

Provisional syllabus: final version coming shortly

Paul Stephenson
John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Professor of Byzantine History
Assistant Professor of History

History 413: EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE, 300-1000

Fall 2004: T. Th., 1.00-2.15pm, 1217 Humanities. 3 Credits

PRE-REQUISITES

It will be useful to have studied Medieval European history before, as we shall assume some knowledge. So, to have taken History 115 is recommended, although not required. Alternatively, one may have taken History 313.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of Early Medieval Europe, both West and East, in the period 300-1000. It is intended to build on the cursory treatment presented in History 115 (Medieval Europe, 410-1500), but it is not mandatory to have taken that course. We will make use of the full range of historical and archeological sources to explore the various lands and peoples of Medieval Europe. Our principal focus will be the successors of the Roman Empire: Byzantium and the Frankish (later German) Empire. However, our gaze will fall on many lands: from the Mediterranean to the Caspian and Baltic Seas; from North Africa to Northern Russia; from Ireland and Iceland as far as North America. 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. Our principal goal will be to acquire an informed understanding of certain topics and themes, such as "ethnogenesis" (nation or ethnic formation); the significance of monotheism (belief in one god) and the ideological and cultural function of belief systems; the nature of medieval source material, especially historiography, hagiography and archaeology; ritual and ceremonial activity.

ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS

The course will be examined by two written assignments (40% + 40%), plus attendance, participation in class discussion and quizzes (20%). A midterm paper will be due in week 7. The final paper will be due on the date designated in the timetable.

Explicit grading criteria can be seen here (online).

COURSE WEB PAGE

http://homepage.mac.com/paulstephenson/madison/medieval/eme_2004.html

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly reading assignments are compulsory and should be completed prior to the subject being covered in class, i.e. before the Monday class.

Please note that we are using the 3rd edition of Geary, and the 2nd editions of Brown and Collins. Do NOT buy earlier editions, which are significantly different.

Sourcebooks (Required Readings of Primary Sources)

Geary, P., 2003, Readings in Medieval History, I. The Early Middle Ages, 3rd edn, Peterborough, ON.
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.

Required Reading (Secondary Literature)

Brown, P., 2003, The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity 200-1000, 2nd edn, Oxford & Malden, MA.

Collins, R., 1999, Early Medieval Europe 300-1000, 2nd edn, London & New York.

McKitterick, R., ed. 2001, The Early Middle Ages. Oxford & New York.

Suggested Reading

Fletcher, R., 1997, The Barbarian Conversion. From Paganism to Christianity 371-1386, New York.

McCormick, M., 2001, Origins of the European Economy, Cambridge & New York

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: The Limits of Early Medieval Europe

Introduction; The Limits of "Medieval Europe"

Required Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 1-99

Suggested Reading: Fletcher 1997, pp. 1-65; J. J. O'Donnell 1979, online

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

Map: The Spread of Christianity

WEEK 2: Constantine the Great and Late Antiquity

Was Constantine a Christian?; Holy Men and Christian Society

Sources: Geary, Late Antiquity, pp. 1-27, 46-57

Required Reading: Brown 2003, pp. 1-71

Suggested Reading: McCormick 2001, pp. 1-119

WEEK 3: "Barbarians" and "Heretics"

The "Barbarian" Invasions; Kings, Laws and Ethnicity; **Wireless session 1**

Sources: Geary, The Barbarian World, pp. 65-77, 102-10, The Early Franks, pp. 122-8

Required Reading: Brown 2003, pp. 72-92; Collins 1999, pp. 100-34
Suggested Reading: Fletcher 1997, pp. 66-129
Suggested Web Source: Sidonius Apollinaris, *Two letters* (translated by E. James)
Map: The Barbarian Invasions

WEEK 4: Rome and the Franks

The Early Medieval Papacy; The Early Franks

Sources: Geary, *Early Italy*, pp.188-208; *The Early Franks*, pp. 113-21, 129-51
Required Reading: Brown 2003, pp. 93-122, 145-65, 190-215; Collins 1999, pp. 135-72
Suggested Reading: McCormick 2001, pp. 123-73

