

History 318

Medieval Social and Intellectual History, 1150-1450
Spring 1989

Michael H. Shank

Instruction: MW 8:25-9:40 a.m. in Humanities 1651; lectures, followed by discussion.

Office Hours: M 3:30-5 and W 2:30-3:30 (Helen C. White 4137)

Required Books (available at Brown's and University Bookstore)

Norman Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium* (Oxford).
David Knowles, *The Evolution of Medieval Thought* (Vintage).
Nicholas Steneck, *Science and Creation in the Middle Ages* (Notre Dame).
Julius Weinberg, *A Short History of Medieval Philosophy* (Princeton).
Lynn White, *Medieval Technology and Social Change* (Oxford).
One course reader (available after 1/26 at Kinko's)

Recommended: Friedrich Heer, *The Medieval World* (Mentor).

Requirements

Undergraduates: two hour-exams, one final; paper (8-10 pages) required for 4-credit students; optional for 3-credit students.

Graduate Students: one 20-page research paper.

Paper topics should be cleared with the instructor.

Schedule of Lectures

Week 1 (1/23, 1/25): Introduction

Introduction; Europe since the End of the Roman Empire.

White, skim ch. 1, read ch. 2-3. Persons unfamiliar with the early Middle Ages are urged to skim the early chapters of Knowles, esp. ch. 1, 3. Recommended: Heer, ch. 1-4.

Week 2 (1/30, 2/1): The Revival of Europe

The Rebirth of the City; The "Renaissance of the Twelfth Century."

*Pirenne, "Cities and European Civilization;" *Bynum, "Did the Twelfth Century Discover the Individual?"; Knowles, ch. 6-8; Cohn, ch. 1-2. Recommended: Heer, ch. 5-7.

Week 3 (2/6, 2/8): Intellectual Life in the Twelfth Century

Platonism; The Translation Movement.

Knowles, ch. 9-12; *Chenu, "Man and Nature: The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century."

Week 4 (2/13, 2/15): Religious Ferment

Mendicants and the "Apostolic Life;" New Spirituality and Heresy.

Cohn, ch. 3-4, 6; *Bolton, "Mulieres sanctae;" *Little and Rosenwein, "Social Meaning in the Monastic and Mendicant Spiritualities." Recommended: Heer, ch. 8.

Week 5 (2/20, 2/22): The University

The Emergence of the University and the Reception of Aristotelianism; What do we mean by "scholasticism?"

Knowles, ch. 13-19 (skim ch. 17). Recommended: Heer, ch. 9-10

Week 6 (2/27, 2/29): Philosophy for its Own Sake

Siger of Brabant and Latin Averroism; the Thomistic Synthesis

Knowles, ch. 20-23; Weinberg, ch. 9; *Thomas Aquinas and Siger of Brabant on the Eternity of World.

Week 7 (3/6, 3/8): First hour-exam; The Limits of Aristotelianism

First Hour-Exam: Monday

The Condemnations of 1277

*"Condemnation of 1277;" *Grant, "The Condemnation of 1277, God's Absolute Power, and Physical Thought in the Late Middle Ages;" *Moody, "Empiricism and Metaphysics in Medieval Philosophy."

Week 8 (3/13, 3/15): Criticism, Reform, and Hierarchy

Pluralism in the 14th Century; the Boundaries of Orthodoxy

Cohn, ch. 8; *Peters, ed., "Spiritual Franciscans and Voluntary Poverty;" *Douie, *The Nature and Effect of the Heresy of the Fraticelli*, ch. 6-7, pp. 153-247. Recommended: Heer, ch. 13-14.

Spring Recess: Saturday 3/18 to Monday 3/27

Week 9 (3/29): Medieval Architecture as Art and Technology

[No lecture on Monday]

*White, "Natural Science and Naturalistic Art in the Middle Ages;" *Pacey, "The European Cathedral Builders: European Technical Achievement between 1100 and 1280." Recommended: Heer, ch. 16.

Week 10 (4/3, 4/5): Realism and Nominalism

Franciscan thought: Duns Scotus and Ockham; What do we mean by "Nominalism?"

Knowles, ch. 24-Epilogue; Weinberg, ch. 10-11; *Ockham, "The Notion of Knowledge or Science;" *Courtenay, "Nominalism and Late Medieval Religion."

Week 11 (4/10, 4/12): Critical Outlook; Hour-exam

Philosophy and Natural Philosophy After Ockham.

Second Hour-Exam: Wednesday

Weinberg, ch. 12; *Grant, "Scientific Thought in Fourteenth-Century Paris: Jean Buridan and Nicole Oresme." Recommended: Heer, ch. 12.

Week 12 (4/17, 4/19): Fourteenth-Century Dislocations

The Black Death and Social and Religious Unrest; Schism and Conciliarism.

Cohn, ch. 7, 10-11; *The Black Death;" *Flagellants;" *Death of Wat Tyler;" *William Gryndcobbe;" *Courtenay, "Effect of the Black Death on English Higher Education;" *Peters, "The Age of Wyclif and Hus"; *Shank, "Female University Student."
Recommended: Heer, ch. 13, 15.

Week 13 (4/24, 4/26): Langenstein and Late Medieval Science

The Heavens; The Sublunar Sphere.

Steneck, ch. 1-4, 6-7, 9 (skim ch. 5, 8).

Week 14 (5/1, 5/3): After Constance

Mysticism and "Learned Ignorance;" The Diffusion of Ideas: Scribes and Printers.

*Nicholas of Cusa, "On Learned Ignorance;" *Richard and Mary Rouse, "The Franciscans and Books;" *Eisenstein "The Advent of Printing and the Problem of the Renaissance."

Week 15 (5/8, 5/10): Epilogue

Fifteenth Century: Waning of the Middle Ages or Renaissance?

Friday May 19 : Final Exam at 7:45 a.m. (repeat: *a.m.*)