

University of Wisconsin – Madison
Department of History
Spring Semester, 2020-2021

History 309
The Crusades

ONLINE

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:45



Prof. Elizabeth Lapina

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office hours: 9:00 – 9:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

TA: Ethan Cramer

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Location: HISTORY309: The Crusades: Christianity and Islam (001) SP21 - Course Room

The crusades were a new type of war believed by participants and contemporaries to be not only just, but also holy. The rallying cry of the First Crusade was “God wills it!” In this class we will study political and military history of crusades, analyze the ideas that made crusades possible and discuss experiences of those involved in or affected by them, including men and women, Christians, Jews and Muslims.

This 4-credit course meets as a group for 4 hours per week (according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy, each lecture counts as 1.5 hours and each discussion counts as an hour). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of at least 8 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for quizzes and exams for this course.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To learn about crusades, interfaith and cross-cultural relations during the period of crusades and religious violence.
- To engage with a variety of primary and secondary sources, both orally and in writing
- To learn to interpret critically modern representations and uses of the medieval past

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Please have these sources at hand for each class and each discussion section. If you wish, you can use different editions as long as you are aware of and accept the inconveniences this might cause you.

1. Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades: A History*
2. Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (Penguin)
3. Robert the Monk, *Chronicle of the First Crusade*
4. Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades*

GRADING:

- Assignment # 1: **BLOG POST ON JERUSALEM (due on Feb. 16)** 7%
- Assignment # 2: **BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX (due on Feb. 23)** 7%
- Assignment # 3: **GUEST SPEAKER (due on March 2 OR April 20)** 7%
- Assignment # 4: **TAKE-HOME QUIZ 1 (due on March 9)** 7%
- Assignment # 5: **ESSAY ON VILLEHARDOUIN (due on March 16)** 8%
- Assignment # 6: **ESSAY ON JOHN OF JOINVILLE (due on April 1)** 8%
- Assignment # 7: **TAKE-HOME QUIZ 2 (due on April 6)** 7%
- Assignment # 8: **PAUL COBB (due on April 13th)** 7%
- Assignment # 9: **ESSAY ON FILM (due on April 27).** 8%

Participation in class: 4% (you will get full credit for video-on interventions in 4 different classroom discussions, excluding small group work; questions, comments and answers to questions count as interventions)

Participation in sections: 10%

Final Exam: 20 %

Any assignment submitted late will get an automatic grade reduction of 10%. Any assignment not submitted within a week of the due date will not be accepted.

We are lucky in that we will have three talks on campus that will have to do with Jerusalem. You will have to attend two of them (# 2 and either # 1 or # 3)

[1] Prof. Annabel Wharton will speak on “CONTEMPORARY USES OF THE PAST: THE MODEL OF HERODIAN JERUSALEM IN THE ISRAEL MUSEUM” on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, AT 5:00 PM

[2] Prof. Paul Cobb will speak on “SALADIN’S JERUSLAEM” on THURSDAY, APRIL 8, AT 5:00 PM

[3] Prof. Avinoam Shalem will speak on “THE RETURN OF THE GAZE: ON MODERN PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM AND THE MELANCHOLIES OF A BLESSED VIEW” on THURSDAY, APRIL 15, AT 3:00 PM

Also, I will replace one of my lectures with a public talk

[4] “DEPICTING THE HOLY WAR ON WALL PAINTINGS IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE IN THE TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH CENTURIES” on MARCH 19 AT 5:00 PM.

HISTORY LAB:

Very useful if you want help with your papers!

Information about the History Lab can be found here: <https://history.wisc.edu/thehistorylab.htm>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University of Wisconsin considers academic honesty to be a very serious issue. I will **always** enforce the university policies on academic honesty. I suggest that you read carefully the following website dealing with the rules about plagiarism: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html If you have questions about plagiarism, please contact me or your TA. Further information about student codes of conduct is found here: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html#points>

DISABILITY

Disability guidelines for course accommodations are found at the UW McBurney Disability Resource Center site: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu>

Week 1

Jan 26 (Tuesday): Introduction.

