

## History 221 – Medieval Legacy (GHP, GPM, GL) Spring 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**

Discussion	10%
Journal	15%
First Midterm	20%
Second Midterm	25%
Final	30%

### **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 – especially any of the three essays– 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 class discussion. Taking notes on the primary sources you will be writing papers 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](http://www.uncg.edu)). If the university is open, I will hold class.

### **Discussion Preparation and Writing Assignments**

For the purposes of evaluation (grading), we will focus on two interrelated skills. The first, active discussion of the material, requires reading the material before the day of the lecture with which it is connected so that you can contribute to the classroom discussion. The second, essay writing, involves answering specific questions concerning the primary sources we will read. The journal assignments and the take-home essay exams will aid you in becoming a better interpreter of the primary sources left to us by medieval people.

**Journal:** For each reading assignment, I will give you a question for which you will write a one- or two-paragraph typed answer. You will need to bring these answers to class every day although I will only collect them from time to time. We will use the questions as jumping off points for our discussions of the primary and secondary sources we will read.

**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/>.

### **Resources**

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

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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Broadview, 2003). ISBN 978-1-551-11550-4.

*The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, ed. Betty Radice (Penguin, revised edition 2003) ISBN 978-0-140-44899-3.

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

Jean Froissart, *Chronicles*, ed. And trans. Geoffrey Brereton (Penguin, 1968) ISBN 978-0-140-44200-7.

### **Secondary Source (Required)**

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

### **Lecture Schedule**

Wednesday, January 21 – Introductions/Source Interpretation

Friday, January 23 – Roman Origins: legacies of empire  
Primary Source Readings: Geary, *Theodosian Code* (1-28)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 1 (8-29)

Monday, January 26 – Christian Origins: Gospels & Statements of Faith

Primary Source Readings: Matthew 5, <http://www.creeds.net/ancient/nicene.htm>

Wednesday, January 28 – Christian Origins II: Sanctity in Late Antiquity

Primary Source Readings: Geary, *The Passion of Saint Perpetua and Felicity* (61-68)

Friday, January 30 – Germanic Origins: the Successor States

Primary Source Readings: Geary, Tacitus *Germania* (69-82)

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 2 (30-49)

Monday, February 2 – St. Benedict & Early Medieval Monasticism

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

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

Wednesday, February 4 – Italy under the Lombards: the papacy of Gregory the Great

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

Friday, February 6 – the Franks: Childeric, Clovis, & Gregory of Tours

Primary Source Readings: Geary - *The Tomb of Childeric: Father of Clovis* (120-128); *Salic Law* (129-136); Gregory of Tours *History of the Franks* (139-161)

Monday, February 9 – Early Medieval Saints: the Case of St. Balthild

Primary Source Readings: Geary - *Life of Saint Balthild* (162-167); Handout – Gregory of Tours on Frankish Queens

Wednesday, February 11 – Charlemagne & the Carolingian Empire

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)

Friday, February 13 – the Carolingian Renaissance

Monday, February 16 – The Vikings in England & France

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

Wednesday, February 18 – Anglo-Saxon England: the case of King Alfred

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

Friday, February 20 – the Empire to the East: Byzantium

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 4 (68-96)

Monday, February 23 – Islam

Primary Source Readings: Handout – excerpts from the *Qu'ran*  
*First midterm due at the beginning of class.*

Wednesday, February 25 – Aristocratic Power: Lords and Vassals

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)

- Friday, February 27 – Banal Lordship: Peasants and their Lords  
Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 7 (149-184)
- Monday, March 2 – Medieval Monastic Reforms: 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, March 4 – Investiture Controversy I: The Early Stages  
Primary Source Readings: Geary -Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV *The Investiture Controversy* (608-634)
- Friday, March 6 – Investiture Controversy II: Compromise?  
Primary Source Readings: Geary – *The Concordat of Worms* (635)
- Monday, March 9 – Spring Break. No class.
- Wednesday, March 11 – Spring Break. No class.
- Friday, March 13 – Spring Break. No class.
- Monday, March 16 – The First Crusade  
Primary Source Readings: The First Crusade, Four Accounts (407-442)  
Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 9 (215-239)
- Wednesday, March 18 – At the Church Door: 12<sup>th</sup>-century marriage reforms  
Primary Source Readings: Handout – marriage documents
- Friday, March 20 – Twelfth Century Renaissance: Heloise & Abelard  
Primary Source Readings: Abelard *Historia calamitatum*: Abelard to a Friend: *The Story of His Misfortunes* (3-43)
- Monday, March 23 – Heloise & Abelard: part 2  
Primary Source Readings: Heloise & Abelard, The Personal Letters (47-89)
- Wednesday, March 25 – “A White Mantle of Churches”: Gothic Architecture
- Friday, March 27 – Heresy? Waldensians & Cathars  
Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/waldo1.html>,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/waldo2.html>,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/cathar-traditio.html>,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gui-cathars.html>.
- Monday, March 30 – The High Medieval Papacy: Innocent III  
Primary Source Readings: Geary – *Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council* (443-469)
- Wednesday, April 1 – The Mendicants: Dominic, Francis, and Clare  
Primary Source Readings: Geary – *The Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi* (470-473); Clare of Assisi *Testament* (474-477); Canonization Process of St. Dominic (478-492)

Friday, April 3 – No class

Monday, April 6 – the Inquisition of Jacques Fournier – Montaillou

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

Wednesday, April 8 – Royal Centralization: the Example of England

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Domesday Book (758-765); Richard Fitz Nigel *Dialogue of the Exchequer* (766-775)

Friday, April 10 - Spring Holiday – No class

Monday, April 13 – Magna Carta: part 1

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

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

Wednesday, April 15 – Magna Carta: part 2

Friday, April 17 – *Erec and Enide*

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

Monday, April 20 – *Erec and Enide*

Primary Source Readings: 152-252

Wednesday, April 22 – Late Medieval Papacy: Babylonian Captivity

Primary Source Readings: Froissart – *Chronicles* (201-210)

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

*Second midterm due at the beginning of class.*

Friday, April 24 – The Late Medieval Papacy: Schism & Conciliarism

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

Monday, April 27 – The Hundred Years' War & Social Unrest

Primary Source Readings: Froissart – *Chronicles* (37-198)

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

Wednesday, April 29 – Joan of Arc

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

Friday, May 1 – The Black Death: Boccaccio's *Decameron*

Primary Source Readings: Handout – Excerpt from Boccaccio's *Decameron*

Monday, May 4 – Late Medieval Women – Chaucer's *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>

Tuesday, May 5 – Periodization – Petrarch – Medieval or Renaissance Man?

Secondary Source Readings: Hollister & Bennett – Chapter 15 (366-383)

Friday, May 8 – *Final Due in my office (MHRA 2102) by 12 noon.*

