

Medieval Legacy

HIS 221-02

T R 9:30-10:45

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Wednesday: 3:30-4:30 pm, Friday 9-10:30 am.

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 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 (particularly the history of peasants, women, and other out-groups) 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.800-1500)
2. Analyze and interpret primary sources
3. Synthesize material read from a variety of sources to produce a larger analytical conclusion
4. Recognize historical methods and utilize them in analyzing the past.
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. Chretien de Troyes, *Erec and Enide*, trans. Dorothy Gilbert (Univ. of California Press., 1992) [ISBN: 9780520073463]
3. Anonymous, *Song of Roland*, ed. Glyn Burgess. (Penguin, 1990). ISBN 9780140445329.

Recommended: Judith Bennett, *Medieval Europe: A Short History*, 11th edition (McGraw-Hill, 2005)
Though not required, Bennett's 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, either at Dr. Richard Barton's website or at the Online Medieval Sourcebook. 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) 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 average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (ie from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

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 university's website (www.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.

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://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete>. 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.

Other Important Stuff:

Please turn off your cell-phones before the lecture starts. You can bring your laptop to class for note-taking purposes.

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 listening to my lecture.

Assignments and Grading:

All work is required to include a signed acknowledgment of the honor pledge or it will not be accepted.

Homework and Participation: 10%

Exam and Paper #1: 25%

Exam and Paper #2: 25%

Final Exam and Paper #3: 40%

The exams will have two sections, one outside of class and one in class. For the first part of each exam, you will write a take-home, 3-4 page typed essay on an assigned question, due in class the day of the exam. In class, you will answer a series of questions with brief responses. No notes will be allowed for this section. The final will be cumulative.

Homework assignments can be found on Blackboard, and are due every Thursday at the beginning of class. **I do not accept late homework, and there will be no make up for homework assignments.**

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 contact me **within a week of the due date**. If you do not contact me, **I will not accept your late exam.**

		Required Texts	Recommended Texts
Jan 11	Class Intro		
Jan 13	Europe 300-800	Geary: <i>Theodosian Code</i> (1-28) Focus on the Interpretations	Bennett: 28-40
Jan 18	Early Medieval Religion	The Nicene Creed (http://www.creeds.net/ancient/nicene.htm) Geary: <i>The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity</i> (58-64) Augustine of Hippo <i>City of God</i> (46-57)	Bennett: 40-50
Jan 20	Germanic tribes	Homework #1 Due Geary: <i>Tacitus Germania</i> (65-77) <i>Hildebrandslied</i> (111-112)	
Jan 25	<i>Beowulf</i>	Blackboard: Beowulf	
Jan 27	Charlemagne and the Carolingian Renaissance	Homework #2 Due Geary: Einhard, <i>Life of Charles the Great</i> (266-279) Salic Law (122-128) (just skim for content) General capitulary on the missi (296-301) Charlemagne's letter to Baugulf (290)	Bennett: 88-100
Feb 1	Early Medieval Women	Frankish Queens (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/frankish-queens.htm)	Bennett: 100-101
Feb 3	Vikings	Homework #3 Due Ravages of the Northmen in Francia (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/843bertin.html) Geary: <i>Treaty Between Alfred and Guthrum</i> (228)	Bennett: 107-111
Feb 8	Alfred the Great	Geary: Alfred's Dooms (223-228) Asser, <i>Life of Alfred</i> (230-239) Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (239-246)	Bennett: 111-114
Feb 10	Bishops, Saints, & Cluny	Homework #4 Due Geary: Miracles of Saint Foy (322-328) <i>Foundation charter of the order</i> (315-317) <i>Charters of the Grossi Family</i> (317-321)	Bennett: 85-87, 191-197, 199-205