Jan 28 (Thursday): The Middle East on the eve of the First Crusade.

READ: Start reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 1, “Holy and Penitential Warfare” and Chapter 2, “The birth of the crusading movement: The preaching of the First Crusade,” 21-45.

Week 2

Feb 2: The First Crusade I.

Feb 4: The First Crusade II.

READ: Robert the Monk, *History of the First Crusade*, 77- 196 (make sure to read at least until p. 135 before Feb. 2); finish reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 2; start reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 3, “The course of the First Crusade.”

Week 3

Feb 9: The First Crusade III.

Feb 11: The city of Jerusalem.

READ: Robert the Monk, *History of the First Crusade*, 196-214 (make sure to finish this reading before Feb. 9); Fulcher of Chartres, "The Site of Jerusalem," 116-119; Benjamin of Tudela, "Letter from Jerusalem" (on Canvas); Gabrieli, *Arab Historians*, "Description of Jerusalem," 151-153; finish reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 3, "The course of the First Crusade."

RECOMMENDED: Riley-Smith, Chapter 4, "The holy places and the patriarchates of Jerusalem and Antioch."

Week 4

Feb. 16: The Second Crusade.

Feb. 18: Military Orders.

READ: Bernard of Clairvaux, *In Praise of the New Knighthood* (on Canvas)

ASSIGNMENT # 1: BLOG POST (due on Feb. 16 at 11:59pm): Pick two venerated sites in Jerusalem. Prepare a post for a blog on "Frankish Jerusalem" about these sites. Include three brief quotations from primary sources assigned for Week 3. Include images and maps. Answer all of the applicable questions:

- Why were these 'holy sites'? For whom were they 'holy sites'?
- Where are these sites located within the city of Jerusalem (or its immediate environs)?
- When were they built?
- Did these sites play any role during the capture of Jerusalem in 1099?
- Who (and how) used them at the time when the Franks controlled Jerusalem?
- Based on the primary sources you have read for today, what was the medieval Christian, Jewish and / or Muslim interpretation of these sites and their meaning?

This assignment will require some outside on-line research. Make sure to use footnotes for any information that is not common knowledge.

Week 5

Feb. 23: *Class canceled. Make sure to attend Prof. Annabel Wharton's or Prof. Avinoam Shalem's lecture.*

Feb. 25: Latin States.

READ: Riley-Smith, Chapter 6, "Crusading in adolescence, 1102-87"; Gabrieli, *Arab Historians*, "Orientalized Franks," 78-79; "The Templars at Jerusalem," 79-80; "The Proposal to Send my Son to Europe," 82-83; "The Falcon of Acre," 83; "Christian Piety and Muslim Piety," 83-84.

TALK: Prof. Annabel Wharton will speak on "CONTEMPORARY USES OF THE PAST: THE MODEL OF HERODIAN JERUSALEM IN THE ISRAEL MUSEUM" on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, AT 5:00 PM

ASSIGNMENT # 2 (due on Feb. 23 at 11:59pm) BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX: Make a list of fifteen characteristics that, according to Bernard of Clairvaux, distinguish “new knighthood” from traditional knighthood. The list should take the form of fifteen sentences in bullet form.

Week 6

March 2: Sicily

March 4: The Fall of Jerusalem

READ: Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades*, 125-175; Paul Cobb, *The Race for Paradise*, 189-204; start reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 7, “Crusading comes of age, 1187-1229,” 184-204

ASSIGNMENT # 3 (due on March 2 at 11:59pm) GUEST SPEAKER: Write a short review of Prof. Wharton’s talk. [1] What was her main idea? [2] What were two of most interesting fact that you did not know about before? [3] List three questions that you would have liked to pose to Prof. Wharton. *Note that you have to write only about Prof. Wharton’s OR Prof. Shalem’s talks, not both.*

Week 7

March 9: The Third Crusade

March 11: The Fourth Crusade

READ: Villehardouin, *The Conquest of Constantinople in Chronicles of the Crusades*, pages 5-68 (Chapters 1 through 7); continue reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 7, “Crusading comes of age, 1187-1229.”

