

History 112 The World of Late Antiquity, 200-900 C.E.

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Office Hours are Thursdays 2:30-4:00. If you cannot come at that time, please email me to set up an appointment.

This course charts the dissolution of the cultural and political unity under the Roman Empire and the development of distinct European, Byzantine and Islamic civilizations. Particular attention will be given to the development and spread of Christianity and Islam. Students will acquire a firm foundation for further study in the history of Islamic societies and medieval European and Byzantine history.

Course Learning Goals:

Historical knowledge: students will gain knowledge of the fundamental course of events in the Mediterranean during the period of late antiquity, from the first through 10th centuries.

Study skills: students will be introduced to major advances in the study of learning and given suggestions for how to implement best study practices.

Writing and argumentation skills: students will learn the fundamental structure of a data-driven argument, how to use data and evidence to make an argument, how to structure essays and papers, and become fluent in writing argumentative paragraphs.

This course allows students to pick one of four possible paths corresponding to different levels of engagement with the learning goals of the course:

C Basic Proficiency: Competence at the Basic Proficiency path will earn the student a grade of C. Students in this path will gain basic competency in all three learning goals. The Basic Proficiency path requires students to:

- 1) attend, and pass, 23 of 26 classes and 11 of 12 discussion sections
 - 2) participate in all in-class writing exercises (graded pass/fail)
 - 3) participate in all in-class TopHat questions (not all questions are graded, graded questions need to be passed at 60%)
 - 4) read the required materials for discussion sections
- a pass/fail grade is given for every class and discussion section
 - there are up to four makeup assignments available that can be substituted for a missed or flunked class

B Knowledge: Competence in the Knowledge Path will earn the student a grade of B. The Knowledge Path requires students to:

- 1) fulfill all the requirements of the Basic Proficiency path
 - 2) pass (at 80%) six online tests, evenly spaced throughout the semester
- Any one test may be retaken at the end of the semester
 - A bonus test will be offered at the end of the semester to replace a failed test

B Skills: Competence in the Skills Path will earn the student a grade of **B**. The Skills Path requires students to:

- 1) fulfill all the requirements of the Basic Proficiency path
 - 2) complete four argumentative papers of increasing complexity evenly spaced throughout the semester (1 page, 2-3 page, 3-4 page, 5-6 page)
- all paper assignments include precise specifications indicating exactly what the paper must contain in order to pass
 - all papers are graded as either meeting the specifications, or not, i.e. pass/fail
 - any two papers may be rewritten

A Comprehensive: competence in the Comprehensive Path will earn the student a grade of **A**. The comprehensive path requires students to:

- 1) fulfill all the requirements of the Basic Proficiency Path
- 2) fulfill all the requirements of the Knowledge Path
- 3) fulfill all the requirements of the Skills path

A student who attempts to complete all the elements of the Comprehensive Path, but who fails to achieve a passing grade in all elements, and yet has demonstrated competence above that of either of the B Paths, will earn a grade of **AB**.

A student who attempts to complete all the elements of either the Knowledge or Skills Paths, but who fails to achieve a passing grade in all elements, and yet has demonstrated competence above that of the Basic Proficiency Path, will earn a grade of **BC**.

A student who fails to complete the Basic Proficiency Path, but has earned passes in at least 14 classes and 7 discussion sections will earn a grade of **D**. Less than that gets an **F**.

Recommended Books:

The Rise of Western Christendom, Peter Brown (Abbreviated Brown)

A Short History of the Middle Ages, Barbara Rosenwein, UTP Higher Education, 2002 ISBN: 1442601043 (Abbreviated Rosenwein)

The textbook readings will reinforce but not replace the lessons of the lectures. The online readings for discussion sections are **mandatory**.

| Week | Lectures and Sections | Readings | Due Dates |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Week 1 | Section | History of Everything | |
| | 9/6 Introduction to the Dark Ages | Brown 1-34 | |
| Week 2 | Section | Edward Gibbon | |
| | 9/11 Origins of Mediterranean Unity | Brown Ch. 1 | |
| | 9/13 Roman Religion | Rosenwein 21-25 | |
| Week 3 | Section | Readings on Roman Religion | |
| | 9/18 Argumentative Writing | | |
| | 9/20 Roman Religion II | Rosenwein 25-40 | Test 1, due 1pm |
| Week 4 | No Sections this week | | Paper One Due 9/26 |
| | 9/25 Diocletian | Brown Ch. 2 | |
| | 9/27 Constantine | Brown Ch. 3 | |
| Week 5 | Sections | Martyrdom of Perpetua | |
| | 10/2 4th Century Changes | Rosenwein 40-58 | |
| | Reading Day | | Test 2 |
| Week 6 | Sections | Tacitus & Priscus on Germans & Huns | Paper Two Due 10/10 |
| | 10/9 Goths | | |
| | 10/11 Huns | | |
| Week 7 | Sections | Conversion of Clovis | |
| | 10/16 Eastern Roman Empire | Brown Ch. 4-5 | |
| | 10/18 Monasticism | Brown Ch.6 | Test 3 |
| Week 8 | Sections | Procopius | Paper Three Due 10/24 |
| | 10/23 Ostrogothic Italy | Brown Ch. 7 | |
| | 10/25 Justinian & Theodora | Brown Ch.8 | |
| Week 9 | Sections | St Patrick | |
| | 10/30 Post-Roman West | Rosenwein 61-70; Brown Ch. 12 | |
| | 11/1 Persia Resurgent | | |
| Week 10 | Sections | Readings from Theophanes & Quran | |
| | 11/6 Islam | Rosenwein 101-108; Brown Ch.17 | |
| | 11/8 Arab conquests & Umayyads | Rosenwein 70-75; | Test 4, due 1pm |
| Week 11 | Sections | Theophanes on Arab conquests | Paper Four Due 11/14 |
| | 11/13 Early Medieval Europe | Rosenwein 75-100; Brown Ch. 10 & 11 | |
| | 11/15 Mediterranean Trade | Brown 14, 15 &16 | |
| Week 12 | No sections this week | | |
| | 11/20 Abbasid Revolution | Rosenwein 108-117 | |

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| | Thanksgiving Vacation | | |
| Week 13 | Sections | Donation of Constantine | |
| | 11/27 Camels | Rosenwein 118-137; Brown Ch. 18 & 19 | Quiz 5 |
| | 11/29 Classicism in 9th Century | | Test 5, due 1pm |
| Week 14 | Sections | Photios' Letter to Boris | |
| | 12/4 Orthodoxy & Catholicism | Rosenwein 152-174 | |
| | 12/6 Turks, Crusaders & Mongols | Rosenwein 177-218; Brown Ch.20 | |
| Week 15 | Sections | No sections this week | |
| | 12/11 Snow Day/Sick Day | | Test 6, due 1pm |
| | | | Test retake & Bonus, due 12/15, 2:25 pm |

Class Policies

Act Honorably

(Don't Cheat)

When you lie or cheat for any reason you turn yourself into a liar and a cheater. Cheaters are dishonorable and untrustworthy people. If you hand in someone else's work or copy someone else's work you are cheating and turning yourself into a lousy person. No grade in any class is worth becoming a bad person.

When you cheat on quizzes or copy someone else's work you are not learning. Yet, you still pay tuition. Paying tuition without learning is burning money.

Those who are not persuaded by either moral exhortation or financial logic and are caught cheating in any way **will fail this class**.

Respect Each Other

Do nothing in lecture or discussion that could distract a fellow student from learning. In your behavior and conversation, treat others with respect and dignity.