

Medieval Europe

History 140
Spring 2010
Comenius 305
Tuesday and Thursday, 1:10 pm-2:20 pm

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Office Hours: Monday, 10:15 am – 11:15 am; Tuesday, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm; Wednesday, 10:15 am – 11:15 am; Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm (and by appointment)

This course covers the foundational period in European history from ca. 500 to ca. 1500, a time that would later be dubbed “the Middle Ages.” This is an unfortunate term that compares it unfavorably with ancient and modern greatness. Many modern observers condemn the medieval age as one of darkness, ignorance, brutality, and intolerance. Yet the people of this time saw their era as history’s latest and greatest accomplishment, and historians have studied the many political, religious, cultural, and artistic advancements that characterized the time. Our work together will allow us to hear the voices of the men and women who lived during this period, and to learn how to evaluate the broader historical significance of medieval Europe.

Topics covered in this class include the transition from the Roman to the early medieval world; the formation of Byzantine and Islamic societies; the emergence of Barbarian kingdoms; Viking invasions; feudalism; European expansion; late-medieval government; the disasters of the late Middle Ages; religious thought and practice; women’s roles in medieval society; the highlights of medieval and Renaissance culture; and the legacy of the Middle Ages. The assignments will focus on texts and other material produced by medieval civilization.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Goals of the Course

- This is an 100-level history course, which fulfills the M1 Learning in Common requirement.
- To gain a greater understanding of the major events and trends of the history of Europe from ca. 500 to ca. 1500.
- To practice the art of an historian: that is, to learn the defining characteristics of a period and how they changed over time, to read the sources upon which historical evaluations are based, and to form interpretations about the period from reading.
- To learn the difference between primary and secondary sources, and how to analyze and evaluate primary texts and other materials produced by medieval civilization.
- To improve the ability to read, discuss, and write about the past.

Required Texts – Available for Purchase in the Bookstore

- Barbara H. Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, 3rd ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009). ISBN 978-1442601048.
- Patrick Geary, *Readings in Medieval History*, 3rd ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2003). ISBN 978-1551115504.
- Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades*, trans. Caroline Smith (New York: Penguin Classics, 2008). ISBN 978-0140449983.
- Additional material will be made available to students enrolled in the course.

Please note:

- While you are free to purchase the books on the Internet, make sure you find the same editions listed here.
- These books have also been put on reserve at Reeves Library.
- Be sure to bring assigned reading to class for discussion. You should have *Readings in Medieval History* with you at every session.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class and to be punctual. It is the students' obligation to take notes on lectures; I do not produce written copies of lectures. Much of the information and methods presented in class, which will form part of the material that will be tested on exams and papers, cannot be found in the textbook. In addition, students will not be able to gain any credit for participation or group work if they do not attend class sessions.

In the cases of *documented* illness or family emergency that will make it impossible for students to attend class or complete assignments, students are urged to get in touch with the instructor.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are expected to adhere to Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy for all assignments in this course. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the definition of plagiarism, which (even when done inadvertently) is considered a serious offense. I expect that all exams and papers are *your own work*. Any time that you use someone else's ideas in a paper, you must give credit to the person. For further information, see the appropriate pages in the Student Handbook or come speak with me.

Schedule of Classes and Reading

Tuesday, 1/19/10: **Introduction to the Middle Ages**

Thursday, 1/21/10: **End of the Roman World**

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 21-40

P. Geary, readings 2, 3 (pp. 48-60, 61-68)

Tuesday, 1/26/10: **Barbarians at the Gates?**

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 40-56

P. Geary, readings 4, 6 (pp. 69-82, 118-19)

Thursday, 1/28/09: **The Byzantine World in Transition**

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 61-70, 101-8, 139-47

Online: Seven sources from the Medieval Sourcebook under "Justinian" at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pgc.asp?page=sbook1c.html#Justinian>

- Procopius, "On Justinian."
- Procopius, "On the Racing Factions."
- Procopius, "On the Nika Revolt."
- Procopius, "The Roman Silk Industry."
- Procopius, "The Plague."
- Procopius, "The Reconquest of Africa."
- Procopius, "Description of Hagia Sophia."