ASSIGNMENT # 4: (due on March 9 at 11:59 pm) TAKE-HOME QUIZ: Riley-Smith, (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4) and Paul Cobb.

Week 7

March 16: The Fifth Crusade.

March 18: *Class cancelled. Instead, please do attend my public lecture on March 19th at 5:00 pm. “Depicting the Holy War on Wall Paintings in England and France in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries.”*

READ: Oliver of Paderborne, *The Capture of Damietta* (on Canvas); continue reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 7, “Crusading comes of age, 1187-1229.”

ASSIGNMENT # 5 (due on March 16th at 11:59 pm) VILLEHARDOUIN: Write a short essay of 800-1200 words, based entirely on Villehardouin, justifying the conquest of Constantinople by crusaders. Begin your essay with the following statement: “According to Villehardouin, the conquest of Constantinople by crusaders was justified because ...” Add a post face with your own evaluation of Villehardouin’s justifications for the conquest of Constantinople.

Week 8

March 23: The Albigensian Crusade.

March 25: The Sixth Crusade.

READ: Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades*, 267-280; Bird, *Crusade and Christendom*, 247-253 (on Canvas); finish reading Riley-Smith, Chapter 7, “Crusading comes of age, 1187-1229.”

Week 10.

March 30: The Seventh and Eighth Crusade.

April 1: Spain.

READ: John of Joinville, *The Life of Saint Louis* in *Chronicles of the Crusades*, 173-311 (Part II, Chapter 3 – Part II, Chapter 13); Riley-Smith, Chapter 8, “Crusading in Maturity, 1229-c. 1291”

ASSIGNMENT # 6 (due on April 1 at 11:59). JOHN OF JOINVILLE. Write an essay of 700-1000 words. The essay should have a thesis statement, an introduction and a conclusion. What four qualities led to King Louis’s promotion to sainthood? Find one episode in Joinville’s *Life* to illustrate each of these qualities. Did these qualities also make Louis a good leader or not?

Week 11

April 6: Baltic Crusade.

April 8: *Lecture cancelled. Make sure to ‘attend’ Paul Cobb’s talk on Thursday!*

READ: *Livonian Rhymed Chronicle*, lines 2204-2263 (on Canvas)

WATCH: Battle on the Ice scene from *Alexander Nevsky* (1938) (from about :55 to about 1:25)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nRev9FvsBU>

As you watch this episode, jot down ideas about what made this film such effective propaganda.

TALK: Prof. Paul Cobb will speak on “SALADIN’S JERUSLAEM” on THURSDAY, APRIL 8, AT 5:00 PM

ASSIGNMENT # 7 (due on April 6 at 11:59 pm) TAKE-HOME QUIZ. Riley-Smith, Chapters 7 and 8.

Week 12

April 13: Crusader Experiences.

April 15: Later Crusades.

READ: Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades*, 307-312 and 341-350.

WATCH: *King Richard and the Crusaders* (1954). The film is available on Amazon. Make sure you finish watching the film before April 22nd

TALK: Prof. Avinoam Shalem will speak on “THE RETURN OF THE GAZE: ON MODERN PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM AND THE MELANCHOLIES OF A BLESSED VIEW” on THURSDAY, APRIL 15, AT 3:00 PM

ASSIGNMENT # 8 (due on April 13th at 11:59 pm) PAUL COBB: Write a short review of Prof. Paul Cobb’s talk. [1] What was his main idea? [2] What was the most interesting fact that

you did not know about before? [3] List three questions that you would have liked to pose to Prof. Cobb.

Week 13

April 20: Fall of Acre. Later Crusades.

April 22: Crusades Today I (discussion of *King Richard and the Crusaders*).

