

Medieval History

History 363

Fall 2010

Student Union S206

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:25 am – 10:40 am

Prof. John F. Romano, Ph.D., L.M.S.

Office: St. Benedict Hall 323

Phone: 913-360-7570

E-mail: jromano@benedictine.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 1 pm - 2:30 pm; Tuesday, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm; Wednesday, 1 pm - 2:30 pm; Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm; Friday, 1 pm - 2:30 pm (and by appointment)

This course covers the foundational period in European history from ca. 500 to ca. 1500, a time that would later be dubbed “the Middle Ages.” This is an unfortunate term that compares it unfavorably with ancient and modern greatness. Many modern observers condemn the medieval age as one of darkness, ignorance, brutality, and intolerance. Yet the people of this time saw their era as history’s latest and greatest accomplishment, and historians have studied the many political, religious, cultural, and artistic advancements that characterized the time. Our work together will allow us to hear the voices of the men and women who lived during this period, and to learn how to evaluate the broader historical significance of medieval Europe.

Topics covered in this class include the transition from the Roman to the early medieval world; the formation of Byzantine and Islamic societies; the emergence of Barbarian kingdoms; Viking invasions; feudalism; European expansion; late-medieval government; the disasters of the late Middle Ages; religious thought and practice; women’s roles in medieval society; the highlights of medieval and Renaissance culture; and the legacy of the Middle Ages. The assignments will focus on texts and other material produced by medieval civilization.

This class is normally open only to students beyond their first year.

Goals of the Course

- To gain knowledge of the chronology of the history of Europe from ca. 500 to ca. 1500, including major events, ideas, and cultural contributions.
- To practice the art of an historian: that is, to learn the defining characteristics of a period and how they changed over time, to understand historical cause and effect, to read the sources upon which historical evaluations are based, and to form interpretations about the period from reading.
- To learn the difference between primary and secondary sources, and how to analyze and evaluate primary texts and other materials produced by medieval civilization.
- To improve the ability to read, discuss, and write about the past.

Required Texts

- Barbara H. Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, 3rd ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009). ISBN 978-1442601048.
- Patrick Geary, *Readings in Medieval History*, 3rd ed. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2003). ISBN 978-1551115504.
- Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades*, trans. Caroline Smith (New York: Penguin Classics, 2008). ISBN 978-0140449983.
- Additional material will be made available to students enrolled in the course.

Please note:

- Be sure to bring assigned reading to class for discussion. You should have *Readings in Medieval History* with you at every session.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class and to be punctual. It is the students' obligation to take notes on lectures; I do not produce written copies of lectures. Much of the information presented in class, which will form part of the material that will be tested on exams and papers, cannot be found in the textbook. In addition, students will not gain any credit for participation or group work if they do not attend class sessions.

In the cases of *documented* illness or family emergencies that make it impossible for students to attend class or complete assignments, students are urged to get in touch with the instructor.

Personal Electronics Policy

Students may not use cell phones in any capacity in this class, including making or receiving calls or texting. Students may use laptops or PDAs, but only with the express purpose of taking notes. Violators run the risk of being asked to leave class.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are expected to adhere to Benedictine College's Academic Honesty Policy for all assignments in this course. It is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the definition of plagiarism, which (even when done inadvertently) is considered a serious offense and may result in failure or even dismissal from the college. I expect that all exams and papers are *your own work*. Any time that you use someone else's ideas in a paper, you must give credit to the person. For further information, speak with me.

Schedule of Classes and Reading

Thursday, 8/26/10: Introduction to the Middle Ages

Thursday, 9/2/10: End of the Roman World

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 21-40

P. Geary, readings 2, 3 (pp. 48-60, 61-68)

Tuesday, 9/7/10: Barbarians at the Gates?

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 40-56

P. Geary, readings 4, 6 (pp. 69-82, 118-19)

*Thursday, 9/9/10: **The Byzantine World in Transition***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 61-70, 101-8, 139-47

Online: Seven sources from the Medieval Sourcebook under "Justinian" at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pgc.asp?page=sbook1c.html#Justinian>

- Procopius, "On Justinian."
- Procopius, "On the Racing Factions."
- Procopius, "On the Nika Revolt."
- Procopius, "The Roman Silk Industry."
- Procopius, "The Plague."
- Procopius, "The Reconquest of Africa."
- Procopius, "Description of Hagia Sophia."

*Tuesday, 9/14/10: **The Rise and Flowering of Islam***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 70-75, 108-17, 147-51

Qur'an, surahs 1, 3, 8, 30, 47. There are several online versions, including: <http://www.usc.edu/schools/college/crcc/engagement/resources/texts/muslim/quran/>

*Thursday, 9/16/10: **The Emergence of the Franks***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 75-87

P. Geary, readings 7, 10 (pp. 120-28, 139-61)

Assignment: First quiz

*Tuesday, 9/21/10: **Italy at the Crossroads***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 90-99

P. Geary, reading 13 (pp. 199-220)

The First Roman Ordo (to be distributed to enrolled students)

*Thursday, 9/23/10: **Anglo-Saxon England***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 87-90

P. Geary, reading 15 (pp. 224-35)

*Tuesday, 9/28/10: **The Rule of Benedict***

Reading: P. Geary, reading 12 (pp. 168-98)

Assignment: First group work project

*Thursday, 9/30/10: **The Age of Charlemagne***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 101-35

P. Geary, reading 18 (pp. 282-96)

*Tuesday, 10/5/10: **Invasions and Response***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 152-55

"Master and Slave Even until Death" (to be distributed to enrolled students)

Online: Three sources from the Medieval Sourcebook under "External Attacks" at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1i.html#External%20Attacks>:

- "The Annals of Xanten, 845-53."
- "Three Sources on the Ravages of the Northmen in Frankland."