*Tuesday, 2/2/10: **The Rise and Flowering of Islam***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 70-75, 108-17, 147-51

Qur'an, surahs 1, 3, 8, 30, 47. There are several reliable online versions, including: <http://www.usc.edu/schools/college/crcc/engagement/resources/texts/muslim/quran/>

*Thursday, 2/4/10: **The Emergence of the Franks***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 75-87

P. Geary, readings 7-9, 11 (pp. 120-38, 162-67)

Assignment: First quiz

*Tuesday, 2/9/10: **Italy at the Crossroads***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 90-99

P. Geary, reading 13 (pp. 199-220)

The First Roman Ordo (to be distributed to enrolled students)

*Thursday, 2/11/10: **Anglo-Saxon England***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 87-90

P. Geary, reading 15 (pp. 224-35)

NB: There is no formal class meeting for this session. Students will be forwarded a link to watch a lecture on Anglo-Saxon England that will be tested on the midterm.

Assignment: First paper due on Friday, 2/12 by 5 pm

*Tuesday, 2/16/10: **The Age of Charlemagne***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 101-35

P. Geary, reading 18 (pp. 282-96)

*Thursday, 2/18/10: **The Rule of Benedict***

Reading: P. Geary, reading 12 (pp. 168-98)

Assignment: First group work project (Dr. Romano will explain procedure on 2/16.)

*Tuesday, 2/23/10: **Invasions and Response***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 152-55

"Master and Slave Even Until Death" (to be distributed to enrolled students)

Online: Three sources from the Medieval Sourcebook under "External Attacks" at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1i.html#External%20Attacks>:

- “The Annals of Xanten, 845-53.”
- “Three Sources on the Ravages of the Northmen in Frankland.”
- “Abbo of Fleury, The Martyrdom of St. Edmund, King of East Anglia.”

*Thursday, 2/25/10: **Midterm Exam***

*Tuesday, 3/2/10: **Lords and Vassals***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 156-72
P. Geary, readings 25-27 (pp. 386-406)

*Thursday, 3/4/10: **Church Reform and Popular Religion***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 177-93
P. Geary, readings 20-21, 39-40 (pp. 321-35, 608-35)

*Tuesday, 3/16/10: **European Expansion***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 193-202
P. Geary, reading 28 (pp. 407-42)

*Thursday, 3/18/10: **Twelfth-Century Renewal***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 203-216
P. Geary, reading 23 (pp. 350-59)
Assignment: Second quiz

*Tuesday, 3/23/10: **Ruling and Administering England***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 219-29
P. Geary, readings 49-50 (pp. 766-93)

*Thursday, 3/25/10: **Strength and Weakness in the Holy Roman Empire***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 229-37
P. Geary, readings 41-42 (pp. 636-62)

*Tuesday, 3/30/10: **Marsilius of Padua***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 237-51, 286-301
P. Geary, reading 36 (pp. 545-66)
Assignment: Second group work project

*Thursday, 4/1/10: **Strengthened Monarchy in France and the Mongol Empire***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 263-79
P. Geary, reading 45 (pp. 705-15)

Mission to Asia, ed. Christopher Dawson (Toronto; Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1980), pp. 77-86. (These pages of the book can be accessed online at books.google.com, and the book is also available on reserve.)

