

Medieval Legacy

HIS 221-01

T R 11-12:15

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Introduction

Stuck between the supposed glory of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, the medieval period often gets a bad rap. The Middle Ages – a period spanning from around 500 (the end of the Roman Empire in the West) to 1400, 1500, or 1600 (depending on when the Renaissance occurred in a particular location) – is frequently portrayed as either the “Dark Ages” or the idyllic world of chivalry and King Arthur’s knights, and thus loses much of its vibrant (yet often dangerous) reality. In this course, we will investigate primary sources (those written during the period) in order to uncover the reality of 1) how the structure and 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 literature and education developed and influenced people’s understandings of the world; and 4) how individuals were defined by the various groups to which they belonged. Thus, rather than solely memorizing names and dates, we will be looking at changes in law, governmental structure and practice, Christianity, and social organization in order to understand how all of these aspects worked together to create a dynamic, fluid society.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of the political, religious, and social history of the European Middle Ages (c.500-1500)
2. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
3. Synthesize material from a variety of sources to produce a larger analytical conclusion
4. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.
5. Demonstrate logical argumentation in speech and in writing.

Books:

1. Patrick J. Geary, *Readings in Medieval History*, 4th edition (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2010) [ISBN: 9781442601208]
2. Anonymous, *Song of Roland*, ed. Glyn Burgess. (Penguin, 1990). ISBN 9780140445329. (Though any edition of this is fine)

Recommended: Wim Blockmans and Peter Hoppenbrouwers, *Introduction to Medieval Europe 300-1500*, 2th edition (Routledge, 2014) [ISBN: 9780415675871]

Though not required, Blockmans and Hoppenbrouwers' text will give you an excellent overview of the period. If you find it difficult to put concepts in context or maintain a conceptual timeline, this book will help.

Online texts. There are quite a few readings located online, mostly at the Online Medieval Sourcebook or on Canvas. For each of these readings, I have listed the link where they may be found (The on-line version of this syllabus has clickable links and so does Canvas). If you have trouble using the internet, please see me for assistance. Please note that lacking internet access the day a reading is due is no excuse for not having read it. You have the whole semester to access, print, or save copies of the readings.

Attendance:

After you have missed three class periods for any reason, your final grade for the course will be reduced by two percentage points (ie from 85 to 83) for each additional absence.

Assignments and Grading:

Reading responses: 5%

Discussion response papers: 45% (7.5% each)

Midterm Exam and Paper #1: 25%

Final Exam and Paper #2: 25%

Grading Scale:

100.99-97.00 = A+	89.99-87.00 = B+	79.99-77.00 = C+	69.99-67.00 = D+	59.99-0 = F
96.99-94.00 = A	86.99-84.00 = B	76.99-74.00 = C	66.99-64.00 = D	
93.99-90.00 = A -	83.99-80.00 = B-	73.99-70.00 = C-	63.99-60.00 = D-	

I do not accept late work, and there will be no makeup for reading responses or discussion papers.

Reading responses: These will be based on the assigned readings. Reading for my class is not optional, as I need you to be familiar with the material so that we can discuss it in class (it doesn't need to make perfect sense, you just need to have a general idea of what's going on). These responses are here to ensure that you remember that. For each day's reading assignments, you will need to come up with three (total, not for each reading assignment) 140-character, twitter-style summaries or questions. I will ask for these randomly throughout the semester. More information can be found on Canvas. (SLOs 1, 2, 4, and 5)

Discussion response papers: Six one-page reflections on the information we cover in the three discussion modules, one due before each discussion, one due after. The prompt for each paper, as well as the necessary readings, will be available on Canvas. (SLOs 1, 2, 3,4, and 5)

Exams: The exams will be available on Canvas for the 24-hour period of the due date, and will have two sections. For the first part of each exam, you will write a take-home, 3-4 page typed essay on an assigned

question, to be submitted as a .doc file on the exam day. For the second part of the exam, you will be asked to respond to a series of short-answer questions. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Late Work: Exams are due on the date and at the time listed on the syllabus; if a crisis (such as illness or family emergency) arises that prevents you from taking it at that time, it is **your responsibility** to inform me **on or before the due date**. If you do not contact me, **I will not accept your late exam**.

