

The Medieval World

Fall 2010
 History 3600-100 (#41597)
 TR 12:30-1:45
 Dunbar 2208
<https://elearn.wmich.edu/webct/logon/738605568041>

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: The formation of European civilization, stressing social, economic, political, and cultural history from late antiquity to the fifteenth century. Designed to introduce topics in medieval history, the course begins by asking what ideas and institutions were inherited from ancient times. The course then examines Carolingian order and its breakdown before turning to distinctively European developments during the eleventh to thirteenth centuries. The course concludes with the transformations of the fourteenth century and by considering what constitutes the “medieval” legacy.

COURSE FORMAT: This course will be conducted mainly through lectures with some discussions. Students are required to attend all classes having already read and thought about the reading. Discussions will focus on primary source materials assigned for that day. Students will also write course papers based on primary source materials.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn how premodern European society functioned, particularly its economic, political, and cultural institutions. They will be able to analyze and compare different models of historical development for the medieval period, and gain an understanding of how Europe was different from or similar to other premodern cultures. This course meets the General Education requirements in Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

- Aberth, John, ed., *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martins, 2005). ISBN: 031240087X.
- Burgess, Glyn S., trans. and Keith Busby, ed., *The Lais of Marie de France* 2d ed. (Penguin, 1999) ISBN: 0140447598
- Ganz, David, ed. and trans., *Two Lives of Charlemagne* (Penguin, 2008) ISBN: 0140455051.
- Miller, Maureen C., ed., *Power and the Holy in the Age of the Investiture Conflict: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St Martins, 2005). ISBN: 03124044689.
- Radice, Betty and M.T. Clanchy, eds., *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, rev. ed. (London: Penguin Books, 2004). ISBN: 0140448993 NOTE: THIS EDITION ONLY.
- Rosenwein, Barbara H., *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, 3rd ed. (University of Toronto Press, 2009). ISBN: 1442601043. NOTE: THIS EDITION ONLY.

Note: You will have to purchase two blue books for the exams.

STUDY AIDS: See <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rberkhof/studyaids/index.html> for aid with all aspects of the course including: taking notes, studying, taking exams, and writing papers.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Rampolla, Mary Lynn, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 6th ed. (Bedford, 2009). ISBN: 0312535031. (Previous editions are acceptable.)

HONOR CODE: Students are expected to uphold the Western Michigan University standards of Academic Conduct. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct (osc.wmich.edu). You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. Students are required to maintain an electronic copy of all written assignments and must produce it if asked by the instructor. Suspect papers will be submitted electronically to online clearinghouses to prevent fraud in paper composition.

EXAMS: There will be one midterm exam on Tuesday, October 19 and a **final exam on Wednesday, Dec 16 from 2:45-4:45** in the lecture hall. Each exam will cover all the readings, discussions, and lectures to date. Both exams will be essay format, with some short identifications and source-based questions. The Final Exam will also feature an essay analyzing sources. The midterm exam will count 20% of the course grade, the final 40% of the grade.

SOURCE ANALYSIS PAPER: Students will prepare a brief analysis (2 pages; 400-500 words) on an assigned question about one of the primary sources we read (*Life of Charlemagne*, due Sept 23 or "Investiture Conflict," due Oct 7), which counts for 10% of the total course grade.

SHORT PAPER: Students will write a short paper (4-5 pages, 1000-1250 words) of their own design on one of the longer primary sources we read for class (*Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, due Nov 2 or *Lais of Marie de France*, Nov 16). I will suggest paper topics, assign students to groups, and hand out instructions later. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of your paper after submitting it originally. This paper will count for 30% of the total course grade.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is a required part of the course; students consistently failing to attend class without a valid, university-approved written excuse may receive an "F" for the course at the instructor's option.

GRADE COMPONENTS: Source analysis 10%; midterm exam, 20%; short paper, 30%; final exam, 40%. *You must complete all elements of the course to receive a passing grade.* All late submissions will be penalized, in fairness to students who complete the assignments in a timely fashion. The grade scale is as follows: 100-93 = A, 92-87 = BA, 86-83 = B, 82-77 = CB, 76-73 = C, 72-67 = DC, 67-60 = D, and less than 60 = E.

Students with Disabilities: You should register your disability with Disabled Student Resources and Services, (269-387-2116 or www.dsrs.wmich.edu). You should discuss any accommodation with them and they will give you a card listing the approved accommodation, which you should show to Prof. Berkhofer. This process should be completed by the second week of class.

Late Work: Make-up exams will be given only for valid, university-approved written excuses, at the instructor's discretion. Make-up exams must be taken as soon as possible after the original test, preferably the day the student returns to class, at a time chosen by the instructor (usually my

office hours). Unexcused late papers will be penalized two full letter grades per day they are late (e.g., a "B" paper will become a "D" paper).

