History 318
Medieval Social and Intellectual History, 1150-1450
Spring 1989
Michael H. Shank

Instruction: MW 8:25-9:40 a.m. in Humanities 1651; lectures, followed by discussion.

Office Hours: M 3:30-5 and W 2:30-3:30 (Helen C. White 4137)

Required Books (available at Brown's and University Bookstore)

Norman Cohn, The Pursuit of the Millenium (Oxford).
Nicholas Steneck, Science and Creation in the Middle Ages (Notre Dame).
Julius Weinberg, A Short History of Medieval Philosophy (Princeton).
Lynn White, Medieval Technology and Social Change (Oxford).
One course reader (available after 1/26 at Kinko's)

Recommended: Friedrich Heer, The Medieval World (Mentor).

Requirements

Undergraduates: two hour-exams, one final; paper (8-10 pages) required for 4-credit students; optional for 3-credit students.
Graduate Students: one 20-page research paper.
Paper topics should be cleared with the instructor.

Schedule of Lectures

Week 1 (1/23, 1/25): Introduction
Introduction; Europe since the End of the Roman Empire.
White, skim ch. 1, read ch. 2-3. Persons unfamiliar with the early Middle Ages are urged to skim the early chapters of Knowles, esp. ch. 1, 3. Recommended: Heer, ch. 1-4.

Week 2 (1/30, 2/1): The Revival of Europe
The Rebirth of the City; The "Renaissance of the Twelfth Century."

Week 5 (2/20, 2/22): The University
The Emergence of the University and the Reception of Aristotelianism; What do we mean by "scholasticism?"
Knowles, ch. 13-19 (skim ch. 17). Recommended: Heer, ch. 9-10

Week 6 (2/27, 2/29): Philosophy for its Own Sake
Siger of Brabant and Latin Averroism; the Thomistic Synthesis
Knowles, ch. 20-23; Weinberg, ch. 9; *Thomas Aquinas and Siger of Brabant on the Eternity of World.

Week 7 (3/6, 3/8): First hour-exam; The Limits of Aristotelianism
First Hour-Exam: Monday
The Condemnations of 1277
"Condemnation of 1277;" *Grant, "The Condemnation of 1277, God's Absolute Power, and Physical Thought in the Late Middle Ages;" *Moody, "Empiricism and Metaphysics in Medieval Philosophy."

Week 8 (3/13, 3/15): Criticism, Reform, and Hierarchy
Pluralism in the 14th Century; the Boundaries of Orthodoxy

Spring Recess: Saturday 3/18 to Monday 3/27

Week 9 (3/29): Medieval Architecture as Art and Technology
[No lecture on Monday]
*White, "Natural Science and Naturalistic Art in the Middle Ages;" *Pacey, "The European Cathedral Builders: European Technical Achievement between 1100 and 1280." Recommended: Heer, ch. 16.

Week 10 (4/3, 4/5): Realism and Nominalism
Franciscan thought: Duns Scotus and Ockham; What do we mean by "Nominalism?"
Knowles, ch. 24-Epilogue; Weinberg, ch. 10-11; *Ockham, "The Notion of Knowledge or Science;" *Courtenay, "Nominalism and Late Medieval Religion."

Week 11 (4/10, 4/12): Critical Outlook; Hour-exam
Philosophy and Natural Philosophy After Ockham.
Second Hour-Exam Wednesday
Week 12 (4/17, 4/19): Fourteenth-Century Dislocations
The Black Death and Social and Religious Unrest; Schism and Conciliarism.

Cohn, ch. 7, 10-11; *"The Black Death;" *"Flagellants;" *"Death of Wat Tyler;" *"William Gryndcobbe;" *Courtenay, "Effect of the Black Death on English Higher Education;"
*Peters, "The Age of Wyclif and Hus;" *Shank, "Female University Student."
Recommended: Heer, ch. 13, 15.

Week 13 (4/24, 4/26): Langenstein and Late Medieval Science
The Heavens; The Sublunar Sphere.

Steneck, ch. 1-4, 6-7, 9 (skim ch. 5, 8).

Week 14 (5/1, 5/3): After Constance
Mysticism and "Learned Ignorance;" The Diffusion of Ideas: Scribes and Printers.

*Nicholas of Cusa, "On Learned Ignorance;" *Richard and Mary Rouse, "The Franciscans and Books;" *Eisenstein "The Advent of Printing and the Problem of the Renaissance."

Week 15 (5/8, 5/10): Epilogue
Fifteenth Century: Waning of the Middle Ages or Renaissance?

Friday May 19: Final Exam at 7:45 a.m. (repeat: a.m.)