H115: Syllabus

15/8/02 13:09

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H115: MEDIEVAL EUROPE, 410-1500
ILS207: HISTORY OF WESTERN CULTURE, I

Fall 2002 (September 4 - December 13, 2002): M, W, F, 11.00-11.50am; 2650 Humanities

TAs: Jennifer Olsen (History); Denise Kawasaki (ILS)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of Medieval Europe, both West and East, in the period 410-1500. We will make use of the full range of historical and archeological sources to explore the various lands and peoples of Medieval Europe, ranging from the Mediterranean to the Caspian and Baltic Seas; from North Africa to Northern Russia; from Ireland and Iceland as far as North America! Indeed, our first task will be to explore the limits of “Europe,” geographically, chronologically and conceptually. We will trace the development of communities and cultures; social relations and economic conditions; political, religious and intellectual institutions and thought. We will also address major themes and concerns in the writing of medieval history, focussing on cultural contacts between East and West, and on various journeys undertaken by Medieval Europeans. These Travelers may make journeys of the spirit or intellect, as well as by land and sea.

This course will not take the form of a chronological narrative, and does not pretend to completeness. It is designed to provide an informed understanding of certain topics and themes, and to provide the foundations for further studies in pre-modern and/or European history and culture.

ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS

The course will be examined by two midterm assignments and one final examination. The midterm assignments will be due on Monday, October 7th (week 6) and Monday, November 4th (week 10). Together they will count for 50% of the final grade (i.e. 25% plus 25%). The final examination will take place on Monday, December 16 at 2.45pm, and will count for 50% of the final grade.

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly reading assignments are compulsory and should be completed prior to the subject being covered in class. In order to gain the greatest benefit from each weekly set of three lectures, students should complete required reading before the Monday lecture, and thus be equipped better to comprehend the subject matter of each of the three lectures.

Sourcebooks (Required Readings of Primary Sources)

Stephenson, P., WWW. Several Byzantine sources have been translated and mounted on the WWW by Professor Stephenson. You are required to read these, since Geary does not cover Byzantium. Students are expected to use the WWW. Hard copies will be provided only in exceptional cases.

[In addition, links have been provided below to numerous readings at the Internet Medieval Sourcebook, compiled by Paul Halsall. Except where noted, e.g. Psellus, you are not required to read these, but it is strongly recommended.]

Required Reading (Secondary Literature)


Suggested Reading


COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (September 4, 6): The Fall of Rome and Late Antiquity

1.1. Introduction: The Limits of "Medieval Europe"
1.2. The Fall of Rome and the End of Antiquity

*Sourcebook:* Geary, *Late Antiquity*, pp. 1-27, 46-57
*Required Reading:* Collins 1999, pp. 1-99

*Suggested Web Source:* St. Augustine, *Confessions* (text and commentary by J. J. O'Donnell)

*Map:* The Spread of Christianity

WEEK 2 (September 9, 11, 13): "Barbarians" and "Heretics"

2.1. Holy Men and Christian Society (Travelers I: St. Augustine of Hippo)
2.2. "The Barbarian Invasions"
2.3. Kings, Laws and Ethnicity in the "Dark Ages"

*Required Reading:* Collins 1999, pp. 100-34

*Suggested Web Source:* Sidonius Apollinaris, *Two letters* (translated by E. James)
*Suggested Reading:* Brown 1996, pp. 54-75; Fletcher 1997, pp. 66-129

*Map:* The Barbarian Invasions

WEEK 3 (September 16, 18, 20): The Heart of Christendom: Rome, Byzantium and the Franks

3.1. The Early Medieval Papacy
3.2. Byzantium in the Seventh Century
3.3. The Early Franks

*Sourcebook:* Geary, *Early Italy*, pp.188-208; *The Early Franks*, pp. 113-21, 129-51
*Required Reading:* Collins 1999, pp. 135-72

*Suggested Web Source:* *Life of St. Theodore of Sykoon*
*Suggested Reading:* Brown 1996, pp. 76-147; J. Herrin 1989, online

*Maps:* Late Antiquity East, c. 540; Gaul in the Sixth Century

WEEK 4 (September 23, 25, 27): The Frontiers of Christendom: Ireland and England

4.1. Early Medieval Ireland (Travelers II: Brendan the Navigator and the Discovery of America)
4.2. England in the "Dark Ages:" diversity and unity from Arthur to Offa
4.3. King Alfred's England

*Required Reading:* Collins 1999, pp. 173-217
Suggested Web Sources: St. Patrick, Confession; Gildas, Concerning the Ruin of Britain
Maps: Anglo-Saxon England; Medieval Ireland, c. 600; St. Brendan’s Voyage

WEEK 5 (September 30, October 2, 4): The Parting of the Ways: Christian Culture and Institutions, East and West

5.1. Iconoclasm
5.2. Monasticism
5.3. Mission (Travelers III: Constantine and Methodius)

Sourcebook: Geary, Early Italy, pp. 158-87; Stephenson, Iconoclasm
Required Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 218-61

Suggested Web Source: Iconoclast Council 754; Rule of the Studios Monastery
Map: Europe, c. 600

WEEK 6 (October 7, 9, 11): Carolingians and Ottonians

Monday, October 7th: First Midterm assignment due

6.1. Charlemagne
6.2. Charlemagne’s Heirs
6.3. Ottonians (Travelers IV: Theophanu)

Sourcebook: Geary, The Carolingians, pp. 267-303
Required Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 262-308, 333-63

Suggested Web Sources: Agobard of Lyons, On the Division of the Empire
Map: Charlemagne’s wars against the Avars

WEEK 7 (October 14, 16, 18): Byzantium in the tenth century

7.1. Columbus Day - No Class
7.2. The Age of Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus - Byzantium Expanding (Travelers V: Liutprand of Cremona)
7.3. Basil the Bulgarslayer

Sourcebook: Geary, The Empire, pp. 572-9; Stephenson: Constantine Porphyrogenitus, De Cerimoninis; John Skylitzes, Synopsis Historian
Required Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 390-422

Suggested Web Source: Liutprand of Cremona, Mission to Constantinople
Suggested Reading: See bibliography
Map: Byzantium in 1025?

