

Medieval Legacy

HIS 221-01

TR 9:30-10:45

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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

Books

1. Patrick J. Geary, *Readings in Medieval History*, 5th edition (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2010)
2. Anonymous, *Song of Roland*, ed. Glyn Burgess. (Penguin, 1990). ISBN 9780140445329. (Though any edition of this is fine)
3. **And additional online texts available through Canvas.** 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

Recommended:

Wim Blockmans and Peter Hoppenbrouwers,
Introduction to Medieval Europe 300-1500, 2th edition (Routledge, 2014) [ISBN: 9780415675871]

Assignments:

I do not accept late work. I do not round grades.

Assignments submitted to Canvas must be submitted as .doc, .docx, or .pdf formats. Any files that are submitted as nonstandard file types or that are corrupted and unopenable will receive an automatic failing grade.

Reading responses: These will be based on the assigned readings. For each day's reading assignments, you will need to come up with three (total, not for each source) 140-character, twitter-style thoughts or questions. I will ask for these randomly throughout the semester. More information can be found on Canvas. (SLOs 1, 2, 4, and 5)

Source critique papers (2): You will be provided with two sources.

Based on what we've talked about in class and other readings we've done, you will write a 1-2 page paper explaining which one is more accurate and what is problematic about the other source. More information can be found on Canvas. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Discussion papers (2): We will have two in-class discussions during which we thoroughly question one of the modern stereotypes about the Middle Ages. You will then write a 1-2 page paper answering a larger question prompted by our discussion. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Annotations (3): Using the primary sources assigned for that day, you will answer a series of questions about the source's genre, meaning, and how you would use that source to support a larger historical argument. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)

Midterm and Final: The exams will be available on Canvas 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. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, 6).

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN

Reading responses: 5%
 Discussion papers: 15% (7.5% each)
 Source critique papers: 15% (7.5% each)
 Annotations: 15% (5% each)
 Midterm Exam: 12.5%
 Midterm Essay: 12.5%
 Final Exam: 12.5%
 Final Essay: 12.5%

GRADING SCALE

100.99-97.00 = A+	89.99-87.00 = B+	79.99-77.00 = C+	69.99-67.00 = D+	59.99-0 = F
96.99-94.00 = A	86.99-84.00 = B	76.99-74.00 = C	66.99-64.00 = D	
93.99-90.00 = A-	83.99-80.00 = B-	73.99-70.00 = C-	63.99-60.00 = D-	

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.500-1500)

General Education Historical Perspectives Learning Outcomes:

2. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
3. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

General Education Global Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes.

4. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures.
5. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on at least one culture, nation, or sub-nationality beyond Great Britain and North America).
6. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

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://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Go read it).

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 SpartanAlert website (<http://spartanalert.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.

Attendance:

I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. After you have missed three class periods for any reason, your final grade for the course will be reduced by two percentage points (ie from 85 to 83) for each additional absence.

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.



Unknown. - "Cleric, Knight and Workman representing the three classes", a French School illustration from *Li Livres dou Santé* (late 13th century, vellum), MS Sloane 2435, folio 85, [British Library/Bridgeman Art Library](#);

		Required	Recommended
Jan 9	Class Intro		
Jan 11	Early Medieval Religion	Geary: <i>The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity</i> (51-57) Benedictine Rule (136-162, but read only chapters 1-7, 22-30, 39-40, 54-55, 59, 67-68)	Blockmans: 50-79
Jan 16	Germanic tribes	Geary: Tacitus' <i>Germania</i> (58-69) <i>Hildebrandslied</i> (96-98)	Blockmans: 25-41, 87-90, 97-100
Jan 18	<i>Beowulf</i>	Canvas: Beowulf	
Jan 23	The Franks	Geary: Salic Law (105-111) Gregory of Tours 27-31 (117-120)	Blockmans: 92-93, 103-106
Jan 25	Charlemagne	Annotation #1 due Geary: Einhard, <i>Life of Charlemagne</i> (233-247) Charlemagne's <i>De litteris colendis</i> (256-257)	Blockmans: 93-97, 106-113, 115-117, 268-269
Jan 30	Cluny & Relics	Geary: <i>Foundation charter of the order</i> (281-282) <i>Charters of the Grossi Family</i> (282-286) Color Plates 1 and 9	Blockmans: 199-203, 207, 211-212
Feb 1	The Vikings	Source Critique #1 due The Discovery of Vinland by Leif the Lucky (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1000Vinland.asp) The Ravages of the Northmen in Francia (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/843bertin.asp)	Blockmans: 100-103, 117-121
Feb 6	Alfred the Great	Geary: Alfred's Dooms (194-198) Asser, <i>Life of Alfred</i> (200-208)	

