THE RISE OF BARBARIAN EUROPE

This course will consider the nomadic cultures of the Eurasian Steppe and the village cultures of Europe during the first millennium B.C. and first millennium A.D. Meeting time: 12:05-12:55 P.M. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The principal topics of the course are:

(1) the emergence of the nomadic way of life in Inner Asia;
(2) shamanism in Inner Asia;
(3) the La Tène Culture of the Celts and its aftermath;
(4) elements of La Tène life in Medieval Irish Literature;
(5) the early Germanic peoples;
(6) reflections of early Germanic life in Medieval Germanic Literature;
(7) the rise of Barbarian Europe: the formation of successor kingdoms in the Western Mediterranean beginning in the fifth century A.D.
Here is your chance to confirm suspicions that professors are lazy people who persuade others to do their work for them. Students who wish to take the course for honors credit will follow the regular sequence of lectures and readings, but from the beginning of the term they will also study intensively the formation of the "barbarian" successor states which the class as a whole will consider at the end of the semester. From these advance studies the honors students will develop a schedule of readings and lectures for the last three weeks of the course. Participants in the project may give one of the scheduled lectures if they wish.

While the project participants are preparing the last part of the course, each student will also be working on a final term paper. The paper is to be written in two drafts. The first draft is due on Friday of the sixteenth week of the term, and the second draft is due on the day of the final examination.