

Medieval Legacy

HIS 221-02

T R 9:30-10:45

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Office Hours: By appointment (I'm here all the time, just ask).

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.800-1500)
2. Analyze and interpret primary sources
3. Synthesize material 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]

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, mostly at the Online Medieval Sourcebook or on Blackboard. 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 three percentage points (ie from 84 to 81) 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. **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.

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. 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 usually have plenty of time for re-reading.

Assignments and Grading:

Pop-Quizzes and Participation: 10%

Homework: 10%

Exam and Paper #1: 25%

Exam and Paper #2: 25%

Final Exam and Paper #3: 30%

Grading Scale:

100-97 = A+	89-87 = B+	79-77 = C+	69-67 = D+	59-0 = F
96-94 = A	86-84 = B	76-74 = C	66-64 = D	
93-90 = A -	83-80 = B-	73-70 = C-	63-60 = D-	

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. More information on the requirements for each category is available in Blackboard under the Assignments folder.

The exams will be available on Blackboard 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. No notes will be allowed for this section.

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.**

		Required Texts	Recommended Texts
Jan 15	Class Intro		
Jan 17	Germanic tribes	Geary: <i>Tacitus Germania</i> (65-77) <i>Hildebrandslied</i> (111-112)	Bennett: 28-40
Jan 22	<i>Beowulf</i>	Blackboard: Beowulf	
Jan 24	Early Medieval Religion	Homework #1 Due The Nicene Creed (http://www.creeds.net/ancient/nicene.htm) Geary: <i>The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity</i> (58-64) Benedictine Rule (161-188, but read only chapters 1-7, 22-30, 39-40, 54-55, 59, 67-68)	Bennett: 40-50
Jan 29	The Franks	Gregory of Tours: On Clovis (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/gregtours1.asp) Blackboard: Frankish Queens Geary: Salic Law (122-128)	Bennett: 82-87, 100-101
Jan 31	Charlemagne	Homework #2 Due Geary: Einhard, <i>Life of Charles the Great</i> (266-279) General capitulary on the missi (296-30) Charlemagne's <i>De litteris colendis</i> (290)	Bennett: 88-100
Feb 5	Cluny & Relics	Guibert of Nogent on Relics (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/nogent-relics.asp) Geary: <i>Foundation charter of the order</i> (315-317) <i>Charters of the Grossi Family</i> (317-321)	Bennett: 191-197, 199-205

Feb 7	Alfred the Great and the Vikings	Homework #3 Due Ravages of the Northmen in Francia (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/843bertin.asp) Geary: Alfred's Dooms (223-228) Asser, <i>Life of Alfred</i> (230-239) Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (239-246) <i>Treaty Between Alfred and Guthrum</i> (228)	Bennett 107-114
Feb 12		Exam #1 & Paper #1 Due	
Feb 14	Feudal System: Knights & Lords	The Peace of God (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/pc-of-god.asp) The Truce of God (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/t-of-god.asp) Geary: <i>Letter to William of Aquitaine</i> (376) <i>Agreement Between Lord and Vassal</i> (377-381) Blackboard: "The Lord/Dependant (vassal) Relationship" by George Beech "Apocalypse and Revolution: Europe Around the Year 1000" by Simon MacLean	Bennett: 118-122, 131-136, 162-166
Feb 19	Feudal System: Peasant Life	Peasant Servitude (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/peasant-servitude.html) Grant of Freedom to a Betrothed Serf (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/1059serfs2.asp) Peasant Life (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/peasant-life.htm)	Bennett: 139-150
Feb 21	Administrative Kingship, Part One: 1066-1154	Homework #4 Due Geary: Domesday Book (716-718) Dialogue of the Exchequer (724-729)	Bennett: 248-251
Feb 26	Administrative Kingship, Part Two: 1154-1272	Description of Henry II (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1177peterblois-hen2.asp) Geary: Magna Carta (739-746)	Bennett: 251-267

