

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History

Semester II Year 1985-86

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572	Monasticism in the Middle Ages	Courtenay

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A pro-seminar on monastic institutions in the Christian West from their origins to the fifteenth century. The course will move chronologically from Egyptian monasticism in the fourth century, its spread to the west, the growth of monasteries in northern Europe in the pre-Carolingian and Carolingian societies, the monastic reform movements of the 10th and 11th centuries, the Cistercians, the relation of monasticism to the mendicant orders, and the fate of monasticism in late medieval society. Particular attention will be given to the place of monasticism within ecclesiastical structures, feudal society, social context, and the history of education.

There will be some lectures, particularly in the early part of the course, but many sessions will be devoted to discussion in which students will make presentations on topics appropriate to the course. The term grade will be based on class participation in discussion, the class presentation, and a lengthy term paper.

LECTURES

Occasionally

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Term paper

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F

REQUIRED READINGS

Knowles, Christian Monasticism
Rule of St. Benedict

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History 572
Monday 2:30 - 4:30

Mr. Courtenay

READING COURSE ON MONASTICISM

Reading Requirements:

Texts: C.H. Lawrence, Medieval Monasticism
Leclercq, The Love of Learning and the Desire for God
Timothy Fry, (ed.) The Rule of St. Benedict

The purpose of the course is to expose the student to the important secondary literature and the problems in each area faced by the historian. The required readings will form the common basis for all students in the course. Additional readings on each topic will be divided among the students in the course, who will give brief (10 to 15 minutes) oral reports summarizing the content, purpose, and importance of what they have read. The second half of each session will be taken up in discussion. Each student will prepare a research paper on one aspect of one topic, to be turned in no later than April 28.

Grading in the course will be based on the quality of in-class reports, participation in discussion, and the research paper. There will be no exams.

Jan. 27	Organization of the course and discussion of periodicals on Monasticism
Feb. 3	Origins of Monasticism: Lawrence 1: <u>RB</u> 3-41
Feb. 10	Comparison of Monastic Rules
Feb. 17	John Cassian: <u>RB</u> 42-64
Feb. 24 & Mar. 3	Benedictine Rule and the <u>Regula Magistri</u> : Lawrence 2: <u>RB</u> 65-136, 156-297, 478-493
Mar. 17	Monasticism in the Early Middle Ages
Mar. 31	Irish and English Monasticism: Lawrence 3-4
Apr. 7	Cluny: Lawrence 5-7
Apr. 14	Eleventh-Century Reform Movements: Lawrence 8
Apr. 21	Cistercians: Lawrence 9
Apr. 28	Franciscans and Dominicans: Lawrence 10-12
May 5	Late Medieval Monastic Movements