

HIS 115: Medieval Europe 410-1500

Lectures MFW 1:20-2:10
Room: 1641 Humanities

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I. Course Overview

This class will introduce you to medieval society and to several of the images and texts through which historians access medieval culture. We will cover a broad expanse of time and topics over the course of the semester, but we will condense them into a chronological overview of the key individuals, ideas, tensions, and contexts that shaped Western Europe. The course begins in a period when the Roman Empire's social and military weaknesses rendered its political and cultural boundaries increasingly permeable. We will then follow the political, social, and religious transitions that shaped Europe and the Mediterranean up through the fifteenth-century.

The course tracks four themes throughout the medieval period:

- A. Calls for Reform
- B. Tension between Ecclesiastical and Temporal Authority
- C. Tolerance and Intolerance
- D. Movement and Constraint

Each of these themes tie into a comprehensive paper topic that will ask you to compare and contrast several of the historical contexts we study over the course of the semester. You will choose one topic for your research paper (5-6 pages), due on the last day of class. To help you prepare for this assignment, we will have an in-class discussion on structuring an argument, and on critically examining primary sources. For more information, see **Papers, Research Bibliography, and Writing Tips** below.

Questions? *Please don't hesitate to ask me after lecture, in my office, or by email.*

II. Grade Distribution

Midterm (Oct. 31) (30%)
Paper Outline and Annotated Bibliography (Oct. 17) (5%)
Paper, 5-6 pages (Dec. 12) (25%)
Final Exam (Dec. 18) (30%)
Participation and Attendance in Discussion Sections (10%)

Four-credit students will write a 9-10 page paper (Dec. 12) (25%)

III: Required Texts

Edward **Peters**, *Europe and the Middle Ages* (Fourth Edition)
Alfred J. **Andrea**, *The Medieval Record: Sources of Medieval History*
Web (links to sources, maps, and images are included below)
JSTOR (accessed through UW Library's E-Resources)
Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*
Peter Abelard, *The Story of Abelard's Adversities*

IV: Papers, Research Bibliography, and Writing Tips

This semester you will write a 5-6 page paper on your choice of one of four topics. I have posted the "**Paper Topics**" on the course website. We will discuss the paper assignment in class, and we will write a sample thesis statement together. You should also take advantage of the "**Writing Tips**" posted online, where you will find more information on structuring your paper and citing sources with footnotes.

You will also find a "**Research Bibliography**" on the website, to help you begin locating secondary sources for your paper.

I have also posted the "**Writing Evaluation Guide**" I will use to grade your papers. Be sure to read it before you begin writing, and refer back to you as you edit so you can "grade" your work as you go.

If you have not visited the UW Writing Center in the past, please take advantage of their online and in-person resources this semester. I recommend you call and schedule a half-hour writing appointment there for hands-on help with your paper. Slots fill quickly, so be sure to schedule your appointment at least two weeks before the paper is due.

V: Recommended Internet Resources and a Note on Web Sites

The internet has become an efficient way for medievalists to post translations of primary documents, images, and other resources for medieval culture. I have posted links to several useful academic sites on the course website. Other than these exceptions, you may not use websites as sources for your papers or to study for your exams. (www.battle1066.com may have fun pictures, but it will not prepare you for the midterm). *All exam material will be based exclusively on the lectures and assigned texts.*

VI: Weekly Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Readings and Lectures 9/03 through 9/05	
Peters: 1-38	
Web: Caesar, <i>The Gallic Wars</i>, Book IV, chapters 1-6	
9/03	Between Rome and the Reformation: Introduction to the Medieval Period and the Four Themes of the Course
9/05	The Roman Empire in Crisis and Transition: the Second and Third-Century

	Foundations of Medieval Europe
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Readings and Lectures 9/08 through 9/12	
Peters: 39-106	
Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> (begin reading; we will discuss it in class on 10/03)	
Andrea: <i>Christ Triumphant</i> mosaic (38); Eusebius of Caesarea, <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> (29); Lactantius, <i>On the Deaths of the Persecutors</i> (20); Augustine, <i>City of God</i> (34); Tacitus, <i>Germania</i> (41); Cassiodorus, <i>Variae</i> (55); Procopius, <i>On the Buildings</i> and <i>The Secret History</i> (75); Michael Psellus, <i>The Chronographia</i> (83); Gelasius I, <i>Letter to Emperor Anastasius I</i> and <i>On the Bonds of Anathema</i> (110); Gregory I, <i>Letters</i> (112)	
Web: Nicene Creed	
9/08	Christianity in Europe: From Persecution to a Christian Roman Empire
9/10	Movements of the Germanic Tribes, the Fall of Rome, and the Origins of the Byzantine Empire Map: Landscape of Europe, c. 600
9/12	Classical Intellectual Heritage: Greek Philosophy, Neoplatonism, and Early Christian Theology

