

Syllabus
History of Science 322: Ancient and Medieval Science
Spring term, 2001

TEXTBOOKS

Required of everybody:

Baldwin, John. *The Scholastic Culture of the Middle Ages, 1000-1300.*

Lindberg, David C. *The Beginnings of Western Science.*

Lindberg, David C. *Course Reader*, available from History of Science office, 7137 Social Science.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Don't even think about missing a lecture.
2. Do all required readings.
3. Participate in class discussions.
4. Write three take-home essays, due about the 6th and 11th weeks of the semester and a final essay that will serve as the final exam.
5. Approximately once a week you will either (1) be assigned a one-page response paper in which you react to course readings or lectures, or (2) take a short T/F quiz on readings or lectures. These will typically occur (or, for the response papers, be due) on Fridays, though there will undoubtedly be exceptions. I'll keep you informed of the schedule as we go along. It follows that if you are in the habit of skipping Friday lectures or were expecting to begin that practice with this course, History of Science 322 is not for you.
6. Undergraduates who have taken History of Science 201 or ILS 201 or those enrolled for honors credit: Write two essay reviews of books dealing with ancient and medieval science, 3-4 pages each, in which you set forth the central theme of the book and its relationship to other course materials (where possible), and offer critical and evaluative comments. Eligible books are marked with an asterisk in the book list below (books marked with a double asterisk count as two books); un-asterisked books may be chosen by special permission. The first book review is due on March 2, the second on April 6.

GRADING

1. The first essay will be worth 50 points, the second 75 points, and the third 100 points.
2. The quizzes and response papers are worth 10 points each. Lowest two scores will be dropped. If you miss a quiz or fail to turn in a response paper, that will be one of the dropped scores.
3. Up to 50 additional points will be awarded for participation in class discussions.

Note: The quizzes are factual (or informational) in character and are meant to help you remain serious about this course. But don't let this "factual" aspect of the course mislead you to suppose that the real purpose of history is to impart information. Historical data are important, of course, but the real purpose of history is to analyze these historical data (yes, "data" is a plural noun) and formulate interpretations of the past. A good memory for factual data will no doubt be of considerable help, but the skills you should seek most diligently to develop are your analytical and synthetic abilities. These abilities will be tested by the response papers, the three take-home essays, and the class discussions.

APPROXIMATE COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Jan. 22 (M) - Introduction
2. Jan. 24 (W) - Master Narratives
3. Jan. 26 (F) - Pre-Greek Science
4. Jan. 29-Feb. 2 (M-F) - Pre-Socratic Philosophy
5. Feb. 5-7-9 (M-F) - Plato's World of Forms
6. Feb. 12-14-16 (M-W-F) - Aristotle's Philosophy of Nature
7. Feb. 19 (M) - Hellenistic Natural Philosophy
8. Feb. 21-26 (W-F-M) - Ancient Astronomy
9. Feb. 28 (W) - Ancient Medicine and Biology
10. Mar. 2 (F) - Galenic Physiology
11. Mar. 5-7 (M-W) - The End of Greek Science and Transmission to Islam.
12. Mar. 9 (F) - Learning and Science in Islam
13. Mar. 19 (M) - Science in the Early Middle Ages
14. Mar. 21 (W) - Science and the Church
15. MAR. 23 (F) - Revival of Learning in the 12th Century
16. Mar. 26 (M) - Transmission of Greek and Islamic Learning to the West
17. Mar. 28 (W) - Books and Manuscripts (meet in Memorial Library, Special Collections)
18. MAR. 30 (F) - Medieval Universities
19. APR. 2-6 (M-W-F) - The Reception of Aristotle
20. APR. 9 (M) - Roger Bacon and Handmaiden Science
21. APR. 11-16 (W-F-M) - Medieval Astronomy and Cosmology
22. Apr. 18-23 (W-F-M) - Medieval Theories of Motion
23. Apr. 25 (W) - Catch-up
24. Apr. 27 (F) - No class
25. Apr. 30-May 2 (M-W) - Optics and Visual Theory
26. MAY 4-9 (F-M-W) - Medieval Medicine and Natural History