

History 221 – Medieval Legacy (GHP, GPM, GL)
Fall 2012

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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 defined themselves by the various groups to which they belonged. In looking at all of these themes over the course of 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) – we will be examining sweeping cultural changes and the lives of individual people. One of our tasks as we read about individual people will be to consider how their stories reflect or affect these larger cultural changes. As we pursue our inquiries, it would 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 cultural changes, 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

Upon successful completion of the course the student 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.
- construct an analytical review of secondary source material
- understand which elements in medieval society can be seen as origins for modern beliefs or institutions and which cannot.

Grade Breakdown

2 Quizzes (5% each)	10%
Midterm	25%
Article Review	25%
Final	40%

Assignments

Quizzes: Twice during the semester, you will be required to complete a 10-15-minute quiz concerning the reading material. Quiz dates are in the schedule section of the syllabus.

Midterm: The midterm will have two sections, one in class and one outside of class. In class, you will write several short identification essays. 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.

Article Review: The article review will be a 3-4 page review based on your analysis of a scholarly article from a journal or a book of essays. The point of the review is to show whether or not the author proves his or her thesis. I will provide ideas on where and how to search for appropriate articles.

Final: The final will be an entirely take-home exam for which you will need to answer several questions for a total of 9-10 pages.

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.

Academic Integrity: Any violation 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 discussions 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://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>.

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.

Cell Phones: Turn off your cell phones prior to the beginning of class. If you use your phone for talking or texting during class, I will ask you to leave it on the front table every class period for the rest of the semester.

E-mail: I will make every attempt to respond to an e-mail from you within 24 hours. If you don't hear from me within that timeframe, feel free to write again. Remember also that I don't stay up particularly late, so if you e-mail me at 2:00 a.m. I won't get it until the next morning. Finally, be sure to check your UNCG e-mail regularly. All mail that I send to the class through Blackboard will come to that account.

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*, 4th edition (U Toronto, 2010). ISBN 978-1-4426-0120-8.

Keynes, Simon and Michael Lapidge. *Alfred the Great. Asser's Life of Alfred and Other Contemporary Sources*. (Penguin, 1983) ISBN 978-0140444092.

Suger, *The Deeds of Louis the Fat* (Hopkins, Catholic U of America, 1992). ISBN 978-0813207582.

Fanous, Samuel, ed. *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (Oxford OP, 2010). ISBN 978-0199556052.

Radice, Betty and Michael Clanchy, ed. and trans. *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, Revised edition (Penguin, 2003). ISBN 978-0140448993.

Greco, Gina and Christine Rose, trans. *The Good Wife's Guide. A Medieval Handbook*. (Cornell UP, 2009). ISBN 978-0801474743.

Secondary Source (Recommended)

Judith Bennett, *Medieval Europe: A Short History*, 11th edition (McGraw-Hill, 2011). ISBN 978-0-07-338550-1.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Tuesday, August 21 – Introductions – The Study of History: What is it?

Thursday, August 23 – The Study of History: How we know what we know

Tuesday, August 28 – Currents in early medieval Christian culture: monasticism

St. Benedict and Early Medieval Monasticism

Primary Source Readings: Geary; *The Rule of Saint Benedict* (159-188)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 2 (40-50)

Thursday, August 30 – Currents in early medieval Christian culture: the *Life* of Balthild

Primary Source Readings: Geary - *Life of Saint Balthild* (153-158)

Tuesday, September 4 – Early Medieval Rulers: Clovis

Primary Source Readings: Geary - *The Tomb of Childeric: Father of Clovis; Letters to Clovis* (113-121 and 129-130) Gregory of Tours *History of the Franks* (131-152) *Salic Law* (122-128)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 2 (28-40)

Thursday, September 6 – Early Medieval Rulers: Charlemagne

Primary Source Readings: Geary - Einhard, *Life of Charles the Great* (266-279); Selected Capitularies (280-301)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 4 (80-101)

Tuesday, September 11 – Early Medieval Rulers: Another View of the Carolingians

Secondary Source Readings: Timothy Reuter, “Plunder and Tribute in the Carolingian Empire,” *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, 5th Ser., vol. 35. (1985), 75-94.

