

**History 221 – Medieval Legacy (GHP, GPM, GL)
Spring 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%
First 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.

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.

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.

Neel, Carol, ed., *Handbook for William. A Carolingian Woman's Counsel for her Son* (Catholic U of America, 1999). ISBN 978-0813209388.

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

Monday, January 9 – Introductions – The Study of History: What is it?

Wednesday, January 11 – The Study of History: Medieval 'Truths' v Legends

Friday, January 13 – The Study of History: How we know what we know

Monday, January 16 – Martin Luther King Day – no class

Wednesday, January 18 – 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)

Friday, January 20 – Currents in early medieval Christian culture: the *Life* of Balthild

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

Monday, January 23 – 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)

Wednesday, January 25 – 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)

Friday, January 27 – 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.

Monday, January 30 – Early Medieval Rulers: Alfred of Wessex

Primary Source Readings: Geary - King Alfred (223-246)

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

Wednesday, February 1 – Frankish Women: Fredegund and Brunhild

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

Friday, February 3 – Frankish Women: Dhuoda’s *Handbook for William*

Primary Source Readings: *Handbook for William* (1-63)

Monday, February 6 – Frankish Women: Dhuoda’s *Handbook for William*: part 2

Primary Source Readings: *Handbook for William* (64-106)

Wednesday, February 8 – Midterm

Friday, February 10 – 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)

Monday, February 13 – Kings and Nobles: Suger's *The Deeds of Louis the Fat*

Primary Source Readings: *The Deeds of Louis the Fat* (23-83)

Wednesday, February 15 – Kings and Nobles: Suger's *Life of Louis the Fat*, part 2

Primary Source Readings: *The Deeds of Louis the Fat* (84-159)

Friday, February 17 – 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)

Monday, February 20 – 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)

Wednesday, February 22 – Prophecy and Order: Cluny and Clairvaux

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Cluniac charters: Foundation charter of the order, Charters of the Grossi family (315-321)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 8 (199-205)

Friday, February 24 – 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)

Monday, February 27 – Prophecy and Order: St. Francis and St. Clare

Primary Source Readings: Geary – *The Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi* (456-459); Clare of Assisi *Testament* (460-463)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 8 (205-210)
Readings Quiz

Wednesday, February 29 – Marriage (or not) in the Twelfth Century

Friday, March 2 – Marriage and not: Heloise and Abelard

Primary Source Readings: Letter 1 (Abelard's *Historia calamitatum*)

Monday, March 5 – Spring Break – no class

Wednesday, March 7 – Spring Break – no class

Friday, March 9 – Spring Break – no class

Monday, March 12 – Marriage and not: Heloise and Abelard, part 2
Primary Source Readings: Letters 2-5 (The Personal Letters)

Wednesday, March 14 – Marriage – Not!: Christina of Markyate
Primary Source Readings: *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (3-43)

Friday, March 16 – Marriage – Not!: Christina of Markyate, part 2
Primary Source Readings: *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (43-88)

Monday, March 19 – 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.

Wednesday, March 21 – Contesting Authority: Henry II & Becket
Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1177peterblois-hen2.html>
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 10 (248-253)

Friday, March 23 – Contesting Authority: 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>

Monday, March 26 – Contesting Authority: John of England
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 10 (254-255)

Wednesday, March 28 – Contesting Authority: Magna Carta, the ‘great charter’
Primary Source Readings: Geary – Magna Carta (735-751)

Friday, March 30 – Contesting Authority: 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>

Monday, April 2 – Contesting Authority: St. Louis
Primary Source Readings: Geary – Joinville *Life of Saint Louis* and Enquêts of Saint Louis (649-676)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 10 (263-266)
Readings quiz

Wednesday, April 4 – Papal Decline: the Babylonian Captivity
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 7 (187-189)

Friday, April 6 – Spring Holiday – no class

Monday, April 9 – Papal Decline: Schism and councils
Primary Source Readings: Geary – Marsilius of Padua *Discourses* (502-522)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 12 (313-321)

Wednesday, April 11 – Things Fall Apart: The Hundred Years' War and Social Unrest
Primary Source Readings: Geary – Froissart *Chronicles* (677-700)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 12 (301-313)

Friday, April 13 – Things Fall Apart: Boccaccio and the Black Death
Primary Source Readings: Boccaccio – Prologue to the *Decameron* (e-reserve)
Article review due at the beginning of class

Monday, April 16 – Late Medieval Women: Béatrice de Planissoles
Primary Source Readings: Geary – Jacques Fournier *Inquisition Records* (482-501)

Wednesday, April 18 – Late Medieval Women: Joan of Arc
Primary Source Readings: Geary – The Trial of Joan of Arc (701-715)
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 13 (323-327)

Friday, April 20 – 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*)

Monday, April 23 – Late Medieval Women: The Goodwife of Paris
Primary Source Readings: *The Good Wife's Guide* (49-103)

Tuesday, April 24 – Late Medieval Women: The Goodwife of Paris, part 2
Primary Source Readings: *The Good Wife's Guide* (104-228)

Monday, April 30 – Final exam due in my office (MHRA 2102) by 9 a.m.