Feb 28	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.asp)</p> <p>Geary: <i>The Investiture Controversy</i> (562-586) Geary has arranged these letters strangely: I recommend reading only these letters, and in this order: a. Gregory VII to Henry IV, Admonishing him, pp. 562-565 b. Henry IV, to various including Gregoery VII, from the Synod of Worms, January 1076, pp. 578-581 c. Gregory VII, Lenten Synod of 1076 (Feb 1076), pp. 565-566 d. Gregory VII, to all Faithful in Germany (Sept 1076), pp. 571-572 e. Henry IV, Promise (1076), Surrender (1076), and Vow at Canossa (1077), pp. 582-584 f. Gregory VII, Account of Canossa (1077), p. 572</p>	Bennett: 167-178, 182-187
Mar 5	The Marginalized in Medieval Society	<p>Emicho and the Slaughter of the Jews (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1096jews.asp)</p> <p>The Jews of Mainz (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1096jews-mainz.asp)</p> <p>Blackboard: Baldwin IV Becomes King of Jerusalem</p>	Bennett: 65-69, 197-199, 232-234
Mar 7	The Crusades: The Call to Crusade and the First Crusade	<p>Homework #6 Due</p> <p>Geary: First Crusade (394-429)</p>	Bennett: 221-225
Mar 19	The Crusades: Later Crusades	<p>The Battle of Hattin (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1187ernoul.asp)</p> <p>The Capture of Jerusalem by Saladin (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1187saladin.asp)</p> <p>Peace between Richard I and Saladin (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1192peace.asp)</p>	Bennett: 226-232
Mar 21	Song of Roland	<p>Homework #7 Due</p> <p>Blackboard: Song of Roland</p>	Bennett: 283-284

Mar 26	Medieval Universities And Scholasticism	<p>Statutes for the University of Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/courcon1.asp)</p> <p>Life of the Students at Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/vitry1.asp)</p> <p>Medieval Students' Songs (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/medievalstudentsongs.asp)</p> <p>Geary: <i>Aquinas' On the Proofs of God's Existence</i> (478-481)</p>	Bennett: 271-282, 345-346
Mar 28	Church Reform	<p>Homework #8 Due</p> <p>Gratian on Marriage (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/gratian1.asp)</p> <p>Geary: <i>The Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi</i> (456-459) <i>Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council</i> (430-455, but read only canons 1-23, 44-52, 65-70)</p>	Bennett: 187-189, 205-210, 316-318
Apr 2	Chivalry and the Roman	<p>The Art of Courtly Love (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/capellanus.asp)</p> <p>Blackboard: Chretien de Troyes <i>Erec and Enide</i></p>	Bennett: 284-288
Apr 4		Exam #2 & Paper #2 due	
Apr 9	Towns and Gilds	<p>Charter for the Town of St. Omer (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1127stomer.asp)</p> <p>Oaths from Medieval Ipswich (http://users.trytel.com/~tristan/towns/ipswich9.html)</p> <p>Grant to London Abolishing Weavers' Guild (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1202Weavers1.asp)</p> <p>Regulations of the Weavers' Guild (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1233Weavers4.asp)</p>	Bennett: 150-161
Apr 11	Late Medieval Women	<p>Homework #9 Due</p> <p>Blackboard: Catherine of Siena "Fast, Feast, and Flesh" by Caroline Walker-Bynum</p> <p>Geary: Margery Kempe (523-553)</p>	Bennett: 318-320, 350-352

Apr 16	The Black Death and its Aftermath	<p>Jews and the Black Death http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/1348-jewsblackdeath.asp</p> <p>Boccaccio – The Decameron Introduction http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/boccaccio2.asp</p> <p>Froissart – the Peasant’s Revolt in England http://www.nipissingu.ca/departement/history/muhlberger/froissart/peasantr.htm</p> <p>William of Newburgh – <i>Historia rerum Anglicarum</i> 22-24 http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/williamofnewburgh-five.asp#22</p>	Bennett: 297-312, 320-321
Apr 18	The Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy	<p>Homework #10 Due</p> <p><i>Unam Sanctam</i> http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/b8-unam.asp</p> <p>University of Paris on the Schism http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/grtschism2.asp</p> <p><i>Frequens</i> http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/constance2.asp</p>	Bennett: 314-316
Apr 23	100 Years War	<p>Geary: Froissart’s Chronicles (677-700) Joan of Arc (701-715)</p>	Bennett: 322-327
Apr 25	Final Exam	Final exam and paper #3 due by 11:59 pm	