

History 221 – Medieval Legacy (GHP, GPM, GL, WI) Spring 2014

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Class Meetings: MWF 11:00-11:50, Shaw 142

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 cultures; 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 link 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 lenses, or biases, of the author, both positive and negative, as well as the natural and purpose 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. Also, because this is a small seminar-style course rather than a large lecture-style course, I will not spend much time delivering information to you via PowerPoint. Instead, we will discuss the documents in great detail in order to elicit information

from them. As a consequence of this format, you will need to primary the relevant source materials to class each day.

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

In-Class Discussions	10%
“Modern Moments”	10%
First Essay	25%
Article Review	25%
Second Essay	30%

Assignments

In-Class Discussions: We will have frequent in-class discussions of the reading materials. Remember, that participation in discussion can involve asking a question rather than answering one. It’s not necessary to understand everyone about a text to participate in a meaningful discussion of it.

“Modern Moments”: Twice this semester, student will present a “modern moment” connecting the topic under discussion in our course with something from modern media such as a song, a poem, a movie clip, or a news story. On the same day as you present your ‘moment,’ you’ll need to submit a one-page essay (+/- 300 words) on the connection you’ve made.

First Essay: The first essay will be a 4-5-page response to a question about early medieval rulers. You will write two drafts of the essay for me. I’ll read and comment on the first draft, and then have a private writing conference with each student. Following that conference, you will revise your essay and submit it for a grade.

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/essays.

Second Essay: For this final project, you will write a 4-5-page essay on one of several topics concerning the primary source materials from the High and Late Middle Ages. This essay serves in lieu of a final exam for this course and is due at the time during finals week at which we would have met had their been an in-class exam.

For Your Information

Attendance: After you have missed three class periods for any reason except those recognized by the university such as religious observances and participation in UNCG athletic events, your final average for the course will be reduced by one percentage point (i.e. from 84 to 83) for each additional absence.

Academic Integrity: Any violation of the UNCG academic integrity policy such as plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with according to the guidelines of that 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, my lectures, and our discussions 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://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/>.

Assignment completion: Failure to complete any part of the course will result in an "F" for the course.

Computer Use: I do not permit the use of computers in class unless a student needs to use a computer because of a disability.

Cell Phones: Turn off your cell phone 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.

Ear Buds: Take out your ear buds when you get to the classroom.

E-mail: I will make every attempt to respond to an e-mail from you within 24 hours. If 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 read 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 using in your essays is especially important because 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.

Sometime 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 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 at 3211 MHRA Bldg. Their phone number is (336) 334-1325 and their hours are posted on their website: <http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/default.php>.

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)

Geary, Patrick, *readings in Medieval History*, 4th edition (U Toronto, 2010). ISBN 978-1442601208.

Keynes, Simon and Michael Lapidge, *Alfred the Great. Asser's Life of King Alfred and Other Contemporary Sources* (Penguin, 1983). ISBN 978-0140444094.

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 UP, 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)

Bennett, Judith, *Medieval Europe: A Short History*, 11th edition (McGraw-Hill, 2011). ISBN 978-0073385501.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Monday, January 13 – Introductions – The Study of History: What is it?

Wednesday, January 15 – The Study of History: Medieval ‘Truths’ v. Legends

Friday, January 17 – The Study of History: How we know what we know.

Monday, January 20 – Martin Luther King Day – no class

Wednesday, January 22 – Currents in early medieval Christian culture:

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 24 – Currents in early medieval Christian culture: the *Life* of Balthild

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

Monday, January 27 – 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 29 – 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 31 – 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, February 3 – Early Medieval Rulers: Alfred of Wessex

Primary Source Readings: Asser’s *Life of King Alfred* (67-110)

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

Wednesday, February 5 – Early Medieval Rulers: Alfred of Wessex, part 2
Primary Source Readings: 113-120, *Alfred the Great* (163-186)

Friday, February 7 – Early Medieval Rulers: Fredegund and Brunhild
Primary Source Readings: Excerpts from Gregory of Tours' *History of the Franks* in Blackboard.