READ (by April 22nd): two chapters from Elliot, *Medievalism, Politics and Mass Media* (on Canvas)

WATCH: *Saladin the Victorious* (1963). Note that the film is three hours long. Available on Netflix. Make sure that you finish watching the film before April 27th.

ASSIGNMENT # 3 (due on April 20 at 11:59 pm) GUEST SPEAKER: Write a short review of Prof. Avinoam Shalem's talk. [1] What was his main idea? [2] What were two of most interesting fact that you did not know about before? [3] List three questions that you would have liked to pose to Prof. Shalem. *Note that you have to write only about Prof. Wharton's OR Prof. Shalem's talks, not both.*

Week 14

April 27: Crusades Today II (discussion of *Saladin the Victorious*).

April 29: Crusades Today III (discussion of *Kingdom of Heaven*)

WATCH *Kingdom of Heaven* (Director's cut) – note that the film is three hours long. Please finish it by April 29th.

ASSIGNMENT # 9 (due on April 27 before 11:59 pm). FILM. Write a short essay (800-1200 words) on one of the following topics.

Topic # 1:

Using examples of specific episodes from throughout the film, discuss how *Saladin the Victorious* reflects Egypt of 1963. Make sure to mention the following: pan-Arabism, religion / secularism, anti-imperialism, Israel, role of women. See Sturtevant, "Saladinasser" for ideas (on Canvas).

Topic # 2:

Using examples of specific episodes from throughout the film, discuss how *The Crusades* reflects the US in 1954. Make sure to mention religion, McCarthyism, representation of Muslims, role of women. See Stock, "Now Starring in the Third Crusade," pp. 108-109 (on Canvas) for ideas. For a brief discussion of McCarthyism see

<https://oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-6>.

