

HIST 212: Medieval Europe

Palmer 207 MWF 11-11:50 a.m.

Instructor: Carol Ciscel (Sis-'l – rhymes with thistle and whistle)

Email: ciscelc@rhodes.edu (Quickest way to get a reply.)

Office: Clough 318: MWF from 10 to 10:45 a.m. or by appointment.

Home phone: 272-9229 (Please don't call after 9 p.m.)



What you will need to do:

- Come to class prepared to participate.
- Extract meaning from maps & images.
- Refine your ability to think chronologically.
- Read assignments with a questioning mind.
- Write 5 well-organized, on-target essays.
- Watch 3 films and comment on them.
- Take 3 exams – 2 during semester, plus final.
- Place the Middle Ages in historical context.

Books: (1) Rosenwein, Barbara H. *A Short History of the Middle Ages, second edition*. Ontario, Canada: Broadview Press, 2004.
(2) Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.
(3) Wilson, Derek. *Charlemagne: A Biography*. New York: Vintage, 2007.
(4) Ruciman, Steven. *The First Crusade*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.
(5) Herlihy, David. *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*. Harvard University Press, 1997.

Reading: Plan to do each reading assignment before the lecture and class discussion. Spend time figuring out the maps and looking at the illustrations. Always think about what you are reading and ask yourself whether anything surprises you and why. The idea is to master (i.e. understand and integrate) the material. In addition to the 5 books you bought, there will be other reading assignments throughout the semester on the academic server.

Attendance: I do take attendance. Missing a class can't help but be a problem for you that I just can't wave away, no matter why you were absent, but I will always work with you as best I can. You'll be playing catch up whenever you miss class, though, so shoot for 100% attendance.

Class Participation: Plan to take extensive notes in every class. It keeps you focused and gives you something to review for exams or to quote in a paper. Also speaking in class is an important part of your grade. Your questions are always useful and I want to hear your reaction to the readings. It is best if you volunteer comments, but if I call on you, you need to be ready with an answer.

Essays and films: You will write 5 three-page essays for the course. These essays will not ask for outside research, but will ask you to integrate the materials we are looking at: texts, lectures, supplemental readings, films, and class discussions. You will watch the films on your own (on reserve in the library) and we'll discuss them in class, so plan ahead.

Exams: Each exam may include maps, chronologies, open-ended questions to answer in written paragraphs, and/or images or quotations to identify. Both the second and final exams may have comprehensive elements.

Cheating & plagiarism: Rhodes has an honor code with which you should be familiar. You should also be knowledgeable about what plagiarism is, so you can avoid it. I will give you a handout to review, because it isn't always obvious.

Make up Policy: If you miss an exam, notify me ASAP and give me a written note (email is best) documenting a sudden, insurmountable emergency beyond your control. Papers should be turned in on time, but if you run into problems, let me know ahead of time (via email) why they will be late and when I can expect them.

Grading:

Notice how important participation, & essays are!

Discussion grade	50 pts
5 essays (25 pts each)	125 pts
2 Hour Exams (100 pts each)	200 pts
1 Final Exam	125 pts
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Total	500 pts
No work for extra credit will be assigned.	

500—465 = A (100-93%)	399—385 = C+ (79-77%)
464—450 = A- (92-90%)	384—365 = C (76-73%)
449—435 = B+ (89-87%)	364—350 = C- (72-70%)
434—415 = B (86-83%)	349—335 = D+ (69-67%)
414—400 = B- (82-80%)	334—315 = D (66-63%)
	314—300 = D- (62-60%)
	299 or less = F (59% or below)

Etiquette: Class time is short; plan to arrive on time consistently. Anytime you arrive late, come up and talk to me after class. If you ever have to leave early, let me know before class begins. Soft drinks in class are okay, but no snacks, please.

Electronic devices: Cell phones are not permitted in class. They must not ring and you must not look at them. Use of any other device – tape recorders, lap tops, etc. – must be cleared with me first.

Changes: Changes to the schedule in this syllabus will be rare, and if made, each will be announced in class.

