Spring 2014

History 600: The Crusader States (1098-1291)

Prof. Elizabeth Lapina

Seminar meeting: 3:30-5:25, Thursdays
Seminar location: Mosse Humanities 5255
Office: George Mosse Humanities 4114
Office hours: 02:30-3:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays

This seminar focuses on the medieval society that came into being in the Middle East as a result of the First Crusade. In this society, conquerors and settlers from Western Europe and their descendants interacted with perhaps the most diverse indigenous population of the Middle Ages, composed of Muslims, Eastern Christians, and Jews. In our seminar, we will study the interactions (religious, political, economical, cultural) between different groups inhabiting this society and the limitations of these interactions. In doing so, we will consider the following questions: Were the Crusades States a society based on coexistence or conflict? Did the indigenous peoples resist or accept the Latin rule? Did the Latins segregate themselves or did they assimilate? We will also touch upon the interactions between the Crusader States and their neighbors, both Christian and Muslim. We will draw upon both modern historiography and a selection of primary sources – produced by both the newcomers and the natives; the inhabitants of the region and the visitors – which will include both texts and examples of visual and material culture, such as castles, churches, icons, illuminated manuscripts and archaeological remains. Historians sometimes consider the Crusader States as the first example of European colonialism. In the seminar, we will discuss this theory, its usefulness and its weaknesses.
REQUIREMENTS

[1] Entrance and exist surveys. In weeks 1 and 14 you will receive an online survey from the History Department. (not graded)
[2] Attendance of one of the library sessions. (not graded)
[3] Presentation of one of the articles assigned for the class. You will be able to choose an article on the first day of class. The presentation should not be longer than five minutes. In your presentation you should, where applicable, refer to the following, in any order:
   (a) credentials of the author (place of employment? main research interests?)
   (b) the topic of the article
   (c) the argument of the article, if any
   (d) the evidence (primary sources) used in the article
   (e) the scholarly debate, if any, in which the author engages
   (f) any shortcomings of the article
   (g) any possibility for further research on the topic
   A one-paragraph summary of your topic to be submitted to your instructor. The summary should make clear the question that you will be asking in your paper. The research topic is due early in the semester, so you are free to change your mind later on and to take your research in a different direction.
[5] A brief introduction to the main primary source that you will be using. The source can be a text or an object (such as, for example, a castle). The introduction should include the following:
   (a) the name, the occupation and a short biography of the author, if known
   (b) the date when the source was executed
   (c) an overview of the source
   (d) an explanation of how the source will be useful to you
   The bibliography should include seven secondary sources. Each item should be followed by a short paragraph explaining its relevance to your topic.
[5] Presentation of your research topic.
   A five-minute presentation of your topic, in which you should refer to the following:
   (a) the question that you are asking
   (b) the primary source(s) that you are planning on using
   (c) the current state of research on your topic and any relevant scholarly debates
   (d) any intellectual challenges that you have encountered
[7] Draft Papers. A polished draft should be no more than 25-pages long. Use 12pt font, 1” margins and double spacing.
[8] Peer Review. This should be a formal response to a classmate’s paper. It should provide a brief summary of the paper and suggestions for improvement. The peer review should be no more than 2 pages long. The peer reviewer will also be responsible for asking one question following the final presentation of his/her peer.

Presentation of an article: 5%
Research topic: 5%
An intro to the primary source: 5%
Annotated bibliography: 5%
Presentation of research topic: 5%
Peer review: 5%
Final Presentation: 10%
Final Paper: 40%
Participation: 20%

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE:


RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND READING

P. M. Holt, _The Crusader states and their neighbors, 1098-1291_ (Harlow 2004)

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments submitted late will carry a penalty of - 5% per day for that assignment, excluding weekends. Thus, assignments submitted on Thursday after the seminar will get the maximum grade of 95%, those submitted on Friday will get the maximum grade of 90%, those submitted on Monday will get the maximum grade of 85%, etc. This applies to all of the assignments, including the rough drafts.

LIBRARY

You have to attend one of the following library sessions dedicated to “Introduction to Historical Research”:

Monday Feb. 3
Wednesday Feb. 5
Thursday Feb. 13

The sessions will be taught in Memorial Library Room 231 from 6-7:30pm. You can register by using the following links:


WRITING CENTER:
The Writing Center is a very useful resource if you want help with your papers. Information about the Center can be found here: http://www.writing.wisc.edu/
You can also contact the History Department’s Research & Writing Specialist TA, David Rodriguez: dmrodriguez@wisc.edu

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
The University of Wisconsin considers academic honesty to be a very serious issue. I will always enforce the university policies on academic honesty. I suggest that you read carefully the following website dealing with the rules about plagiarism: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html
If you have questions about plagiarism, please contact me. Further information about student codes of conduct is found here: http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html#points

DISABILITY:
Disability guidelines for course accommodations are found at the UW McBurney Disability Resource Center site: http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu

WEEK 1 (January 23 (R)): Introduction.

WEEK 2 (January 30 (R)): Frontier.

REQUIRED:

RECOMMENDED:

WEEK 3 (February 6 (R)): The Middle East.


**WEEK 4 (February 13 (R)): The Elites.**

**RESEARCH TOPIC DUE** (print out and submit to your instructor before the beginning of the seminar)


**RECOMMENDED:**


**WEEK 5 (February 20 (R)): Religion.**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIMARY SOURCE DUE** (print out and submit to your instructor before the beginning of the seminar)


RECOMMENDED:


WEEK 6 (February 27 (R)): NO CLASS (I will be attending the International Symposium on Crusade Studies in St. Louis)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE (e-mail to your instructor)

WEEK 7 (March 8 (R)): Economy.


WEEK 8 (March 13 (R)):

PRESENTATIONS OF YOUR TOPIC

WEEK 9 (March 20 (R)): SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10 (March 27 (R)): Visual and Material Culture.


**WEEK 11** (March 20 (R)): Everyday life. A Colonial Society?


**RECOMMENDED:**

**WEEK 12** (April 3 (R)): INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH INSTRUCTOR

**WEEK 13** (April 10 (R)): INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH INSTRUCTOR

**WEEK 14** (April 17 (R)): ROUGH DRAFTS DUE

E-mail one copy of your rough draft to your instructor and another to your peer-reviewer.

**WEEK 15** (April 24 (R)): PEER-REVIEWS DUE

E-mail one copy of your comments to me and another to your peer.

**WEEK 16** (May 1 (R)): PRESENTATIONS
WEEK 17 (May 8 (R)): PRESENTATIONS

FINAL DRAFTS DUE (print out and submit to your instructor before the beginning of the seminar).