Monday, 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)
First Draft of First Essay Due

Wednesday, February 12 – Kings and Nobles: Suger's *The Deeds of Louis the Fat*
Primary Source Readings: *The Deeds of Louis the Fat* (23-83)

Friday, February 14 – Kings and Nobles: Suger's *The Deeds of Louis the Fat*
Primary Source Readings: *The Deeds of Louis the Fat* (84-159)

Monday, 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)

Wednesday, February 19 – Kings and Nobles: The First Crusade
Primary Source Readings: Geary – The First Crusade, Four Accounts (394-429))

Friday, February 21 – 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)

Monday, February 24 – 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)

Wednesday, February 26 – 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)

Friday, February 28 – Prophecy and Order: St. Francis and St. Claire
Primary Source Readings: Geary – *The Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi* 456-459); Claire of Assisi *Testament* (460-463)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 8 (205-210)
Second (and Final) Draft of First Essay Due

Monday, March 3 – Prophecy and Order: Waldensians and Cathars

Primary Source Readings: [http: Peter Valdes,](http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/waldo1.asp)
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/waldo2.asp>;
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/cathar-gospel.asp>;
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/cathar-traditio.asp>

Wednesday, March 5 – Marriage (or not) in the Twelfth Century

Primary Source Readings: Biblical passages relating to sexuality and marriage (in Blackboard); Augustine, excerpts from *On the Good of Marriage*; Augustine,
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/aug-marr.asp>.

Friday, March 7 – Marriage and not: Heloise and Abelard

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

Monday, March 10 – Spring Break – no class

Wednesday, March 12 – Spring Break – no class

Friday, March 14 – Spring Break – no class

Monday, March 17 – Marriage and not: Heloise and Abelard, part 2

Primary Source Readings: Letters 2-5 (The Personal Letters)

Wednesday, March 19 – Marriage – Not!: Christina of Markyate, part 1

Primary Source Readings: *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (3-43)

Friday, March 21 – Marriage – Not!: Christina of Markyate, part 2

Primary Source Readings: *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (43-88)

Monday, March 24 – Marriage – Not!: Christina of Markyate, part 3

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 26 – Contesting Authority: Henry II and Thomas Becket

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/hoveden-becket.asp>
Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 10 (248-253)

Friday, March 28 – Contesting Authority: Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine

Primary Source Readings <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/eleanor.asp>

Monday, March 31 – Contesting Authority: John of England

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 10 (254-255)

Wednesday, April 2 – Contesting Authority: John of England and Magna Carta

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Magna Carta (739-746)

Friday, April 4 – Contesting Authority: Parliament

Primary Source Readings: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/ed1-summons.asp>;

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/conf-charters.asp>;

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1376goodparliament.asp>

Article Review due at the beginning of class

Monday, April 7 – Contesting Authority: St. Louis

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Joinville *Life of Saint Louis* and *Enquêtes of Saint Louis* (649-676)

Wednesday, April 9 – Papal Decline: the Babylonian Captivity

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 7 (187-189)

Friday, April 11 – Papal Decline: the Babylonian Captivity, Schism and councils

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Marsilius of Padua *Discourses* (502-522)

Secondary Source Readings: Bennett – Chapter 12 (313-321)

Monday, April 14 – 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)

Wednesday, April 16 – Things Fall Apart: Boccaccio and the Black Death

Primary Source Readings: Boccaccio – Prologue to the *Decameron* (in Blackboard)

Friday, April 18 – Spring Holiday – no class

Monday, April 21 – Late Medieval Women: Béatrice de Planissoles

Primary Source Readings: Geary – Jacques Fournier *Inquisition records* (482-501)

Wednesday, April 23 – Late Medieval Women: Joan of Arc

Primary Source readings: Geary – The Trial of Joan of Arc (701-715)

Friday, April 25 – 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 28 – Late Medieval Women: The Goodwife of Paris

Primary Source Readings: *The Good Wife's Guide*, Prologue (49-52), Prayers and Orderly Dress (55-58), Behavior and Attire in Public (59), pages 84-85 (sections 116-118), On Chastity (86-93), Obedience (103-118 through section 110)

Tuesday, April 29 – Late Medieval Women: The Goodwife of Paris, part 2

Primary Source Readings: The Care of the Husband's Person (138-141), The Husband's Secrets (142-146)

Wednesday, May 7 – Final essay due in my office (South Spencer 138) by 9:00.