

Paul Stephenson

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## HI115: MEDIEVAL EUROPE, 410-1500 ILS207: HISTORY OF WESTERN CULTURE, I

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Fall 2002 (September, 4 - December, 13, 2002): M, W, F, 11.00-11.50am; 2650 Humanities

TAs: Jennifer Olsen (History); Denise Kawasaki (ILS)

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of Medieval Europe, both West and East, in the period 410-1500. We will make use of the full range of historical and archeological sources to explore the various lands and peoples of Medieval Europe, ranging from the Mediterranean to the Caspian and Baltic Seas; from North Africa to Northern Russia; from Ireland and Iceland as far as North America! Indeed, 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. We will also address major themes and concerns in the writing of medieval history, focussing on cultural contacts between East and West, and on various journeys undertaken by Medieval Europeans. These Travelers may make journeys of the spirit or intellect, as well as by land and sea.

This course will not take the form of a chronological narrative, and does not pretend to completeness. It is designed to provide an informed understanding of certain topics and themes, and to provide the foundations for further studies in pre-modern and/or European history and culture.

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### ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS

The course will be examined by two midterm assignments and one final examination. The midterm assignments will be due on Monday, October 7th (week 6) and Monday, November 4th (week 10). Together they will count for 50% of the final grade (i.e. 25% plus 25%). The final examination will take place on Monday, December 16 at 2.45pm, and will count for 50% of the final grade.

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### WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly reading assignments are compulsory and should be completed *prior* to the subject being covered in class. In order to gain the greatest benefit from each weekly set of three lectures, students should complete required reading before the Monday lecture, and thus be equipped better to comprehend the subject matter of each of the three lectures.

*Sourcebooks (Required Readings of Primary Sources)*

Geary, P., 1997, Readings in Medieval History, 2nd edn, single volume edn, Peterborough, ON. \$29.99.

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. Except where noted, e.g. Psellos, you are not required to read these, but it is **strongly recommended**.]

*Required Reading (Secondary Literature)*

Collins, R., 1999, Early Medieval Europe 300-1000, 2nd edn, London & New York; [1st edn, 1991]. \$20.95.

Barber, M., 1992, The Two Cities: Medieval Europe 1050-1320, London & New York. \$29.99.

*Suggested Reading*

Brown, P., 1996, *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity 200-1000*, Oxford & Malden, MA. \$29.95.  
 Fletcher, R., 1997, *The Barbarian Conversion. From Paganism to Christianity 371-1386*, New York. \$19.95.  
 Bartlett, R., 1993, *The Making of Europe. Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change 950-1350*, Princeton. \$23.95.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**WEEK 1 (September 4, 6): *The Fall of Rome and Late Antiquity*

- 1.1. Introduction: The Limits of "Medieval Europe"
- 1.2. The Fall of Rome and the End of Antiquity

*Sourcebook*: Geary, *Late Antiquity*, pp. 1-27, 46-57  
*Required Reading*: Collins 1999, pp. 1-99

*Suggested Web Source*: St. Augustine, *Confessions* (text and commentary by J. J. O'Donnell)  
*Suggested Reading*: Collins 1999, pp. 1-60; Brown 1996, pp. 3-53; Fletcher 1997, pp. 1-65; J. J. O'Donnell 1979, online  
*Map*: The Spread of Christianity

WEEK 2 (September 9, 11, 13): *"Barbarians" and "Heretics"*

- 2.1. Holy Men and Christian Society (Travelers I: St. Augustine of Hippo )
- 2.2. "The Barbarian Invasions"
- 2.3. Kings, Laws and Ethnicity in the "Dark Ages"

*Sourcebook*: Geary, *The Barbarian World*, pp. 65-77, 102-10, *The Early Franks*, pp. 122-8  
*Required Reading*: Collins 1999, pp. 100-34

*Suggested Web Source*: Sidonius Apollinaris, *Two letters* (translated by E. James)  
*Suggested Reading*: Brown 1996, pp. 54-75; Fletcher 1997, pp. 66-129  
*Map*: The Barbarian Invasions

WEEK 3 (September 16, 18, 20): *The Heart of Christendom: Rome, Byzantium and the Franks*

- 3.1. The Early Medieval Papacy
- 3.2. Byzantium in the Seventh Century
- 3.3. The Early Franks