Readings and Lectures 9/15 through 9/19	
Peters: 124-139	
Andrea: <i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i> (101); <i>Life of St. Gall</i> (107); Gregory II, <i>Letter to Emperor Leo III</i> (118); Bede the Venerable, <i>History of the English Church and People</i> (123)	
Web: Leo I, On the Petrine Doctrine ; Athanasius, Life of St. Antony (sections 1-3 only) ; Gregory I's Pastoral Care	
9/15	From the Desert to the Cloister: Early Christian Asceticism and the Development of the Monastic Tradition
9/17	Anglo-Saxon and Irish Monasticism; Women in the Church
9/19	The Institutional Church and Papal Authority

Readings and Lectures 9/22 through 9/26	
Peters: 107-123, 140-179	
Andrea: Gregory of Tours, <i>History of the Franks</i> (60); <i>Qur'an</i> , surah 3 (88); al-Isfahani, <i>Kitab al-Aghani</i> (95); <i>The Pact of Umar</i> (93); Einhard, <i>The Life of Charlemagne</i> (137); Charlemagne, <i>Letters</i> (141); <i>Capitularies</i> (145); Leo III's <i>Lateran Mosaic</i> (151); Alfred the Great, <i>Letter to Bishop Werfrith</i> (177)	
Web: The Wanderer ; Nennius, History of the Britons (Book III, chapter 50)	
9/22	The Islamic Mediterranean
9/24	Foundation of the Carolingian Empire, and Charlemagne's Reforms
9/26	Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Scandinavian Europe

Readings and Lectures 9/29 through 10/03	
Peters: 179-198, 82-85 (review)	
Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i>	
Andrea: <i>Theodosian Code</i> (23); <i>Salic Law</i> (48); Nithard, <i>Histories</i> (154); Regino of Prüm, <i>Chronicle</i> (158); Liudprand of Cremona, <i>The Deeds of Otto</i> (180); Roswitha of Gandersheim, <i>Sapientia</i> (188)	
Web: Gregory of Tours, Harsh Treatment of Serfs and Slaves, c. 575 Oath of Strasbourg	
9/29	Before France and Germany, East and West Francia: External Threats, The Decline of the Carolingians, the Rise of the Ottonians, and Europe's Political Borders, c. 1000
10/01	Society, Trade, and Roman and Germanic Law
10/03	In-Class Discussion on the Paper Assignment and Structuring an Argument (examples and discussion about writing will be based on the Boethius text)

Readings and Lectures 10/06 through 10/10	
Peters: 199-237	
Andrea: Odo of Cluny, <i>Life of St. Gerald of Aurillac</i> (166); Fulbert of Chartres on Vassalage (171); Burchard of Worms, <i>Laws and Statutes of the Family of Saint Peter of Worms</i> (229)	
Web: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle ; The Domesday Book , 1086; William of Malmesbury, The Battle of Hastings	
JSTOR: excerpt, Elizabeth Brown, "The Tyranny of a Construct: Feudalism and Historians of Medieval Europe," American Historical Review 79 (1974), 1063-88. (You are only responsible for pp. 1076-1088, although the rest may be of interest).	
10/06	Economy, Lordship, and "Feudalism"
10/08	The Norman Conquest, 1066: Political and Social Repercussions in England (Guest Lecturer: Melissa Sartore)
10/10	Reconquest and Kingdom Building: Spain, Italy, and Sicily

