

University of Wisconsin – Madison
Department of History
Spring Semester, 2024-2025

History 309
The Crusades

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00AM - 12:15PM

HUMANITIES 1131



Prof. Elizabeth Lapina

lapina@wisc.edu

office hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15-1:15PM

My office: 4131 Mosse Humanities

If you cannot stop by during my office hours, e-mail me and we will set up an appointment. If you cannot come to my office, but still want to see me, we can always set up a Zoom appointment.

TA: Chris Herde

cherde@wisc.edu

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

GRADING:

- WEEKLY IN-CLASS WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: 15%
 - There will be 14 written assignments; each quiz will be worth 1 point; you will get ½ point for submitting the quiz and ½ point for giving an answer that reveals your familiarity with the material covered in previous classes and discussions sections.
 - Only top 10 quizzes will be counted for your grade, which means that you can miss 4 quizzes without any penalty. There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason.
- PARTICIPATION IN SECTIONS: 10%
- MIDTERM 20%
- FINAL 25%
- SHORT PAPER 25%

- LATE ASSIGNMENTS will receive a grade reduction of 10% per day.

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>

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

You will **not** be downgraded for using ChatGPT. However, you need to acknowledge that you have used ChatGPT or a similar tool. If you make changes, you still need to acknowledge that you have used ChatGPT, but add “edited for style and content” (not acknowledging that you have used ChatGPT or a similar tool is plagiarism). Please note that answers produced using ChatGPT are problematic for at least three reasons:

- (1) ChatGPT does “hallucinate” from time to time making up facts.
- (2) ChatGPT tends to produce very superficial answers.
- (3) In all of the writing that you will have to produce in this class, you will have to refer to specific primary and secondary sources, with which ChatGPT is not familiar.

DISABILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS:

I take accommodations very seriously. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you ever feel like you are not getting accommodations that you need to succeed in the class.

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

If you are expecting a child or caring for a dependent, and this is creating difficulties in completing your work, please contact me, so that we can brain-storm a solution together.

Week 1

Jan 21 (Tuesday): Introduction.

Jan 23 (Thursday): The Middle East on the eve of the First Crusade

READ: No reading assignment.

Week 2

Jan 28: Europe on the eve of the First Crusade.

Jan 31: The First Crusade I.

READ: Paul Cobb, “The Abode of Islam” in *The Race of Paradise. An Islamic History of the Crusades* (on Canvas)

Week 3

Feb 4: The First Crusade II.

Feb 6: The First Crusade III.

READ:

- *Gesta Tancredi*; Chapters 1 and 2.
- Letter sent by the leaders of the Jewish community in Ashqelon. Make sure to click on “translation” <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-TS-00020-00113/1>

Week 4

Feb. 11: The Second Crusade.

Feb. 13: The Latin States

READ:

- *Gesta Tancredi*, Chapters 14, 15, 16; 96, 97; 112-136.

Week 5

Feb. 18: Military Orders

Feb. 20: The Fall of Jerusalem and the Third Crusade

READ:

- Usama ibn Munqidh (selections on Canvas)

START WATCHING: *Saladin the Victorious* (1963). Note that the film is three hours long. The film will be available on Canvas.

Week 6

February 25: *Saladin the Victorious*

February 27: The Fourth Crusade 1

READ:

- The Fourth Crusade (sources on Canvas)

FINISH WATCHING: *Saladin the Victorious* (on Canvas)

Week 7

March 4: The Fourth Crusade 2

March 6: DEBATE ON THE FOURTH CRUSADE: should crusaders go to Constantinople?

READ:

- No assigned readings. Prepare for the debate.

Week 8

March 11: **NO class. Take-home due at 5pm. Submit on Canvas.**

March 13: The Fifth Crusade

READ:

- Nicetas Choniates (selections on Canvas)
- Villehardouin (selections on Canvas)
- Robert of Clari (selections on Canvas)

Week 9

March 18: The Sixth Crusade

March 20: The Sixth Crusade

READ:

- The Sixth Crusade (selections on Canvas)

Week 10

Spring break, Mar 23-Mar 31, 2024

Week 11

April 1: The Albigensian Crusades

April 3: DEBATE ON FREDERICK II: Does Frederick have the right to be King of Jerusalem?

READ:

- No assigned readings. Prepare for the debate.

Week 12

April 8: The Seventh and Eight Crusades

April 10: The Fall of the Latin States.

Papers due on April 10 at 5pm. Submit on Canvas. For more information see below.

READ:

- Joinville (selections on Canvas)

Week 13

April 15: The Baltic Crusades

April 17: Italian Crusades

READ:

- Italian Crusades (selections on Canvas)

Week 14

April 22: Italian Crusades

April 24: No class. Prof. Oya Pancaroglu's lecture (guest speaker on Zoom)

BEGIN WATCHING (recommended; not required):

- *Kingdom of Heaven*

READ:

- No assigned readings. Prepare for the debate.

Week 15

April 29: DEBATE ON ITALIAN CRUSADES: were the Italian crusades justified or not (from contemporaries' perspective)?

May 1: *Kingdom of Heaven* and Review.

FINISH WATCHING (recommended; not required):

- *Kingdom of Heaven*

READ:

- Elliot, “The Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ: Anders Behring Breivig and the Templar Knights,” *Medievalism, Politics and Mass Media*, Chapter 6.
- Paul Cobb, “Epilogue: Buried Horseman” in *The Race of Paradise. An Islamic History of the Crusades* (on Canvas)

FINISH WATCHING:

- *Kingdom of Heaven*

FINAL EXAM DUE on May 7th at 8:00 pm on Canvas

RESEARCH PAPER

Papers **due** on April 10 at 5pm.

