

# History 315: What Were the Crusades?

Spring 2010, Palmer 210, MW 2:00-3:15

Professor Alex Novikoff

Office: Clough 318

Office Hours: MW, 3:30-5:00 PM, and by appointment

Email: novikoffa@rhodes.edu

## Course overview

This course is an introduction to the history and historiography of the crusading movement of the Middle Ages. In this class we will examine both the major crusading expeditions as well as the concept of the crusade as it developed following the calling of the First Crusade by Pope Urban II at the Council of Clermont in 1095. Assigned readings will cover the social and military history of the crusading expeditions as well as the intellectual background to the ideology. The assigned readings also give consideration to the experience of crusading, the massacres of Jews by the crusading armies, and the reactions to the crusaders by Byzantine and Muslim populations. Attention will also be given to the problem of defining a crusade and how the crusading era helped to set the stage for later (and indeed modern) relations between the West and the Middle East. By the conclusion of the semester students should have a solid grasp of the principal events, personalities, and texts from the main crusading era (1095-1291).

## Required Readings

- Jonathan Riley-Smith, The Crusades: A History, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (2007)
- The First Crusade, ed. Edward Peters (2005)
- The Crusades: A Reader, ed. S. J. Allen and Emilie Amt (2003)
- Crusades: The Illustrated History, ed. Thomas Madden (2005)

These books are for sale in the Rhodes College bookstore. Copies will also be placed on reserve in the library. In addition to these texts, there will be some articles and maps that will be placed on the Moodle website for this class. Other books highly recommended but not required for this class are:

- Carole Hillenbrand, The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives (2000)
- John France, Victory in the East: A military history of the First Crusade (1994)
- Jonathan Harris, Byzantium and the Crusades (2006)
- Jeremy Cohen, Sanctifying the Name of God: Jewish Martyrs and Jewish Memories of the First Crusade (2004)

## Assignments and Grades

Attendance and regular participation in class are mandatory. More than 2 unexcused absences from class will negatively impact your grade. Your grade for this class will be based upon one 5-page paper (15%) and one 10-page paper (25%), class participation including a 10-minute class presentation at the end of the semester TBA (15%), 1 midterm (15%) and 1 final (30%). The format for the exams and the

papers will be announced in class. The dates for exams and the due dates for papers are temporarily fixed, but subject to change. If there are any changes to the syllabus or the exam dates, I will announce them in class and/or email the class.

## **Policies**

All students are bound by the Rhodes Honor Code, with which you should already be familiar with. Make-up exams and extensions for papers are only given under extraordinary circumstances and at the professor's discretion. If you require special accommodations for taking exams, it is your duty to inform me of your circumstances well in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made. Plagiarism and intellectual dishonesty are serious offenses and could result in severe penalties. Will go over what this means and how to avoid this in class. For additional information regarding paper writing and citation, you are urged to consult the Rhodes College Guide to Effective Paper Writing. All other policies are articulated in the Rhodes College Student Handbook: <http://www.rhodes.edu/about/937.asp>. Do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions or concerns regarding policies and assignments.

## **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

### **What Were the Crusades?**

W Jan 13: Introduction to class

### **Unit 1: Background to the Crusades**

W JAN 20: Illustrated History, chap. 1; Edward Peters, "The Firanj are Coming—Again"

M JAN 25: Crusades Reader, # 2-6

W JAN 27: Crusades Reader, # 9-11

### **Unit 2: The First Crusade**

M Feb 1: Crusades: A History, chap. 1; Illustrated History, chap. 2

W FEB 3: Crusades: A History, chap. 2; The First Crusade, pp. 25-37, 47-56

M FEB 8: The First Crusade, pp. 102-151

W FEB 10: Crusades: A History, chap. 2; The First Crusade, pp. 159-173, 193-202, 245-275

### **Unit 3: Crusading in the Twelfth-Century**

M FEB 15: Crusades: A History, chap. 4; Illustrated History, chap. 3; Crusades Reader, # 45, 48-50

W FEB 17: Crusades: A History, chap. 5; Illustrated History, chap. 4; Crusades Reader, #23, 29, 30

M FEB 22: **Paper #1 Due**; Crusades Reader, #33-35, 38

#### **Unit 4: The Third Crusade**

W FEB 24: Crusades: A History, pp. 137-147; Illustrated History, chap. 5; Crusades Reader, # 40, 42-44

M MAR 1: Crusades Reader, # 54-58. 69

W MAR 3: In-Class Midterm

#### **Unit 5: The Fourth Crusade and the Age of Pope Innocent III**

M MAR 8: Crusades: A History, pp. 147-163; Illustrated History, chap. 6;

W MAR 10: Crusades Reader, # 56-57, 58, 62

#### **Unit 6: Crusading at Home**

M MAR 22: Crusades: A History, pp. 163-171; Crusades Reader, # 60-61

W MAR 24: Illustrated History, chap. 6; Crusades Reader, # 66-68

#### **Unit 7: Crusading in Spain, 711-1492**

M MAR 29: Crusades: A History, pp. 169-171, 199-200, 261-262

W MAR 31: Crusades Reader, # 74-77

M APR 5: Crusades Reader, # 81-83 [Video TBA]

#### **Unit 7: Crusading to the End...**

W APR 7: Illustrated History, chap. 7; Crusades Reader, # 71-73 85-86

M APR 12: Crusades Reader, # 84-86

W APR 14: Crusades Reader, # 87-88, 90

M APR 19: **Paper # 2 Due**; Readings TBA

**Unit 8: Interpreting the Crusades & Class Presentations**

W APR 21: Illustrated History, chap. 9; J. Riley-Smith, "Islam and the Crusades in History and Imagination, 8 November 2001 – 11 September 2001"

M APR 26: Class Presentations

W APR 28: Class Presentations

**Final Exam TBA**