

History 221 – Medieval Legacy (GHP, GPM, GL)
Fall 2009

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Introduction

Welcome to medieval history! In our romantic imaginations, the history of the Middle Ages is concerned primarily with knights in shining armor, damsels in distress, and quests after such items as the “Holy Grail.” While the nobility, women, and Christianity will all play a part in our course, the sources we examine and the questions we ask of them will bear little resemblance to scenes from King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Instead, we will be looking at a wide variety of sources to see 1) how the exercise of government changed over this period as kings and nobles struggled to exert their authority; 2) how the beliefs, practices, & institutional functions of Christianity changed over this period; 3) how women participated in various facets of medieval culture; and 4) how individuals were defined by the various groups to which they belonged. The Middle Ages - roughly the period from 500 (the end of the Roman Empire in the West) to 1400, or 1500, or 1600 (depending on when the Renaissance occurred in a particular location) – could be described as a period in which people were engaged in defining who was “in” and who was “out” of various groups. In order to create such a definition, each person’s role in medieval society had to be defined, and further, so did each aspect of his or her role. Thus, we will look at changes in the history of law & government, the history of Christianity, and the history of women through the prism of a society that was attempting to codify precisely what it meant to be a part of that society. It would also be useful for you to keep in mind that while for many historians the Middle Ages marks the beginning of modern history, for others the Middle Ages is a period characterized primarily by its differences from the modern (or post-modern) world in which we live. We will be engaged in a search for modern institutions which have their origins in the medieval period, but we will not be blind to the differences that exist between that age and our own.

To formulate our own conclusions about these questions, we will be using primary sources (those written during the Middle Ages). In order to make good oral and written evaluations of the sources, you must always consider the biases, both positive and negative, of the author and the nature of the source. All historical sources are not created equal; you’ll need to make informed judgments about each of them. Since this is a history course, the topics of our discussions will be roughly chronological, but we will be more concerned with analytical methods than with strict chronology. In other words, you will spend more time in this class reading and analyzing primary source materials than you will spend memorizing names and dates.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- explain the significance of terms (people, events, places, dates) as they relate to the four aspects of medieval society we will examine.
- construct an analytical essay using related primary source material as evidence to support an argument in answer to a specific historical question.
- understand which elements in medieval society can be seen as origins for modern beliefs or institutions and which cannot.

Grade Breakdown

First Midterm	25%
Second Midterm	25%
Final	50%

Assignments

Midterms: Both of the midterms will have two sections, one in class and one outside of class. In class, you will answer a series of questions with brief responses. No notes will be allowed for this section. For the second part of each exam, you will write a 3-4 page typed essay on an assigned question.

Final: The final will be an entirely take-home exam for which you will need to answer three questions.

For Your Information

Attendance: After you have missed three class periods for any reason, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (ie from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

Honor code: Any violation of the honor code (such as plagiarism or cheating) will be dealt with according to UNCG's academic integrity policy. I am particularly concerned about plagiarism from the web. I do not want you to use websites for any of the writing assignments unless a particular website is specifically included as part of the assignment. The primary sources and the lectures will provide you with sufficient information to complete the assignments. For specific explanations about UNCG's academic integrity policy, see the Student Affairs website at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

Assignment completion: Failure to complete any part of the course will result in an "F" for the course.

Computer Use: You are more than welcome to use your laptop computer to take notes and to look at websites to which I refer during lecture. I reserve the right, however, to ask you not to bring your computer to class if I discover that you have been using it for personal purposes (e-

mail, shopping, web surfing, etc.) during class. Not only is this rude to me as the instructor, it's incredibly distracting to your fellow students.

Reading Advice

Because most of these documents will be totally unfamiliar to you, I recommend taking notes on them as you read. It is also useful to write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) of each document so that you can remember the contents of each text for future reference. Taking notes on the primary sources you will be writing essays on is especially important. It's much easier to note down important points as you read than it is to go back and find those points again once you've finished reading. Finally, I recommend reading each document more than once. Sometimes it will take two (or even three) readings for something to make sense to you. Because the amount of reading for our course is fairly small, you'll have plenty of time for re-reading.

Blackboard

Be sure to check on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uncg.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>) for course announcements, assignments, and links to important websites.

Adverse Weather Conditions

If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university's website (www.uncg.edu). If the university is open, I will hold class.

Resources

Writing Center: In addition to seeking the instructor's advice about writing assignments, students can seek assistance in the Writing Center located in 3211 MHRA Bldg. Their phone number is 334-3125 and their hours are posted on their website:

<http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>.

Jackson Library: For access to all of the Jackson Library's resources, go to <http://library.uncg.edu/>.

Dictionary: For access to the detailed word definitions of the Oxford English Dictionary, go to the library website (listed above), click on Databases, click on "O," and then select "Oxford English Dictionary."

Primary Sources (Required)

Patrick Geary, *Readings in Medieval History*, 3rd edition (Broadview, 2003). ISBN 978-1-551-11550-4.

Anonymous, *Beowulf* (Penguin, 2001). ISBN 978-0-140-44931-0.

Anonymous, *Song of Roland*, ed. Glyn Burgess. (Penguin, 1990). ISBN 978-0-140-44532-9.

Chrétien de Troyes, *Erec and Enide*, ed. Dorothy Gilbert (California, 1992) ISBN 978-0-520-07346-3.