Readings and Lectures 10/13 through 10/17	
Peters: 238-250, 258-261, 277-290	
Andrea: <i>Life of the Virgin Liutbirg</i> (127); Sylvester II, <i>Letter to Saint Stephen of Hungary</i> (185); Ralph Glaber, <i>Five Books of History</i> (194); Bernard of Clairvaux's <i>Homily on the Virgin Mary</i> (203); Jacques de Vitry, <i>Sermons</i> (206); Stephen of Bourbon on the Waldensians (209); Francis' <i>Testament</i> (212); <i>Decrees of the Fourth Lateran Council</i> (216); David of Augsburg, <i>On the Inquisition of Heretics</i> (224); <i>Dormition of the Cathedral of Strasbourg</i> and <i>Dormition of the Church of Saint Mary Peribleptos</i> (280); Four Documents from the Investiture Controversy (312);	
Web: Emperor Conrad III, Grant of Mining Rights to Abbey of Corvey, 1150 ; William of St. Thierry, A Description of Clairvaux ; Cathar Inquisition record; Francis' Rule of 1223	
10/13	The "Return to the Desert" and the Cycle of Reform: Tenth And Eleventh-Century Ecclesiastical and Monastic Reforms and the Investiture Controversy

10/15	Lay Piety Movements, Part I: Lay Spiritual Movements, Heresies, and the Rise of the Mendicant Orders
10/17	Christian Mysticism and New Images of Christ and Mary <i>Paper Outline and Annotated Bibliography Due in Class</i>

Readings and Lectures 10/20 through 10/24	
Peters: 251-257, 290-296	
Andrea: <i>Decrees of the Fourth Lateran Council</i> (216); Bishop of Speyer, <i>Charter to the Jews of Speyer</i> (255); the <i>fuero</i> of Cuenca (257); <i>The Peace of God, The Truce of God</i> (173); Robert the Monk, <i>A Jerusalem History</i> , and Fulcher of Chartres, <i>A Jerusalem History</i> (343); Thirteenth-century manuscript miniatures (349); Solomon Bar Simson, <i>Chronicle</i> (351); Usamah ibn Munquidh, <i>The Book of Reflections</i> (356); Gunther of Paris, <i>Hystoria Constantinopolitana</i> (361)	
Web: Charlemagne, Capitulary for the Jews, 814	
The Jews of Spain and the Visigothic Code, 654-681 CE	
Innocent III, Protest to Philip Augustus of France Against Royal Protection of Jewish Money-Lenders, 1204	
Innocent III, Decree of 1199 On the Jews	
Innocent III, Constitution for the Jews , 1199	
Ibn Al-Athir; Fuero of Teruel , 1176 CE	
10/20	Medieval Jewish Culture
10/22	The Crusades and Western Colonization in the Middle East
10/24	<i>Crusades</i> (BBC-A&E, 1995)

Readings and Lectures 10/27 through 10/31	
Peters: 336-349	
Andrea: <i>Song of Roland</i> (239); Gallo-Roman Relief (273); <i>Notre Dame la Brune, Ecclesia, and Synagoga</i> (276); The Archpoet's <i>Confession of Goliath</i> , St. Francis' <i>Canticle of the Creatures</i> , and the <i>Dies Irae</i> (283); Chrétien de Troyes, <i>Erec et Enide</i> (289); Chaucer, <i>Canterbury Tales</i> (410)	
Web: Andreas Capellanus, The Art of Courtly Love	
10/27	The Architecture of Sacred Space: from Romanesque to Gothic Style
10/29	Literature, Music, Sculpture, and Religious Imagery
10/31	Midterm

Readings and Lectures 11/03 through 11/07	
Peters: 262-276, 327-336, 373-380	
Abelard's Adversities	
Andrea: Peter Abelard, <i>Sic et Non</i> (263); Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> (266); 1272 Statute for the Arts Faculty of Paris (270); Nicole Oresme, <i>On the Heavens</i> (422);	
Web: Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> , Part I, question 1, article 1 ("Whether, besides philosophy, any further doctrine is required?");	
Aquinas, <i>Summa</i> , Part I, question 2, article 3 ("Does God exist?")	
11/03	Medieval Daily Life: Home, Work, Community, and Gendered Spaces

11/05	Medieval Education, Part I: Cathedral Schools, Independent Scholars, and New Approaches to Theology and Law
11/07	Medieval Education, Part II: Theology, Logic, and Science, and the Rise of the Universities
<i>No discussion sections this week</i>	

