Ordering of Society – Castellans, Peasants and Priests
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 205-216
 - Blackboard, Andrew Fleury's *The Peace of God at Bourges*, excerpt
- October 23: Urban Resurgence
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 184-187 and 242-252
 - Blackboard, *Purchase of Shares in a Ship*

Week 10: New Religious Sentiment: The Changing Face of Christianity

- October 26: Saints, Relics and Ritual – The Face of Popular Devotion

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 281-286

Blackboard, *The Miracles of Saint Foy*, excerpt

Blackboard, Stephen de Bourdon's *On St. Guinefort*, excerpt

- October 28: Rising Orthodoxy and Reforming Monks

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 187-190 and 252-255

- October 30: Origins of the Crusading Ideal

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 193-196

Blackboard, *At Claremont*

Week 11: Western Europe Encounters the Other

- November 2: Life of Crusade

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 196-197

Blackboard, Ibn Al-Athir's *The First Crusade*, excerpt

Blackboard, Anna Comnena's *Alexiad*, excerpt

Blackboard, Raymund d'Aguiliers's *History of the Franks Who Captured Jerusalem*, excerpt

- November 4: Crusades Across Europe

- ◆ Reading Rosenwein, 256-259

- November 6: The "Others" Within Our Midst

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 255-256 and 272-274

Blackboard, *Attack on the Rhineland Jews*

Blackboard, *Inquisition Records*, excerpt

Week 12: The Medieval State

- November 9: EXAM #2

- November 11: The Lion and the Lamb – The Papacy and Holy Roman Empire

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 190-193 and 231-236

Blackboard, Henry IV's *Letter to Gregory the VII*

Blackboard, Gregory VII's *Second Banning of Henry IV*

- November 13: Medieval State Building

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 225-230 and 275-279

Week 13: Late Medieval Culture

- November 16: Medieval University 101

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 203-205

Blackboard, Jacques de Vitry's *The Life of Students at Paris*, excerpt

Blackboard, *Medieval Students' Songs*

- November 18: Medieval Expression

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 238-242 and 287-296

Blackboard, Fabliaux, *Brownie*, *The Priest's Cow* and *The Priest Who Peeked*

- November 20: The Medieval Mind

- ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 286-287

Blackboard, Peter Abelard's *Sic et Non*, excerpt

Week 14: The Late Medieval East

- November 23: The Medieval Peripheries
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 263-267 and 309-311
- November 25: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK
- November 27: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15: Crisis of the Fourteenth Century

- November 30: Famine and Death
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 305-308
 - Blackboard, Boccaccio's *Decameron: Introduction*
 - Blackboard, Ibn Battuta's *Travels*, excerpt
 - Blackboard, Gabriele de Mussis's *History of the Plague*
 - Blackboard, Ibn al-Wardi's *Essay on the Report of the Pestilence*
- December 2: Impact of the Black Death
 - ◆ Reading: Blackboard, *The Plague and Anti-Semitism*
- December 4: The Hundred Years' War
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 312-319
 - Blackboard, Jon of Arc *Letter to the King of England*

Week 16: Continued

- December 7: Challenges to the Medieval Power Structure
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 319-324
 - Blackboard, Jean Froissart's *Chronicles*, excerpt
- December 9: The Great Schism
 - ◆ Reading: Rosenwein, 324-326
 - Blackboard, *Manifesto of Revolting Cardinals*
 - Blackboard, *The Council of Constance*, excerpt
- December 11: So What About the Dark Ages? - Review
 - ◆ Reading: None – Review for Exam #3 (Date and time TBA)