Secondary Source (Required)

C. Warren Hollister and Judith Bennett, *Medieval Europe: A Short History*, 10th edition (McGraw-Hill, 2006). ISBN 978-0-072-95515-6.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Monday, August 24 – Introductions – Europe in 500

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 3 (50-67)

Wednesday, August 26 – St. Benedict and Early Medieval Monasticism

Primary Source Readings: Geary; *The Rule of Saint Benedict* (168-198)

Friday, August 28 – the Papacy of Gregory the Great

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Gregory the Great *Dialogues* (199-220)

Monday, August 31 – the world of *Beowulf*

Primary Source Readings: *Beowulf* (3-79)

Wednesday, September 2 – *Beowulf*

Primary Source Readings: *Beowulf* (79-113)

Friday, September 4 – no class

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day – no class

Wednesday, September 9 – Clovis

Primary Source Readings: Geary - *The Tomb of Childeric: Father of Clovis* (120-128);
Gregory of Tours *History of the Franks* (139-161)

Friday, September 11 – Salic Law

Primary Source Readings: Geary – *Salic Law* (129-136)

Monday, September 14 – Fredegund and Brunhild

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/frankish-queens.htm> (Read sections F-O)

Wednesday, September 16 – Early Medieval Sanctity – Balthild

Primary Source Readings: Geary - *Life of Saint Balthild* (162-167)

Friday, September 18 – Charlemagne

Primary Source Readings: Geary - Einhard, *Life of Charles the Great* (282-296); Selected Capitularies (297-320)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 5 (97-118)

Monday, September 21 – Charlemagne and the Carolingian Renaissance

Wednesday, September 23 – Alfred and the Vikings

Primary Source Readings: Geary - King Alfred (236-261)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 6 (119-147)

Friday, September 25 – Alfred and law

Monday, September 28 – First Midterm

Wednesday, September 30 – Rollo and the Vikings in France

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/843bertin.html>

Friday, October 2 – Investiture

Primary Source Readings: Geary -Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV *The Investiture Controversy* (608-635)

Monday, October 5 – Cluny/Clairvaux

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Cluniac charters: Foundation charter of the order, Charters of the Grossi family (321-327)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 8 (186-214)

Wednesday, October 7 – Hugh and William of Aquitaine

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Fulbert of Chartres *Letter to William of Aquitaine* (386); Hugh of Lusignan *Agreement between Lord and Vassal* (387-392); Galbert of Bruges *The Murder of Charles the Good* (393-406)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 7 (156-185)

Friday, October 9 –4 stories of the First Crusade

Primary Source Readings: The First Crusade, Four Accounts (407-442)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 9 (215-239)

Monday, October 12 – No class – Fall Break

Wednesday, October 14 – *Song of Roland*

Primary Source Readings: *Song of Roland* (pages t.b.a.)

Friday, October 16 – *Song of Roland*

Primary Source Readings: *Song of Roland* (pages t.b.a.)

Monday, October 19 – 12th century marriage reforms

Primary Source Readings: In Blackboard

Wednesday, October 21 – *Erec and Enide*

Primary Source Readings: *Erec and Enide*, 43-152

Friday, October 23 – *Erec and Enide*

Primary Source Readings: *Erec and Enide*, 152-252

Monday, October 26 – Henry II & Becket

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1177peterblois-hen2.html>

Wednesday, October 28 – Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/eleanor.html>;

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1177peterblois-hen2.html>

Friday, October 30 – Innocent III

Primary Source Readings: Geary – *Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council* (443-469)

Monday, November 2 – St. Francis and St. Clare

Primary Source Readings: Geary – *The Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi* (470-473); Clare of Assisi *Testament* (474-477)

Wednesday, November 4 – John of England

Friday, November 6 – Magna Carta, the ‘great charter’

Primary Source Readings: Geary – *Magna Carta* (776-793)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 11 (266-288)

Monday, November 9 – Second Midterm

Wednesday, November 11 – St. Louis

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Joinville *Life of Saint Louise and Enquêts of Saint Louis* (686-715)

Friday, November 13 – Parliament

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/ed1-summons.html>;
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/conf-charters.html>;
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1376goodparliament.html>

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 11 (266-288)

Monday, November 16 – the Babylonian Captivity

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister and Bennett – Chapter 10 (240-265)

Wednesday, November 18 – Schism and councils

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Marsilius of Padua *Discourses* (545-566)

Friday, November 20 – Montaillou

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Jacques Fournier *Inquisition Records* (524-544)

Monday, November 23 – the Hundred Years' War and Social Unrest

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Froissart *Chronicles* (716-741)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 13 (325-345)

Wednesday, November 25 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Friday, November 27 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Monday, November 30 – Joan of Arc

Primary Source Readings: Geary – The Trial of Joan of Arc (742-757)

Wednesday, December 2 – Boccaccio and the Black Death

Primary Source Readings: Boccaccio – Prologue to the *Decameron* (Handout)

Friday, December 4 – Late Medieval Women – the Wife of Bath and Margery Kempe

Primary Source Readings: Geary – The Book of Margery Kempe (567-599),
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/CT-prolog-bathmod.html> (the Prologue to the
Wife of Bath's *Tale*)

Monday, December 7 – Petrarch – Medieval or Renaissance Man?

Friday, December 11 – Final exam due in my office (MHRA 2102) by 12 noon.