WEEK 5: East Rome, Persia and the Arabs; **Wireless session 2**

Justinian; Byzantium in the Seventh Century

Sources: Theophanes, AD 620-6 (via *De Re Militari*)
Required Reading: Brown 2003, pp. 166-89; McKitterick 2001, pp. 1-19
Suggested Reading: J. Herrin 1989, online
Suggested Web Source: Life of St. Theodore of Sykeon
Map: Late Antique East, c. 540

WEEK 6: Islam

Mohammed and the Rise of Islam (video); Spain: from the Visigoths to the Moors

Required Reading: Brown 2003, pp. 267-320; H. Gibb, "The Caliphate and the Arab states," in: M. W. Baldwin, ed., *The first hundred years* (Madison, WI, 1969), ed. K. M. Setton, *A History of the Crusades*, I, pp. 84-99. Now made available online by the Univ. of Wisconsin Press
Suggested Reading: McCormick 2001, pp. 174-236

WEEK 7: Ceremonial Cultures after Rome: Latin Christendom, Byzantium, Islamicate

Coronations, processions and services

There will be no required reading this week, as your midterm paper is due on Thursday.

WEEK 8: Monasticism and Hagiography

Byzantine monasticism; St. Benedict and the Benedictines; towards Cluny

Sources: Life of Athanasios of Athos; documents from Mt. Athos
Required Reading: Brown 2003, 219-31, 355-79; McKitterick 2001, pp. 131-64
Suggested Reading: TBA

WEEK 9: The Parting of the Ways: Christian Culture and Institutions, East and West

Iconoclasm; Missionary activity; **Wireless session 3**

Sources: Geary, Early Italy, pp. 158-87; Stephenson, Iconoclasm
Required Reading: Brown 2003, 383-422; Collins 1999, pp. 218-61
Suggested Reading: Fletcher 1997, pp. 193-284, 327-68
Suggested Web Source: Iconoclast Council 754; Rule of the Studios Monastery
Map: Europe, c. 600

WEEK 10: Court Culture

Life at Court; Byzantium and the West, 700-900: political and cultural exchanges

Sources: Stephenson: Constantine Porphyrogenitus, *De Cerimoniis*
Required Reading: McKitterick 2001, pp. 59-94, 201-42
Suggested Reading: McCormick 2001, pp. 237-77

WEEK 11: Charlemagne and the Carolingians

Making an emperor; war and empire; **Wireless session 4**

Sources: Geary, The Carolingians, pp. 267-303
Required Reading: Brown 2003, pp. 434-461; Collins 1999, pp. 262-308
Suggested Reading: Fletcher 1997, pp. 285-326
Suggested Web Sources: Agobard of Lyons, On the Division of the Empire
Map: Charlemagne's wars against the Avars

WEEK 12: Kings and Emperors in the West

King Alfred's England; Lombard kings and dukes; Wics and Emporia

Sources: Geary, The Empire, pp. 572-9
Required Reading: Collins, pp. 333-63; McKitterick, pp. 21-56
Suggested Reading: McCormick 2001, 614-69

WEEK 13: The Viking Age, I

Approaches to Viking Age Europe; Vikings in the West; **Wireless session 5**

Sources: Stephenson: Constantine Porphyrogenitus, *De Administrando Imperio*
Required Reading: Brown 2003, pp. 463-88; Collins 1999, pp. 364-89
Suggested Web Source: Three accounts of Viking raids
Suggested Reading: Fletcher 1997, pp. 369-416
Map: Suggested Viking Routes

WEEK 14: The Viking Age, II

Viking expansion to the East; Byzantium and the Origins of Orthodox Russia

Sources: TBA
Required Reading: McKitterick 2001, pp. 97-129, 245-9'
Suggested Web Source: Russian Primary Chronicle, s.a. 988

Suggested Reading: McCormick 2001, pp. 729-98

WEEK 15: The Tenth Century

Relics and Holy War

Sources: Stephenson: Constantine Porphyrogenitus, De Cerimoniis

Required Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 390-422

Suggested Reading: McCormick 2001, pp. 319-87

Map: Germany and Neighbors in 962

Paul Stephenson, August 2004