Feb 15	Feudal System	<p>Grant of Freedom to a Betrothed Serf (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/1059serfs2.html)</p> <p>Allocation of Serfs to Crafts (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/990serfcrafts.html)</p> <p>Peasant Life (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/peasant-life.htm)</p> <p>Geary: <i>Letter to William of Aquitaine</i> (376) <i>Agreement Between Lord and Vassal</i> (377-381)</p>	Bennett 118-122, 131-136, 139-166
Feb 17	Kings and States, 1000-1300, part 1	<p>Exam #1 & Paper #1 Due</p> <p>Geary: Domesday Book (716-723)</p>	Bennett: 121, 248-251
Feb 22	Kings and States, 1000-1300, part 2	<p>Description of Henry II (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1177peterblois-hen2.html)</p> <p>Letter to Queen Eleanor (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/eleanor.html)</p> <p>Assize of Clarendon (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/aclarendon.html)</p> <p>Geary: <i>Dialogue of the Exchequer</i> (724-729) Magna Carta (739-745)</p>	Bennett: 251-267
Feb 24	Church Developments: Rise of the Papal Monarchy	<p>Homework #5 Due</p> <p>The Two Swords: On Spiritual and Temporal Power (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gelasius1.html)</p> <p>Geary: <i>The Investiture Controversy</i> (562-586) <i>Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council</i> (430-455)</p>	Bennett –167-190
Mar 1	The Marginalized in Medieval Society	<p>Peasant Servitude (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/peasant-servitude.html)</p> <p>Emicho and the Slaughter of the Jews (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1096jews.html)</p> <p>The Jews of Mainz (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1096jews-mainz.html)</p>	Bennett: 65-67, 231-234

Mar 3	The Crusades	Homework #6 Due Geary: First Crusade (394-429)	Bennett: 221-231
Mar 15	Song of Roland	Song of Roland	Bennett: 283-284
Mar 17	Medieval Universities	Homework #7 Due Statutes for the University of Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/courcon1.html) Life of the Students at Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/vitry1.html) Medieval Students' Songs (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/medievalstudentso.html)	Bennett: 271-282, 345-346
Mar 22	Church Developments: New Orders & Marriage Reform	Gratian on Marriage (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gratian1.html) Geary: <i>The Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi</i> (456-459); <i>Clare of Assisi Testament</i> (460-463) <i>Canonization Process of St Dominic</i> (464-474)	Bennett: 191-210, 316-321
Mar 24	Chivalry and the Roman	Homework #8 Due The Art of Courtly Love (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/capellanus.html) <i>Erec and Enide</i> (41-135)	Bennett: 284-288
Mar 29	Erec and Enide	<i>Eric and Enide</i> (135-252)	
Mar 31	Towns and Guilds	Homework #9 Due Charter for the Town of St. Omer (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1127stomer.html) Oaths from Medieval Ipswich (http://users.trytel.com/~tristan/towns/ipswich9.html) Grant to London Abolishing Weavers' Guild (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1202Weavers1.html) Regulations of the Weavers' Guild (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1233Weavers4.html)	Bennett: 158-161

Apr 5	Late Medieval Women	Prologue to the Wife of Bath's Tale (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/CT-prolog-bathmod.html) Blackboard: Catherine of Siena Geary: Margery Kempe (523-553)	Bennett: 350-352
Apr 7	the Babylonian Captivity and the Papacy	Exam #2 & Paper #2 due <i>Unam Sanctam</i> (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/b8-unam.html) University of Paris on the Schism (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/grtschism2.html) <i>Frequens</i> (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/constance2.html)	Bennett: 314-316
Apr 12	Medieval Art and Architecture	Look at images: (http://www.medart.pitt.edu/index.html) (http://www.arthist.umn.edu/aict/html/medieval.html)	Bennett: Look at images on 193, 195. Read 290-296
Apr 14	14 th century	Homework #10 Due Population Tables (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/pop-in-eur.html) Jews and the Black Death (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/1348-jewsblackdeath.html) Boccaccio – The Decameron Introduction (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/boccaccio2.html) Geary: Joan of Arc (701-715)	Bennett: 323-327, 297-312
Apr 19	Parliament & Late Medieval Government	Confirmation of the Charters (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/conf-charters.html) Growth of Parliamentary Government in England (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/english-parliament.htm)	Bennett: 255-258, 327-328
Apr 21	Review		
May 3	Final Exam	12:00-3:00 PM Paper #3 due	