**FINAL EXAM:
Due at 11:59 PM on May 4**

[1] ESSAY # 1

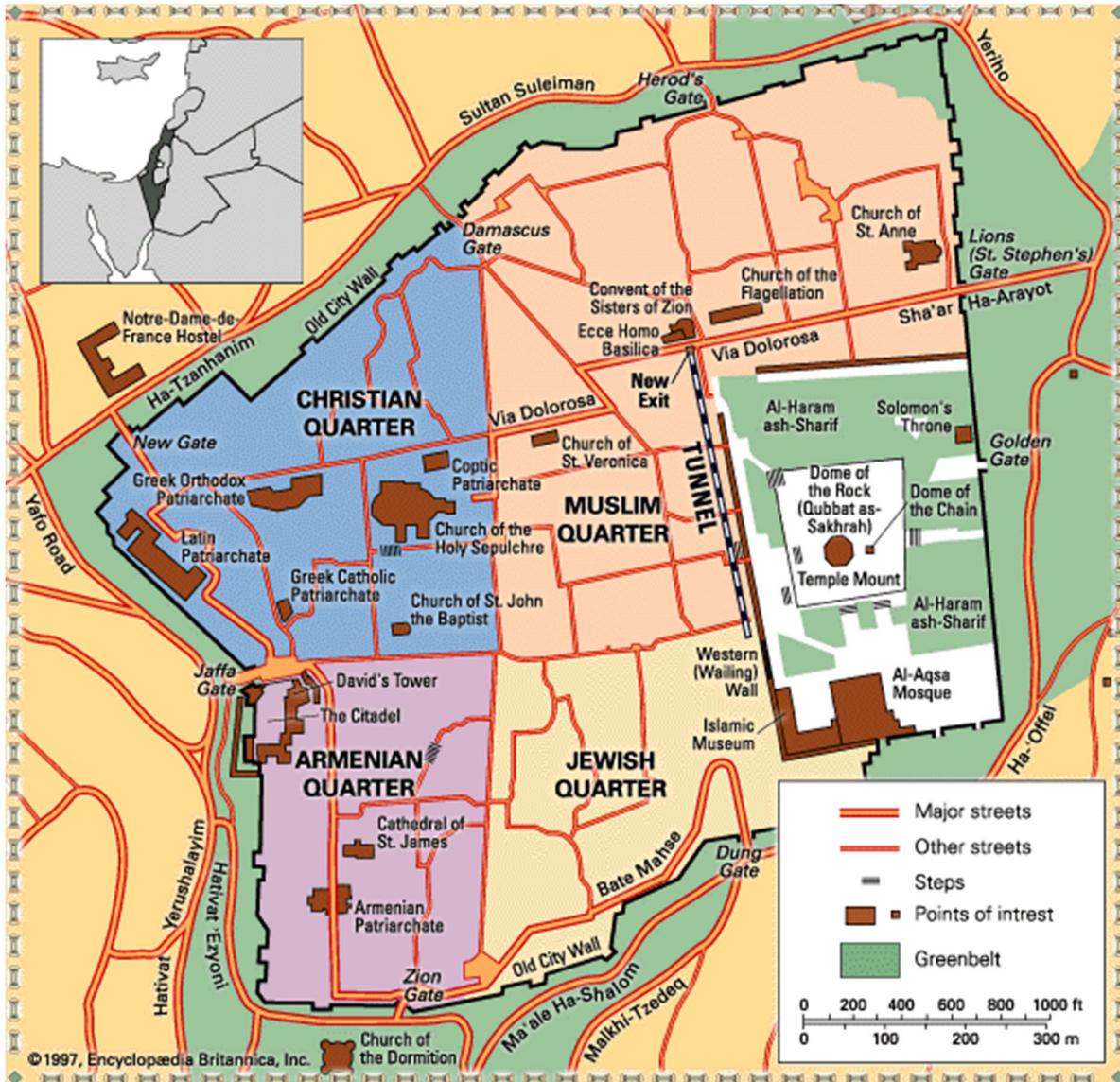
The goal of this assignment is to find out about 2021 perceptions of crusades today by studying your immediate entourage (friends and / or family). What associations do those who have not taken a class on crusades have with the word 'crusade' (and with others, such as, for example, the 'Templars')? What do they know about historical crusades? Do they perceive historical crusades as a positive or a negative development? Do they know any names of crusaders? Do they know who crusaders fought against? What is their source of knowledge about crusades? Come up with a list of interview questions and interview a sampling among your family and / or friends. Questions above are just suggestions of where to start. Do not be afraid to deviate from your questions during the interview. Read the guidelines about how to conduct a successful interview here: https://sociology.fas.harvard.edu/files/sociology/files/interview_strategies.pdf (skip the first page). This point is important: be "sensitive to the ethical dimension of interviewing, ensuring the interviewee appreciates what the research is about, its purposes, and that his or her answers will be treated confidentially." In our specific case, make sure not to be condescending towards the people you are interviewing. People do not have to know about crusades and all of us, without exception, have important gaps in our knowledge. Also note this suggestion: "The last question should provide some closure for the interview, and leave the respondent feeling empowered, listened to, or otherwise glad that they talked to you." Write up your findings in an essay that is at least 3 pages long (there is no upper limit). Do not include last names in the essay. In your conclusion, discuss what do you think it is important to know about crusades. Give some recommendations for high school teachers on how to present the crusades in their classes.

[2] ESSAY # 2

Pick two scenes from *Kingdom of Heaven*. Describe them in detail. Relying on both primary and secondary sources, which you have read for Week 5 and Week 6, discuss why you would have filmed these scenes differently and what changes you would have made. If you would have omitted one or both of these scenes, explain why. Your thesis should have a thesis statement, an introduction and a conclusion. The essay should be 1000-1500 words long. Additional articles on Canvas:

- Matthew Richard Schlimm, "The Necessity of Permanent Criticism: A Postcolonial Critique of Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven*," *Journal of Media and Religion*, 9 (2010): 129–149 (on Canvas).
- Elizabeth Lapina, "Medievalism, Misogyny and Orientalism: The Representation of Queen Sybilla in Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven*," *The Medieval Globe* 6.2 (2020): 109-130 (on Canvas).

City of Jerusalem today.



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