Thursday, September 13 – Early Medieval Rulers: Alfred of Wessex

Primary Source Readings: Alfred

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 5 (107-116)

Tuesday, September 18 – Frankish Women: Fredegund and Brunhild

Primary Source Readings: Excerpts from Gregory of Tours’ *History of the Franks* – (e-reserve)

Thursday, September 20 – Essay Workshop

Tuesday, September 25 – Midterm

Thursday, September 27– Kings and Nobles: Rollo and the Vikings in France

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

- Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 5 (116-122)
- Tuesday, October 2 – Kings and Nobles: Suger's *The Deeds of Louis the Fat*
Primary Source Readings: *The Deeds of Louis the Fat* (23-83)
- Thursday, October 4 – Kings and Nobles: Hugh of Lusignan and William of Aquitaine
Primary Source Readings: Geary – Fulbert of Chartres *Letter to William of Aquitaine* (376); Hugh of Lusignan *Agreement between Lord and Vassal* (377-381); Galbert of Bruges *The Murder of Charles the Good* (382-393)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 6 (162-166)
- Tuesday, October 9 – Prophecy and Order: The Investiture Controversy
Primary Source Readings: Geary -Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV *The Investiture Controversy; The Concordat of Worms* (562-587)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 7 (167-177)
- Thursday, October 11 – Prophecy and Order: Cluny and Clairvaux, St. Francis and St. Clare
Primary Source Readings: Geary – Cluniac charters: Foundation charter of the order, Charters of the Grossi family (315-321) ; *The Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi* (456-459); Clare of Assisi *Testament* (460-463)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 8 (199-210)
- Tuesday, October 16 – Fall Break, no class
- Thursday, October 18 – Prophecy and Order: Innocent III
Primary Source Readings: Geary – *Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council* (430-455)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 7 (184-187)
- Tuesday, October 23 – Marriage (or not) in the Twelfth Century
Readings Quiz
- Thursday, October 25 – Marriage and not: Heloise and Abelard
Primary Source Readings: Letter 1 (Abelard's *Historia calamitatum*); Letters 2-5 (The Personal Letters)
- Tuesday, October 30 – Marriage – Not!: Christina of Markyate
Primary Source Readings: *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (3-88)
- Thursday, November 1 – Marriage – Not!: Christina of Markyate

Secondary Source Readings: Kathryn Kelsey Staples and Ruth Mazo Karras, "Christina's Tempting. Sexual desire and women's sanctity," in *Christina of Markyate*, ed. Samuel Fanous (New York: Routledge, 2005), 184-196.

Tuesday, November 6 – Contesting Authority: Henry II

Primary Source Readings:

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

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 10 (248-253)

Readings quiz

Thursday, November 8 – Contesting Authority: John of England and Magna Carta

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Magna Carta (735-751)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 10 (254-255)

Tuesday, November 13 – Papal Decline: the Babylonian Captivity, Schism and councils

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Marsilius of Padua *Discourses* (502-522)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 7 (187-189); Chapter 12 (313-321)

Thursday, November 15 – Things Fall Apart: The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

Primary Source Readings: Boccaccio – Prologue to the *Decameron* (e-reserve);
Froissart *Chronicles* (677-700)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 12 (301-313)

Article review due at the beginning of class

Tuesday, November 20 – Late Medieval Women: Joan of Arc and Béatrice de Planissoles

Primary Source Readings: Geary – The Trial of Joan of Arc (701-715); Jacques Fournier *Inquisition Records* (482-501)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 13 (323-327)

Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Holiday – no class

Tuesday, November 27 – Late Medieval Women: the Wife of Bath and Margery Kempe

Primary Source Readings: Geary – The Book of Margery Kempe (523-553),
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/CT-prolog-bathmod.html> (the Prologue to the
Wife of Bath's *Tale*)

Thursday, November 29 – Late Medieval Women: The Goodwife of Paris

Primary Source Readings: *The Good Wife's Guide* (49-103)

Thursday, December 6 – Final exam due in my office (MHRA 2102) by 9 a.m.