You will have to write a paper about an Egyptian film *Saladin the Victorious*. The paper should be 8-12 pages (double-spaced). You have to formulate your own question about the film, which your paper would then answer. Some of the topics to consider as you are choosing the question:

- (1) the role of women in the films and the makers' ideas about "proper" women's roles
- (2) representations of religion (Islam and Christianity) in the film
- (3) pan-Arabism
- (4) the film in the context of the Suez crisis
- (5) portrayal of a specific historical character (Saladin, Richard the Lionheart, Reynald of Chatillon...)
- (6) portrayal of a specific historical moment (Battle of Hattin...)
- (7) an ideal leader according to the film

...

In your essay, you should engage with at least **6** articles or chapters (all on Canvas):

What an A paper will look like:

Thesis: easily identifiable, reasonable, original, sophisticated, clear; makes evident the author's appreciation of the complexity of the topic;

Structure: easily discernable; transitions are effective; each paragraph supports the thesis; any digressions from the argument are necessary (for example, to provide background without which the argument would be unclear); counter-arguments are considered and a response to them is provided; both the introduction and the conclusion are effective.

Evidence: your argument is supported by

- (1) references to specific moments in the film
- (2) engagement with scholarly discussion of the film (see sources above)
- (3) engagement with scholarly discussions of history (see sources above)

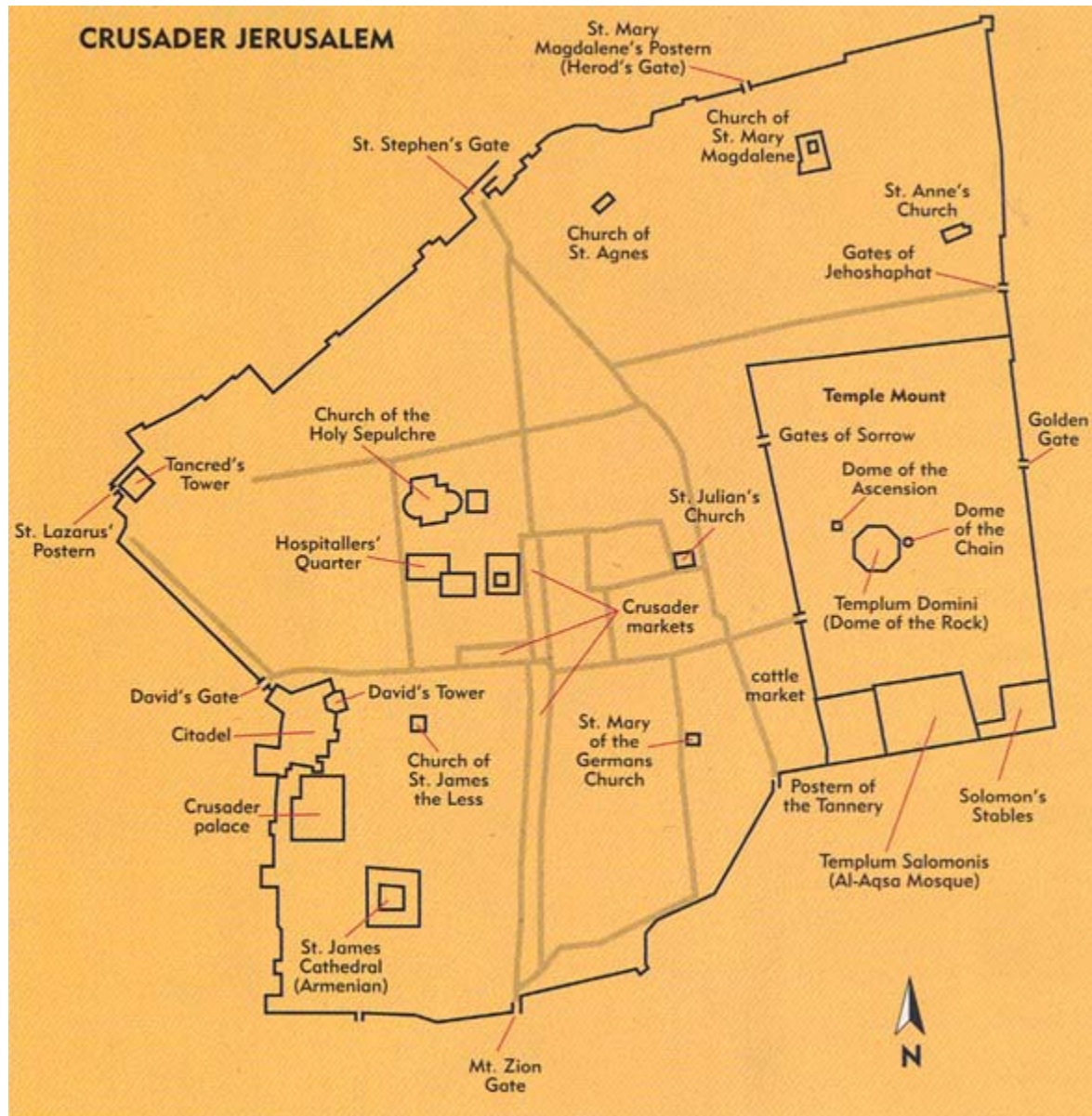
A wide range of sources is used. Quotations are incorporated effectively into the body of a paper.

There are no factual errors.

Mechanics: few or no orthographic and grammatical errors; no or few run-on or difficult to understand sentences.

Crusader Jerusalem:

(<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/BSAO030502300L.jpg>)



City of Jerusalem today.