Course Calendar: HIST 212 – MWF 11 a.m. (Ciscel) Spring 2008

Last add/drop: 1/15

Unit One: What the barbarians inherited

Wk 1	Jan 9	Syllabus; the nature of history; Europe		
	11	Europe in context		
Wk 2:	Jan 14	Anticipating Islam		
	16	The nature of life in the Middle Ages		
	18	The Ancient Mediterranean & the rise of Christianity		
Wk 3:	Jan 21	[Martin Luther King holiday – class does not meet]		
	23	Eternal Rome and how it fell		
	25	Essay 1 due: Comparing maps: p. 20 and 46		
		The view from the North: Ireland		
Wk 4:	Jan 28	St Patrick comes to Ireland		
	30	Irish Monastic Christianity		
	Feb 1	Film Discussion: Beowulf (Films are <u>not</u> shown in class!)		
Wk 5:	Feb 4	The Irish legacy to Christianity		
	6	Byzantium endures; Islam bursts onto the stage		
	8	Essay 2 due: Herders in Europe		
		The view from the Mediterranean: Augustine		
Wk 6:	Feb 11	European diversity		
	13	Has “Europe” emerged?		
	15	First hour exam		

Read this before class!

Rosenwein: maps pgs. 2, 20, 24, 41, 46

Huizinga: chpt 1 AS

Rosenwein: chpt 1, p.19-39

Rosenwein: chpt 1, p. 39-54

Cahill: chpt 3

Cahill: chpt 4

Cahill: chpt 5

AS = Academic
Server

Cahill: chpt 6; Columcille AS

Rosenwein: chpt 2, p. 59-75

Cahill: chpt 2; Cassiodorus AS

Rosenwein: chpt 2 p. 75-92

Le Goff: chpt 1 AS

Unit Two: What the synthesis looked like

Wk 7:	Feb 18	9 th century changes		
	20	Life of Charlemagne		
	22	Charlemagne re-establishes empire?		
Wk 8:	Feb 25	Re-alignment in the East		
	27	Dynamic fragmentation in the West		
	29	Essay 3 due: Explaining Charlemagne		
		Economic take-off & church reform		
Wk 9:	Mar 10	Beginning of the crusading era		
	12	Consequences of the crusades		
	14	Norman kings of England; Christian Spain; & France		
Wk 10:	Mar 17	Courtly Love & the reality of marriage		
	19	Film Discussion: Lion in Winter (not shown in class)		
Wk 11:	Mar 24	Universities & Scholasticism		
		Essay 4 due: How “real” was courtly love?		
	26	Monastic splendor		
	28	Second hour exam		

Spring recess: March 1-9

Easter: March 20-23

Rosenwein: chpt 3, p. 95-128

Wilson, chpts 2—4

Wilson, chpts 5—8

Rosenwein: chpt 4, p. 131-142

Rosenwein: chpt 4, 143-162

Rosenwein: chpt 5 p. 167-184

Ruciman, chpts 1,5,6,7,9

Ruciman, chpts 11-14,epilogue

Rosenwein: chpt 5 p. 185-190

Battle of Hastings AS

Huizinga: chpt 5 AS

Cahill: Eleanor AS

Rosenwein: chpt 5 p. 190-192

Rosenwein: chpt 5 p. 192-205

Unit Three: Change happens: the Middle Ages open up

Wk 12:	Mar 31	Emerging states: England, France, Holy Roman Empire		
	Apr 2	Culture & economy		
	Apr 4	Religious life		
Wk 13:	7	The Mongol Empire		
	Apr 9	Trade, technology, & popular culture		
	11	Black Death		
Wk 14:	14	Rise of personal religion		
	16	Political Realignment		
	Apr 18	Revolt and national identity		
Wk 15:	21	Film Discussion:Joan of Arc (not shown in class)		
	23	Renewal and the rise of the Atlantic World		
	25	Review for final		
		Essay 5 due: Retrospective of course		

Rosenwein: chpt 6 p. 207-224

Rosenwein: chpt 6 p. 228-246

Huizinga: chpt 13 AS

Rosenwein: chpt 7 p. 251-255

Genghis Kahn AS

Rosenwein: chpt 7. 255-285

Herlihy & Cohn, whole book

Aston, chpt. 5 AS

Rosenwein: chpt 8 p. 287-300

Rosenwein: chpt 8 p. 300-321

Le Goff: chpt 6 AS

Last day of classes: Friday April 25

Final Exam: Friday May 2nd at 5:30 p.m.