*Tuesday, 4/6/10: **The Ascendant Church***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 252-59
P. Geary, readings 29-31 (pp. 443-77)

Thursday, 4/8/10: Crisis in the Church

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 280-86, 324-27
P. Geary, readings 47, 56 (pp. 742-57, 815-23)

Tuesday, 4/13/10: Changing Women's Roles Across the Middle Ages

Reading: P. Geary, reading 37 (pp. 567-99)

Thursday, 4/15/10: Joan of Arc

Assignment: Second paper due by 5 pm

Tuesday, 4/20/10: The Hundred Years' War (And Other Disasters)

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 305-24
P. Geary, reading 46 (pp. 716-41)

Thursday, 4/22/10: Reading Inquisition Records

Reading: P. Geary, reading 35 (pp. 524-44)
Assignment: Third group work project

Tuesday, 4/27/10: Renaissance Italy

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 327-41
P. Geary, readings 55, 57-58 (pp. 813-14, 824-51)

Thursday, 4/29/10: End of the Middle Ages and their Legacy

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 342-49
Letters and documents of John Hus in *John Hus at the Council of Constance*, trans. Matthew Spinka (New York: Columbia University Press, 1965), pp. 237-42, 257-59, 260-69, 275-76, 288-9, 295-98 (to be distributed to enrolled students and the book is also available on reserve).

Friday, 5/7/10: Final exam at 1:30 pm-4:30 pm in Comenius 305

Grading

Second paper (8-9 pp.), due on 4/15	25%
Final exam, on 5/7/10 at 1:30 pm	25%
First paper (4-5 pp.), due on 2/12	15%
Midterm, on 2/25	15%
Participation	10%
Quizzes, on 2/4, 3/18	5% (both equal weight)
Group work, on 2/18, 3/30, 4/22	5% (all three equal weight)

Requirements

- The first paper (4-5 pp., due by 5 pm on 2/12) will construct an argument based upon Jordanes' *History of the Goths* (P. Geary, reading 5, pp. 83-117) or Gregory of Tours' *History of the Franks* (P. Geary, reading 10, pp. 139-61).
- The second paper (8-9 pp., due by 5 pm on 4/15) will construct an argument based on either Geoffrey of Villehardouin's *The Conquest of Constantinople* (pp.

5-101) or John of Joinville's *The Life of Saint Louis* (pp. 141-59, 163-224, 312-36). Both sources are contained in the book *Chronicles of the Crusades*. Students may also choose their own sources, but *only in consultation with the professor*.

- Late papers will be penalized one “step” per day late (e.g., an A paper would become an A-; an A- paper would become a B+; and so on).
- Descriptions of the format for both papers will be distributed in class and discussed. Both papers should employ footnotes for references, and use the Chicago Manual of Style format.
- Papers must be submitted in hard copy.
- Students who would like help with their writing are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center.
- Please note that it is within my purview as an instructor to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades. I will do my utmost to be fair and consistent.
- The midterm will demonstrate knowledge of significant events, figures, and terms of the period, and an ability to synthesize the primary sources analyzed in class. To be taken in class on 2/25.
- The final will require a similar mastery of significant events, figures, terms, and sources of the period. Some of the questions will require students to identify and discuss primary sources assigned for class. The material on the exam will focus on what has been covered after the midterm, but certain essay questions will require you to reflect on themes we have studied throughout the entire course.
- Quizzes will require students to discuss passages for primary sources that they have prepared for class. To be taken at the beginning of class on 2/4 and 3/18.
- The format for the midterm, final, and quizzes will be discussed in class.
- There are no make-up examinations, quizzes, or group work projects, save for documented emergencies.
- Group work assignments will require students to discuss a primary source prepared for class with fellow students in the group and to submit a written response to questions posed by the professor. The students in each group will produce one report and will receive the same grade for their final product.
- Participation grades are assigned based upon your contributions in lectures and class discussion. It is imperative that you prepare the readings assigned for each day before class and are ready to talk about them. Simply attending class does not guarantee you a high participation mark; you must speak about the sources.
- There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.
- Please note that this schedule is subject to change when circumstances make it necessary. Students will be made aware of any modifications as soon as possible.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities who need special facilities or consideration should present the appropriate documentation from Disability Support Services to the instructor.