Academic Integrity Policy:

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any other violation of the honor code. Any violations will be dealt with according to the Academic Integrity Policy (if you don't know what the policy says, it's right here: <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Go read it). This includes any and all plagiarism from websites – **the only websites you should be using are those specifically assigned**. If you think I won't notice that you copied and pasted whole paragraphs from Wikipedia, you're wrong.

Adverse Weather Policy:

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 SpartanAlert website (<http://spartanalert.uncg.edu/>). If the university is open, we will have class (that includes two-hour delays. **We will start class at 10**). If the university is closed, I will send an email letting you know how the syllabus has changed and what readings we will cover during the next class.

Other Important Stuff:

Please turn off your cell-phones before the lecture starts. **Do not text during my class**. It is rude and disrespectful to me, and disruptive to your fellow students. If I catch you texting during my class, I will stop class and ask you to leave, since you obviously have something more important to be doing than learning.

You can bring your laptop to class for note-taking purposes. However, if I find that you are using your laptop for non-class-related purposes, I will ask you to put it away and not bring it to class again.

			Required Texts	Recommended Texts
Early Middle Ages	Aug 23	Class Intro		
	Aug 25	Early Medieval Religion	Geary: <i>The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity</i> (51-57) Benedictine Rule (136-162, but read only chapters 1-7, 22-30, 39-40, 54-55, 59, 67-68)	Blockmans: 50-79
	Aug 30	Germanic tribes	Geary: Tacitus' <i>Germania</i> (58-69) <i>Hildebrandslied</i> (96-98)	Blockmans: 25-41, 87-90, 97-100
	Sept 1	<i>Beowulf</i>	Canvas: Beowulf	
	Sept 6	The Franks	Gregory of Tours: On Clovis (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/gregtours1.asp) Geary: Salic Law (105-111)	Blockmans: 92-93, 103-106
	Sept 8	Charlemagne	Geary: Einhard, <i>Life of Charlemagne</i> (233-247) Charlemagne's <i>De litteris colendis</i> (256-257)	Blockmans: 93-97, 106-113, 115-117, 268-269
	Sept 13	Cluny & Relics	Geary: <i>Foundation charter of the order</i> (281-282) <i>Charters of the Grossi Family</i> (282-286) Color Plates 1 and 9	Blockmans: 199-203, 207, 211-212
	Sept 15	The Vikings	Pre-Discussion Response #1 due The Discovery of Vinland by Leif the Lucky (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1000Vinland.asp) The Ravages of the Northmen in Francia (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/843bertin.asp) Canvas: "The Vikings on the Continent in Myth and History" by Simon Coupland "Viking Ethnicities" by Clare Downham	Blockmans: 100-103, 117-121
	Sept 20	Alfred the Great	Geary: <i>Alfred's Dooms</i> (194-198) Asser, <i>Life of Alfred</i> (200-208)	

High Middle Ages	Sept 22	Feudal System: Peasant Life	<p>Post-Discussion response #1 due</p> <p>Grant of Freedom to a Betrothed Serf (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/1059serfs2.asp)</p> <p>Peasant Life (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/peasant-life.htm)</p> <p>Geary: Plans of Wharram Percy (650-653)</p>	Blockmans: 128-137, 150-152
	Sept 27	Feudal System: Knights & Lords	<p>Pre-Discussion response #2 due</p> <p>Geary: <i>Letter to William of Aquitaine</i> (334-335) <i>Agreement Between Lord and Vassal</i> (335-339)</p> <p>Canvas: "The Lord/Dependent (vassal) Relationship" by George Beech Judith Bennett – "Feudalism" from <i>Medieval Europe: A Short History</i></p>	Blockmans: 113-115, 138-145
	Sept 29	Administrative Kingship, Part One: 1066-1154	<p>The Laws of Henry I: The Murder Fine (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/12Chenry1-murderfine.asp)</p> <p>Geary: Dialogue of the Exchequer (623-624)</p> <p>Canvas: Anglo-Saxons and Normans</p>	Blockmans: 172-175, 182-187
	Oct 4	Administrative Kingship, Part Two: 1154-1272	<p>Post-Discussion response #2 due</p> <p>Geary: Magna Carta (636-643)</p> <p>Huntingdonshire Eyre of 1286 (647-650)</p>	Blockmans: 167-177, 387-389
	Oct 6	Rise of the Papal Monarchy	<p>The Two Swords: On Spiritual and Temporal Power (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gelasius1.asp)</p> <p>Geary: <i>The Investiture Controversy</i> (507-529) Geary has arranged these letters strangely: I recommend reading only these letters, and in this order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. p. 508 2. pp. 509-510 3. p. 522 4. pp. 524-526 5. pp. 522-524 6. p. 510-511 	Blockmans: 159-161, 190-194, 196-199