*Sourcebook*: Geary, *Early Italy*, pp.188-208; *The Early Franks*, pp. 113-21, 129-51  
*Required Reading*: Collins 1999, pp. 135-72

*Suggested Web Source*: Life of St. Theodore of Sykeon  
*Suggested Reading*: Brown 1996, pp. 76-147; J. Herrin 1989, online  
*Maps*: Late Antique East, c. 540; Gaul in the Sixth Century

WEEK 4 (September 23, 25, 27): *The Frontiers of Christendom: Ireland and England*

- 4.1. Early Medieval Ireland (Travelers II: Brendan the Navigator and the Discovery of America)
- 4.2. England in the "Dark Ages:" diversity and unity from Arthur to Offa
- 4.3. King Alfred's England

*Sourcebook*: Geary, *Anglo-Saxon England*, pp. 209-47  
*Required Reading*: Collins 1999, pp. 173-217

*Suggested Web Sources:* St. Patrick, [Confession](#); Gildas, [Concerning the Ruin of Britain](#)

*Suggested Reading:* Brown 1996, pp. 148-66, 198-215; Fletcher 1997, pp. 130-92

*Maps:* Anglo-Saxon [England](#); Medieval [Ireland](#), c. 600; St. Brendan's [Voyage](#)

WEEK 5 (September 30, October 2, 4): *The Parting of the Ways: Christian Culture and Institutions, East and West*

5.1. Iconoclasm

5.2. Monasticism

5.3. Mission (Travelers III: Constantine and Methodius)

*Sourcebook:* Geary, Early Italy, pp. 158-87; Stephenson, [Iconoclasm](#)

*Required Reading:* Collins 1999, pp. 218-61

*Suggested Web Source:* [Iconoclast Council 754](#); Rule of the [Stoudios Monastery](#)

*Suggested Reading:* Brown 1996, pp. 167-97, 216-53; Fletcher 1997, pp. 193-284, 327-68

*Map:* [Europe](#), c. 600

WEEK 6 (October 7, 9, 11): *Carolingians and Ottonians*

Monday, October 7th: First Midterm assignment due

6.1. Charlemagne

6.2. Charlemagne's Heirs

6.3. Ottonians (Travelers IV: Theophanu)

*Sourcebook:* Geary, The Carolingians, pp. 267-303

*Required Reading:* Collins 1999, pp. 262-308, 333-63

*Suggested Web Sources:* Agobard of Lyons, [On the Division of the Empire](#)

*Suggested Reading:* Brown 1996, pp. 254-320; Fletcher 1997, pp. 285-326

*Map:* Charlemagne's [wars against the Avars](#)

WEEK 7 (October 14, 16, 18): *Byzantium in the tenth century*

7.1. Columbus Day - No Class

7.2. The Age of Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus - Byzantium Expanding (Travelers V: Liutprand of Cremona)

7.3. Basil the Bulgarslayer

*Sourcebook:* Geary, The Empire, pp. 572-9; Stephenson: Constantine Porphyrogenitus, [De Cerimoniis](#); John Skylitzes, [Synopsis Historion](#)

*Required Reading:* Collins 1999, pp. 390-422

*Suggested Web Source:* [Liutprand of Cremona, Mission to Constantinople](#)

*Suggested Reading:* See bibliography

*Map:* [Byzantium](#) in 1025?

WEEK 8 (October 21, 23, 25): *The Viking Age*

8.1. Approaches to Viking Age Europe

8.2. Viking expansion to the East

8.3. Byzantium and the Origins of Orthodox Russia

*Sourcebook:* Stephenson: Constantine Porphyrogenitus, [De Adminstrando Imperio](#)

*Required Reading:* 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 9 (October 28, 30, November 1): *The Other Europe: East-Central and Southeastern Europe*

- 9.1. Peoples from Inner Asia: Magyars and Bulgars
- 9.2. Bulgaria and its neighbors
- 9.3. Dalmatia: between East and West

*Sourcebook*: Stephenson: Theophanes Continuatus; Symeon Logothete  
*Required Reading*: Barber 1992, pp. 365-94; Rona-Tas, online

*Suggested Web Source*: Stephenson: Chronicle of the Priest of Duklja  
*Suggested Reading*: Fletcher 1997, pp. 417-50; Angelov, online  
 Map: Avar raids into the Balkans; Maps of the Khazar lands;