- “Abbo of Fleury, The Martyrdom of St. Edmund, King of East Anglia.”

*Thursday, 10/7/10: **Midterm Exam***

Assignment: Students must bring blue books with them to the exam.

*Tuesday, 10/12/10: **Lords and Vassals***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 156-72

P. Geary, readings 25-27 (pp. 386-406)

*Thursday, 10/14/10: **Church Reform and Popular Religion***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 177-93

P. Geary, readings 21, 39-40 (pp. 328-35, 608-35)

*Tuesday, 10/19/10: **European Expansion***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 193-202

P. Geary, reading 28 (pp. 407-42)

*Thursday, 10/21/10: **Twelfth-Century Renewal***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 203-216

P. Geary, reading 23 (pp. 350-59)

Assignment: Second quiz

*Tuesday, 10/26/10: **Ruling and Administering England***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 219-29

P. Geary, readings 49-50 (pp. 766-93)

*Thursday, 10/28/10: **Strength and Weakness in the Holy Roman Empire***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 229-37

P. Geary, reading 41 (pp. 636-45)

*Tuesday, 11/2/10: **Marsilius of Padua***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 237-51, 286-301

P. Geary, reading 36 (pp. 545-66)

Assignment: Second group work project

*Thursday, 11/4/10: **Strengthened Monarchy in France and the Mongol Empire***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 263-79

P. Geary, reading 45 (pp. 705-15)

Mission to Asia, ed. Christopher Dawson (Toronto; Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1980), pp. 77-86. (To be accessed online at books.google.com.)

*Tuesday, 11/9/10: **The Ascendant Church***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 252-59

P. Geary, readings 29-31 (pp. 443-77)

*Thursday, 11/11/10: **Crisis in the Church***

Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 280-86, 324-27
P. Geary, readings 47, 56 (pp. 742-57, 815-23)
Assignment: Third quiz

Tuesday, 11/16/10: Changing Women's Roles across the Middle Ages
Reading: P. Geary, reading 37 (pp. 567-99)

Thursday, 11/18/10: The Hundred Years' War (and Other Disasters)
Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 305-24
P. Geary, reading 46 (pp. 716-41)

Tuesday, 11/23/10: Joan of Arc
Assignment: Paper due by 5 pm

Tuesday, 11/30/10: Reading Inquisition Records
Reading: P. Geary, reading 35 (pp. 524-44)
Assignment: Third group work project

Thursday, 12/2/10: Renaissance Italy
Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 327-41
P. Geary, readings 55, 58 (pp. 813-14, 836-51)

Tuesday, 12/6/10: End of the Middle Ages and their Legacy
Reading: B. Rosenwein, pp. 342-49
P. Geary, reading 24 (pp. 350-85)

Friday, 12/10/10, 8 am – 9:50 am: Final Exam
Assignment: Students must bring blue books with them to the exam.

Grading

Paper (10-12 pp.), due on 11/23	30%
Final exam, 12/10, 8 am - 9:50 am	25%
Midterm, on 10/7	20%
Participation	10%
Quizzes, on 9/16, 10/21, 11/11	10% (all three equal weight)
Group work, on 9/28, 11/2, 11/30	5% (all three equal weight)

Requirements

- The paper (10-12 pp., exclusive of bibliography; due by 5 pm on 11/23) will construct an argument based on (a) a primary source, normally either Geoffrey of Villehardouin's *The Conquest of Constantinople* or John of Joinville's *The Life of Saint Louis*; and (b) between four and six secondary sources. The primary sources are contained in the book *Chronicles of the Crusades*. Students may also choose their own sources, but *only in consultation with the professor*.
- Late papers will be penalized one "step" per day late (e.g., an A paper would become an A-; an A- paper would become a B+; and so on).

- Descriptions of the format for the paper and the procedure for submitting thesis statements, bibliographies, and drafts will be distributed in class and discussed. The paper must employ footnotes for references, use the Chicago Manual of Style format, and include a bibliography.
- The paper must be submitted in hard copy.
- Students who would like help with their writing are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Student Success Center.
- It is within my purview as an instructor to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades.
- The midterm will demonstrate knowledge of significant events, figures, and terms of the period, and an ability to synthesize the primary sources analyzed in class. To be taken in class on 10/7.
- The final will require a similar mastery of significant events, figures, terms, and sources of the period. Some of the questions will require students to discuss primary sources assigned for class. The material on the exam will focus on what has been covered after the midterm, but certain essay questions will require you to reflect on themes we have studied throughout the entire course. To be taken on 12/10 from 8 am to 9:50 am.
- Students are required to bring blue books for the midterm and final exam. Those who do not come prepared with blue books will automatically fail the exams. Students are encouraged to purchase these early in the semester.
- Quizzes will require students to discuss passages for primary sources that they have prepared for class. To be taken at the beginning of class on 9/16, 10/21, and 11/11.
- The format for the midterm, final, and quizzes will be discussed in class.
- There are no make-up examinations, quizzes, or group work projects, save for documented emergencies.
- Group work assignments will require students to discuss a primary source prepared for class with fellow students in the group and to submit a written response to questions posed by the professor. The students in each group will produce one report and will receive the same grade for their final product. To be done in class on 9/28, 11/2, and 11/30.
- Participation grades are assigned based upon your contributions in lectures and class discussion. It is imperative that you prepare the readings assigned for each day before class and are ready to talk about them. Simply attending class does not guarantee you a high participation mark; you must speak about the sources.
- There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.
- Please note that this schedule is subject to change when circumstances make it necessary. Students will be made aware of any modifications as soon as possible.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who need special facilities or consideration should present the appropriate documentation from the Reasonable Learning Accommodation Committee to the instructor.