WEEK 8 (October 21, 23, 25): The Viking Age

8.1. Approaches to Viking Age Europe
8.2. Viking expansion to the East
8.3. Byzantium and the Origins of Orthodox Russia

Sourcebook: Stephenson: Constantine Porphyrogenitus, De Administrando Imperio
Required Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 364-89

Suggested Web Source: Three accounts of Viking raids
Suggested Reading: Fletcher 1997, pp. 369-416
WEEK 9 (October 28, 30, November 1): The Other Europe: East-Central and Southeastern Europe

9.1. Peoples from Inner Asia: Magyars and Bulgars
9.2. Bulgaria and its neighbors
9.3. Dalmatia: between East and West

Sourcebook: Stephenson: Theophanes Continuatus; Symeon Logothete
Required Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 365-94; Rona-Tas, online

Suggested Web Source: Stephenson: Chronicle of the Priest of Dukla
Suggested Reading: Fletcher 1997, pp. 417-50; Angelov, online
Map: Avar raids into the Balkans; Maps of the Khazar lands;

WEEK 10 (November 4, 6, 8) Latin Christendom in the Eleventh Century

Monday, November 4th: Second Midterm assignment due

10.1. The Reform Papacy and the German Empire
10.2. Pilgrimage after the Year 1000 (Travelers VI: Gunther of Bamberg)
10.3. The Norman Conquest of England and Domesday Book

Sourcebook: Geary, The Empire, pp. 580-606; Monasticism, 304-18
Required Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 5-59, 305-40

Suggested Web Sources: Gregory VII, Dictatus Papae; Ralph Glaber, on the Year 1000; Annales Altahenses, German Pilgrimage of 1064-5
Suggested Reading: Bartlett 1993, pp. 1-59

WEEK 11 (November 11, 13, 15): The Mediterranean World in the Eleventh Century

11.1. The Normans in Sicily
11.2. Byzantium in the Eleventh Century: a Society in Decline?
11.3. The Byzantine Background to the First Crusade

Sourcebook: Geary, The First Crusade, pp. 408-20 (Alexiad); Stephenson: Psellos, Chronographia (at Fordham Univ.)
Required Reading: Barber 1993, pp. 225-50

Suggested Web Source: Anna Comnena on the First Crusade
Suggested Reading: Barber 1993, pp. 168-92
Map: The Byzantine Empire at various times; Sicily, today

WEEK 12 (November 18, 20, 22): The Crusades

12.1. The First Crusade
12.2. The First Crusaders: Notions of Holy War in West and East (Travelers VII: Baldwin of Boulogne)
12.3. The Crusades, 1100-1204

Sourcebook: Geary, The First Crusade, pp. 386-408
Required Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 119-40, 395-417

Suggested Web Sources: Ekkehard of Aura, Slaughter of Rhinelands Jews; Nicetas Choniates, Capture of Constantinople in 1204
Suggested Reading: Bartlett 1993, pp. 60-133
Map: The Fourth Crusade; Crusader Principalities; Germany under Frederick I

WEEK 13 (November 25, 27, 29): Christendom Expanding
13.1. The German Empire and the Drang nach Osten
13.2. The Baltic and the Hansa
13.3. Thanksgiving Recess

Sourcebook: Geary, The Empire, pp. 607-53
Required Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 195-224, 365-94

Suggested Web Source: Russian Primary Chronicle, s.a. 988
Suggested Reading: Bartlett 1993, pp. 133-96; Fletcher 1997, pp. 451-521
Maps: Germany and Neighbors in 962; Russian trade routes, 12-13th Centuries

WEEK 14 (December 2, 4, 6): Christendom Expanding and Contracting

14.1. The Italian City republics and trade (Travelers VIII: Marco Polo)
14.2. The origins of the Renaissance in Italy
14.3. The Balkans and the Ottoman advance, 1200-1500

Sourcebook: Geary, France, pp. 654-82; Italy, pp. 764-801
Required Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 60-82, 251-70

Suggested Web Source: Marco Polo on Hangchow
Suggested Reading: Bartlett 1993, pp. 197-268
Maps: Economic Map of Europe, c. 1300; Eurasian Trade Routes

WEEK 15 (December 9, 11, 13): The Medieval World View

15.1. Medieval universities and scholars
15.2. European society in the 14th and 15th Centuries
15.3. Conclusions: The Birth of Europe?

Sourcebook: Geary, Church and Society in the 14th and 15th Centuries, pp. 520-71
Required Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 421-508

Suggested Web Source: John of Paris, On Royal and Papal Power
Suggested Reading: Bartlett 1993, pp. 269-314
Maps: Merovingian World Map, 8th Century; Henry of Mainz, World Map, c. 1110; al-Idrisi, World Map, 1154

WEEK 16: Final Exam: 2.45pm, Monday, December 16, 2002

Paul Stephenson, August 2002