WEEK 10 (November 4, 6, 8) *Latin Christendom in the Eleventh Century*

Monday, November 4th: Second Midterm assignment due

- 10.1. The Reform Papacy and the German Empire
- 10.2. Pilgrimage after the Year 1000 (Travelers VI: Gunther of Bamberg)
- 10.3. The Norman Conquest of England and Domesday Book

*Sourcebook*: Geary, *The Empire*, pp. 580-606; *Monasticism*, 304-18  
*Required Reading*: Barber 1992, pp. 5-59, 305-40

*Suggested Web Sources*: Gregory VII, Dictatus Papae; Ralph Glaber, on the Year 1000; Annales Altahenses, German Pilgrimage of 1064-5  
*Suggested Reading*: Bartlett 1993, pp. 1-59

WEEK 11 (November 11, 13, 15): *The Mediterranean World in the Eleventh Century*

- 11.1. The Normans in Sicily
- 11.2. Byzantium in the Eleventh Century: a Society in Decline?
- 11.3. The Byzantine Background to the First Crusade

*Sourcebook*: Geary, *The First Crusade*, pp. 408-20 (*Alexiad*); Stephenson: Psellos, Chronographia (at Fordham Univ.)  
*Required Reading*: Barber 1993, pp. 225-50

*Suggested Web Source*: Anna Comnena on the First Crusade  
*Suggested Reading*: Barber 1993, pp. 168-92  
 Map: The Byzantine Empire at various times; Sicily, today

WEEK 12 (November 18, 20, 22): *The Crusades*

- 12.1. The First Crusade
- 12.2. The First Crusaders: Notions of Holy War in West and East (Travelers VII: Baldwin of Boulogne)
- 12.3. The Crusades, 1100-1204

*Sourcebook*: Geary, *The First Crusade*, pp. 386-408  
*Required Reading*: Barber 1992, pp. 119-40, 395-417

*Suggested Web Sources*: Ekkehard of Aura, Slaughter of Rhineland Jews; Nicetas Chonates, Capture of Constantinople in 1204  
*Suggested Reading*: Bartlett 1993, pp. 60-133  
 Map: The Fourth Crusade; Crusader Principalities; Germany under Frederick I

WEEK 13 (November 25, 27, 29): *Christendom Expanding*

- 13.1. The German Empire and the *Drang nach Osten*
- 13.2. The Baltic and the Hansa
- 13.3. Thanksgiving Recess

*Sourcebook:* Geary, *The Empire*, pp. 607-53

*Required Reading:* Barber 1992, pp. 195-224, 365-94

*Suggested Web Source:* [Russian Primary Chronicle](#), s.a. 988

*Suggested Reading:* Bartlett 1993, pp. 133-96; Fletcher 1997, pp. 451-524

*Maps:* [Germany and Neighbors in 962](#); [Russian trade routes, 12-13th Centuries](#)

WEEK 14 (December 2, 4, 6): *Christendom Expanding and Contracting*

- 14.1. The Italian City republics and trade (Travelers VIII: Marco Polo)
- 14.2. The origins of the Renaissance in Italy
- 14.3. The Balkans and the Ottoman advance, 1200-1500

*Sourcebook:* Geary, *France*, pp. 654-82; *Italy*, pp. 764-801

*Required Reading:* Barber 1992, pp. 60-82, 251-70

*Suggested Web Source:* [Marco Polo](#) on Hangchow

*Suggested Reading:* Bartlett 1993, pp. 197-268

*Maps:* [Economic Map](#) of Europe, c. 1300; [Eurasian Trade Routes](#)

WEEK 15 (December 9, 11, 13): *The Medieval World View*

- 15.1. Medieval universities and scholars
- 15.2. European society in the 14th and 15th Centuries
- 15.3. Conclusions: The Birth of Europe?

*Sourcebook:* Geary, *Church and Society in the 14th and 15th Centuries*, pp. 520-71

*Required Reading:* Barber 1992, pp. 421-508

*Suggested Web Source:* [John of Paris, On Royal and Papal Power](#)

*Suggested Reading:* Bartlett 1993, pp. 269-314

*Maps:* [Merovingian World Map, 8th Century](#); [Henry of Mainz, World Map, c. 1110](#); [al-Idrisi, World Map, 1154](#)

WEEK 16: Final Exam: 2.45pm, Monday, December 16, 2002

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Paul Stephenson, August 2002