<p>Feb 8</p>	<p>Feudal System: Peasant Life</p>	<p>Grant of Freedom to a Betrothed Serf (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/1059serfs2.asp)</p> <p>Peasant Life (http://www.uncg.edu/~rebarton/peasant-life.htm)</p> <p>Geary: Plans of Wharram Percy (650-653)</p>	<p>Blockmans: 128-137, 150-152</p>
<p>Feb 13</p>	<p>Feudal System: Knights & Lords Discussion #1</p>	<p>Geary: <i>Letter to William of Aquitaine</i> (334-335) <i>Agreement Between Lord and Vassal</i> (335-339)</p> <p>Canvas: "The Lord/Dependent (vassal) Relationship" by George Beech Judith Bennett – "Feudalism" from <i>Medieval Europe: A Short History</i></p>	<p>Blockmans: 113-115, 138-145</p>
<p>Feb 15</p>	<p>Administrative Kingship, Part One: 1066-1154</p>	<p>Discussion Paper #1 due</p> <p>The Laws of Henry I: The Murder Fine (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/12Chenry1-murderfine.asp)</p> <p>Geary: Dialogue of the Exchequer (623-624)</p> <p>Canvas: Anglo-Saxons and Normans</p>	<p>Blockmans: 172-175, 182-187</p>
<p>Feb 20</p>	<p>Administrative Kingship, Part Two: 1154-1272</p>	<p>Geary: Magna Carta (636-643) Huntingdonshire Eyre of 1286 (647-650)</p>	<p>Blockmans: 167-177, 387-389</p>
<p>Feb 22</p>	<p>Papal Monarchy</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> (507-529)</p> <p>Geary has arranged these letters strangely: I recommend reading only these letters, and in this order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. p. 508 2. pp. 509-510 3. p. 522 4. pp. 524-526 5. pp. 522-524 6. p. 510-511 	<p>Blockmans: 159-161, 190-194, 196-199</p>

Feb 27		Midterm Exam and Midterm Essay due	
Mar 1	Islam & Al-Andalus	The Prophet Muhammad's Farwell Sermon (http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/source/muhm-sermon.asp) Geary: Las Siete Partidas (656-663)	Blockmans: 121-124, 178-182
Spring Break Mar 3-11			
Mar 13	A Persecuting Society	Canvas: Baldwin IV Becomes King of Jerusalem Geary: Solomon Bar Simson's account of the First Crusade (362-369)	Blockmans: 207-209
Mar 15	The Crusades: The Call to Crusade and the First Crusade	Annotation #2 due Geary: Fulbert of Chartres' account of the First Crusade (352-362)	Blockmans: 194-196, 223-230
Mar 20	The Crusades: Later Crusades	The Estrangement Between Raymond of Tripoli and Baldwin IV (http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/source/tyre-latindisarray.html#baldwin2 – only read #5) Peace between Richard I and Saladin (http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/1192peace.asp) Canvas: William of Tyre - Why the Later Crusades Failed	Blockmans: 230-235
Mar 22	Song of Roland	Song of Roland	
Mar 27	Medieval Universities and Scholasticism	Statutes for the University of Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/courcon1.asp) Life of the Students at Paris (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/vitry1.asp)	Blockmans: 257-264, 266-268, 269-285
Mar 29	Church Reform	Source Critique #2 due Geary: <i>Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council</i> (384-406, but read only canons 1-23, 44-52, 65-70)	Blockmans: 203-206, 285-289, 345, 406-419

Apr 3	Chivalry and the Roman	The Art of Courtly Love (http://www.fordham.edu/HALSALL/source/capellanus.asp) Canvas: <i>Sir Gawain and the Carl of Carlisle</i>	Blockmans: 145-150
Apr 5	Towns and Gilds	Charter for the Town of St. Omer (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1127stomer.asp) Regulations of the Weavers' Guild (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1233Weavers4.asp) Geary: <i>Gergorio Dati's Diary</i> (683-685, 688-689)	Blockmans: 240-225, 297-314, 319-323
Apr 10	The Black Death and its Aftermath Discussion #2	Geary: <i>Gabriele de Mussis on the Plague</i> (491-497) <i>Flores Temporum</i> (498) <i>Ordinance of Laborers</i> (499-500)	Blockmans: 327-333, 335-341, 347-352
Apr 12	The Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy	Discussion paper #2 due <i>Unam Sanctam</i> (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/b8-unam.asp) <i>Frequens</i> (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/constance2.asp)	Blockmans: 398-406
Apr 17	100 Years War	Geary: <i>Froissart's Chronicles</i> (590-596) <i>Joan of Arc</i> (603-615) Color plates 10a and 10b	Blockmans: 357-363, 381-383
Apr 19	Women in the Late Middle Ages	Annotation #3 due Geary: <i>Ser Barduccio di Piero Canigiani on Catherine of Siena</i> (670-673) <i>Margery Kempe</i> (464-468, 471-473)	
Apr 24	Medievalisms and review		Blockmans: 425-427
May 1	Exam 2	Final exam and Final Essay due by 11:59 pm	