

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 2005-06

History 223

Mrs. Kawasaki
Office 5231
MW 10-11
dhkawasaki@wisc.edu

Medieval Political Thought

Course Description

This is a course on the history and evolution of medieval political thought. We will investigate its origins in the Classical world and learn how Greek and Roman political thought influenced the early church that in turn cast a long shadow across political thinking in the Middle Ages. The Medieval period will begin with an examination of the thinking of Eusebius of Caesarea and St. Augustine of Hippo and the Latin Fathers then proceed to the Germanic successor kingdoms in the West and to the Carolingian rulers. We will also look at a number of intellectual developments in the twelfth through the fifteenth centuries, including Scholastic thinkers such as St. Thomas Aquinas. We will also pay close attention to the relationship between the papacy and various secular rulers, as well as the influence of Canon and Roman law on political thinking. Events such as the struggle between Philip the Fair, King of France, and Pope Boniface VIII, the Avignon papacy, the Great Schism, the rise of Conciliarism, and the Councils of Constance and Basle will receive particular attention.

Lectures

There will be three lectures each week, accompanied by a brief question period. We will also have a discussion day approximately every two weeks in order to discuss the material covered in lecture.

Examinations and Written Assignments

There will be two exams: an hour midterm and a two-hour final. All students must turn in a 10 or 12 page research paper on a topic relating to medieval political thought. Each student must consult with the instructor concerning a topic by October 7, 2005. The papers will be due on December 2, 2005.

Grading System

The final grade will be determined in the following manner:
10% participation and attendance, 25% midterm exam, 25% research paper, 40% final exam.

Required Readings

J. Canning, A History of Medieval Political Thought: 300-1450
B. H. Rosenwein, A Short History of the Middle Ages
B. Tierney, The Crisis of Church and State: 1050-1300

Various readings on the World Wide Web

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

September

Week 2: 9/7-9/9: The Greek LegacyPlato, Republic: Book II Ch. I; Aristotle: Politics: Book I Ch. I; Book II Ch. 1-3, 5; Book IV Ch. III-XI
Week 3: 9/12-9/16: Roman and Early Christian thinkers.....Canning: p. 16-39; Tierney: Ch. 1; Rosenwein: p. 13-36; Cicero: Republic: Book I Ch. 25-29
Week 4: 9/19-9/23: Discussion Day on the 19th; Byzantine Empire, Germanic Successor States.....Canning: p.1-15; Rosenwein: p.39-61; Constantine Porphyrogenitus: De Administrando Imperio; Gregory of Tours: History of the Franks: Book II Ch. 27-38.
Week 5 9/26-9/30: Carolingian period and the ninth century collapse of Carolingian political authority; Discussion Day 9/30..... Canning: p. 44-74, Tierney: Ch. 2; Rosenwein: p. 63-81

October

Week 6: 10/3-10/7: Eleventh Century; Conflict between regnum and sacerdotium; Investiture Controversy.....Canning: p. 74-110; Tierney: Pt. II: 1-4; Rosenwein: p. 90-136
Week 7: 10/10-10/14: Discussion Day 10/10; The twelfth century and the revival of Roman law.....Canning: p. 110-125; Tierney: Pt. III. 1-3; Rosenwein: p. 139-155
Week 8: 10/17 Political developments in Italy, France and England; 10/19 Review for midterm exam; 10/21 MIDTERM EXAM
Week 9: 10/24-10/28: The Thirteenth Century.....Canning: p. 125-134; Tierney: Pt. III 4-5; Pt. IV 2; Rosenwein: p. 161-181

November

Week 10: 10/31-11/4: 10/31 Even more thirteenth century; 11/2 Discussion Day; 11/4 Overview of the fourteenth century.....Canning: p. 135-154; Tierney: Pt. IV 3-4; Dante: Monarchia: Book I Ch. 12-13
Week 11: 11/7-11/11: The tumultuous fourteenth century.....Canning: p. 161-173; Rosenwein: p. 183-194; John of Paris: TBA; William of Ockham: TBA
Week 12: 11/14-11/23: The growth of the idea of representation and the Great Schism.....Canning: p. 174-182; Rosenwein: p. 194-204; John Gerson and other early conciliar thinkers: TBA
Week 13: 11/21-11/25: 11/21 the role of the university in the Great Schism; 11/23 no class; 11/25 Thanksgiving break.....No reading assignment
Week 14: 11/28-12/2: The growth of Conciliarism and the road to Constance.....Reading assignment: Antony Black: "The Conciliar Movement" in The Cambridge History of Medieval Political Thought: c. 350-1450" p. 573-587; 12/2: Research paper due
Week 15: The Council of Constance and the Council of Basle.....Reading assignment: Nicholas of Cusa: De Concordantia Catholica: Book III Ch. 1-7
Week 16: 12/12-12/14: 12/12 Towards the Future; 12/14 Review.....No reading assignment