Email/IP Policy: Students should use their WMU email address for all correspondence related to this course. Students may not reproduce any portion of course materials (including notes on lecture) without the instructor's express written permission.

Lecture, Discussion and Reading Assignments

Read background readings in Rosenwein at the start of each unit. Read sources assigned for each day thoroughly before class to be ready for lecture and discussion of them on that day.

Unit I: The End of Antiquity, 300-500

Background Reading: Rosenwein, preface, ch. 1 (skim) and ch. 2. Look at maps carefully.

Web: Explore the [Study Aids](#) to prepare for the course.

Sep 7 Introduction: Antiquity and the Idea of the "Middle Age"

Web: [Notetaking](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, *Pocket Guide*, ch. 1 "Why Study History"

Sep 9 Legacy of the Ancient World

Web: [Secondary Sources](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, *Pocket Guide*, ch. 2 "Working with Sources"

Bring TWO Unmarked Blue Books to class (do not write on them)

Unit II: The Franks and the Carolingian Achievement, 500-850

Background Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 3.

Sep 14 Franco-Roman Synthesis

Read: Tacitus, *Germania* (web source)

Web: [Primary Sources](#), [Source Analysis Papers](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, ch. 5 "Following Conventions"

Sep 16 Charlemagne and Renewal of Empire?

Web: [Charlemagne's Coronation](#), [Style Sheet](#), [Citing Sources](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, *Pocket Guide*, ch. 6, "Plagiarism".

Sep 21 Carolingian Rule and Culture

Read: Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne* (in Ganz, *Two Lives*, 1-44)

Sep 23 Empire Divided and Migrations

Source Analysis Paper due for Group 1 (Last Names A-L)

Unit III: Social Groups and Social Order, 850-1100

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 4-5.

Sep 28 Order, Disorder, and the Church

Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 1-43 = Introduction and ch 1, part 1, sources nos. 1-4. Be sure to examine the maps and chronology (p. 171-3) carefully

Sep 30 Those Who Fight: The Feudal Revolution

Web: [Homage and Fealty](#)

Oct 5 Those Who Pray: The Investiture Conflict

Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 44-121 = ch. 1 (remainder) and ch. 2 (entire)

Oct 7 Those Who Work: The Manorial Economy

View Virtual Manor (web source)

Source Analysis Paper due for Group 2 (Last Names M-Z)

Oct 12 Those Who Don't Fit: Townsfolk

Web: Guibert of Nogent on the commune

- Oct 14 The First Crusade and European Expansion
Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 132-5 = ch. 3, no. 34 (Calling of First Crusade)
Exam Review
- Oct 19 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Unit III: The New Spirituality of the High Middle Ages

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 4-5

- Oct 21 New Paths to God
Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 122-142 = ch. 3, nos. 31-38
- Oct 26 Popular Religion and Heresy
Review: Miller, 122-142
- Oct 28 The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century I
Read: Radice and Clanchy, eds., *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, pp. ix-xlv (Introduction) and pp. 3-89 (Letters 1-5) are required. The rest is recommended
- Nov 2 The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century II
Abelard and Heloise Short Paper due for Group 1 (Last Names A-L)

Unit IV: Economic and Social Relations in the High Middle Ages

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 6-7.

- Nov 4 The Challenge of the Marketplace
Web: [Venetian commenda](#)
- Nov 9 Learning and Laity in the Thirteenth Century
Web: University Regulations
- Nov 11 Knighthood, Chivalry, Courtesy
Read: Introduction to *Lais of Marie de France* and the following: Lanval, Equitan, and 2 other lais of your choice. The rest is recommended.

Unit V: Rule and Governance in the High Middle Ages

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 6-7.

- Nov 16 Rise of Lord-Kingship
Read: Rosenwein, Genealogies 5.3 *Capetians* and 6.1 *Norman and Angevins*
Web: [Plantagenet and Capetian Genealogies](#), [Maps of France](#)
Marie de France Short Paper due for Group 2 (Last Names M-Z)
- Nov 18 Two Families, One Madness
Web: [Magna Carta](#), and look at the genealogies again
- Nov 23 Kings and Counsellors
Web: [Community of the Realm](#)
- Nov 25 Thanksgiving (no class)

Unit VI: The Waning of the Middle Ages?

Background Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 8

- Nov 30 Popes vs. Kings: A New Conflict?
Read: Begin reading Aberth (entire)
- Dec 2 Crises of the 14th Century
Read: Finish Aberth, *The Black Death* (entire)
- Dec 7 Old Rome/New Rome
- Dec 9 The Death of Chivalry?
Read: Rosenwein, *A Short History*, exam review
- Dec 16 **FINAL EXAM, 2:45-4:45 in lecture hall**
Note: This is a Thursday