Readings and Lectures 11/10 through 11/14	
Peters: 297-326, 349-354	
Andrea: Glanville, <i>Concerning the Laws and Customs of the Kingdom of England</i> (242); John of Viterbo, <i>Book on the Government of Cities</i> (252); Gospel Book of Monte Cassino (298); <i>The Assize of Clarendon</i> (301); Innocent III, <i>Solitae</i> (317); <i>Magna Carta</i> (329); Frederick II, <i>Statute in Favor of the Princes</i> (334); Edward I, <i>Summons to Parliament, 1295</i> (336); Franco Sacchetti, <i>Three Hundred Novellas</i> (406)	
Web: Innocent III, <i>Per venerabilem</i> Boniface VIII, Unam sanctam Giovanni Villani, Florentine Chronicle Dante, <i>Paradiso</i> , Canto XV , Canto XXII , Canto XXX	
11/10	From <i>Per venerabilem</i> to <i>Unam sanctam</i>: The Transformation of Papal Authority from Innocent III (d. 1216) to Boniface VIII (d. 1303)
11/12	Royal and Imperial Power: England, France and Germany
11/14	Dante's Italy: Society, Politics, and Religion

Readings and Lectures 11/17 through 11/21	
Peters: 355-372	
Andrea: <i>Ordinances of the Gild Merchant of Southampton</i> (247); Frederick of Hamburg: <i>Charter of Privileges</i> (234); <i>The Gospel According to the Marks of Silver</i> (295); Jean de Venette, <i>Chronicle</i> (381); Jean Froissart, <i>Chronicles</i> (Peasant Revolts) (397); Henry Knighton, <i>Chronicle</i> (385)	
Web: Charter for the Town of St. Omer, 1127 Adalbert, Bishop of Worms, Grant of a Craft Guild to Fishermen, 1106-1107 Purchase of Shares in a Ship, 1248 Boccaccio, <i>Decameron</i> (Third Day, First Story), (Ninth Day, Second Story), (Ninth Day, Third Story), (Ninth Day, Sixth Story) Statute of Laborers, 1351	
11/17	The Medieval City: Urbanization and the Commercial Revolution
11/19	The Black Death, Part I: Famine, Decline, and Crisis
11/21	The Black Death, Part II: Economic, Religious, and Cultural Effects

Readings and Lectures 11/24 through 11/26	
Peters: 380-383	
Andrea: Catherine of Siena, <i>Letters to Gregory XI and Queen Joanna I of Naples</i> (389); Council of Constance, <i>Haec Sancta, Frequens, Execrabilis</i> (429)	
Web: Marsilius of Padua, Defensor Pacis ; Petrarch, Letter Criticizing the Avignon Papacy	
11/24	The Avignon Papacy, the Great Schism, and Conciliarism
11/26	No class

Readings and Lectures 12/01 through 12/05	
Peters: 271-273 (review), 387-405	
Andrea: John of Paris, <i>Treatise on Royal and Papal Power</i> (322); Jean Froissart, <i>Chronicles</i> (397); Christine de Pisan, <i>Ditié de Jeanne d'Arc</i> (435); Wyclif, <i>Concerning the Pope</i> (394); Guicciardini, <i>History of Florence</i> (449); Bruni, <i>On the Study of Literature</i> (454); <i>Allegory on the Transitoriness of Life and The Adoration of the Shepherds</i> (460)	
Optional evening film: Henry V (1989)	
12/01	Late Medieval Political Theory and Law
12/03	England and France: The Hundred Years War and Dynastic Struggle
12/05	The Medieval Renaissance: Art, Culture, and Humanism in Italy and Northern Europe
Readings and Lectures 12/08 through 12/12	
Peters: 383-386, 406-428	
Andrea: Jean de Joinville, <i>Life of Saint Louis</i> (365); John of Monte Corvino, <i>Letter to the West</i> (371); John Mandeville, <i>Travels</i> (417); Georg Widman, <i>Chronicle</i> (432); Johan Bämmler, <i>Wondrous Fountains and Peoples</i> (465); Christopher Columbus, <i>Letter Concerning Recently Discovered Islands</i> (467)	
Web: <i>The Book of Margery Kempe</i> , excerpt I and excerpt II	
The Discovery of North America by Leif Ericsson, c. 1000 from <i>The Saga of Eric the Red</i> , 1387 (section: "Here Begins the Brief History of the Greenlanders")	
John of Monte Corvino, Report from China, 1305 ; <i>The Travels of Friar Odoric</i>	
12/08	Spain, The Fall of Byzantium, and The Third Rome (Guest Lecturer: Nik Hoel)
12/10	Lay Piety Movements, Part II: The Medieval Reformation
12/12	Expansion and Transition <i>Papers Due in Class</i>

Final Exam: Thursday, December 18th, 7:45 a.m. Room TBA