Oct 11		Midterm Exam and Midterm Paper due	
Oct 13	Islam & Al-Andalus	The Prophet Muhammad's Farwell Sermon (http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/source/muhm-sermon.asp) Geary: Las Siete Partidas (656-663)	Blockmans: 121-124, 178-182
Oct 20	The Marginalized in Medieval Society	Canvas: Baldwin IV Becomes King of Jerusalem Papal Protection of the Jews Geary: Penitential of Theodore (215-217)	Blockmans: 207-209
Oct 25	The Crusades: The Call to Crusade and the First Crusade	Geary: First Crusade (352-362)	Blockmans: 194-196, 223-230
Oct 27	The Crusades: Later Crusades	The Capture of Jerusalem by Saladin (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1187saladin.asp) Peace between Richard I and Saladin (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1192peace.asp) Canvas: William of Tyre - Why the Later Crusades Failed	Blockmans: 230-235
Nov 1	Song of Roland	Song of Roland	
Nov 3	Medieval Universities And Scholasticism	Statutes for the University of Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/courcon1.asp) Life of the Students at Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/vitry1.asp) Geary: <i>Aquinas' On the Proofs of God's Existence</i> (425-428)	Blockmans: 257-264, 266-268, 269-285
Nov 8	Church Reform	Geary: <i>Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council</i> (384-406, but read only canons 1-23, 44-52, 65-70) <i>Thomas of Cantimpre's Defense of the Mendicants</i> (422-424) Ser Barduccio di Piero Canigiani on Catherine of Siena (670-673)	Blockmans: 203-206, 285-289, 345, 406-419

	Nov 10	Chivalry and the Roman	The Art of Courtly Love (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/capellanus.asp) Canvas: <i>Sir Gawain and the Carl of Carlisle</i>	Blockmans: 145-150
Late Middle Ages	Nov 15	Towns and Gilds	Charter for the Town of St. Omer (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1127stomer.asp) Regulations of the Weavers' Guild (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1233Weavers4.asp) Canvas: Life in London Geary: Gergorio Dati's <i>Diary</i> (683-685, 688-689)	Blockmans: 240-225, 297-314, 319-323
	Nov 17	The Black Death and its Aftermath	Pre-Discussion Response #3 due Geary: Gabriele de Mussis on the Plague (491-497) <i>Flores Temporum</i> (498) <i>Ordinance of Laborers</i> (499-500) Canvas: Samuel Cohn, Jr. – "The Black Death: End of a Paradigm"	Blockmans: 327-333, 335-341, 347-352
	Nov 22	The Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy	<i>Unam Sanctam</i> (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/b8-unam.asp) <i>Frequens</i> (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/constance2.asp)	Blockmans: 398-406
	Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break		
	Nov 29	100 Years War	Post-Discussion response #3 due Geary: Froissart's <i>Chronicles</i> (590-596) Joan of Arc (603-615) Color plates 10a and 10b	Blockmans: 357-363, 381-383
	Dec 1	Medievalisms	Canvas: Excerpt from <i>The Swerve</i> Excerpt from <i>The Da Vinci Code</i>	Blockmans: 425-427
	Dec 8	Exam 2	Final exam and paper due by 11:59 pm	