COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course is arranged around a series of major problems in the history of the medieval world about which historians do not agree. We will examine these problems in something resembling chronological order, although the purpose of the course is not to provide a complete outline of medieval history. Readings are of two general types: original source materials and the informed comments of medieval historians. Topics are assigned for each week.

Members of the class should familiarize themselves with the resources available to them electronically. This class has its own website, accessible from the Rhodes College homepage's link to the Computer Center. To log in, enter your 5-letter Rhodes ID for both your name and your password. (After Drop/Add, you will be able to change your password to reflect the one assigned to you by the computer center.) Here you will find a list of WebCT courses for which you have enrolled. On the website you will find a copy of this syllabus, a Rhodes calendar, review materials, writing guides, and additional materials that will make your coursework more meaningful. A bulletin board will serve as a 24-hour way for members of the class to communicate with me and with each other. Take time to discover what is available and use it to your own advantage.

Some classes will be conducted in lecture format, using PowerPoint, but others will involve a more general discussion of the assigned topic. All students will be expected to
contribute to these discussion sessions and to demonstrate that they have read assigned materials. You will be expected to formulate your own answers to questions posed on the website, whether or not we discuss them during class.

Each student will submit four short papers (3-5 pages) reacting to problems taken from the readings or to a question raised in class. Instructions for these appear under the appropriate dates in the syllabus. There will be a midterm exam and a comprehensive final. Both exams will be in essay format, and students will be expected to include material gathered from assigned reading and from lecture and discussion sessions. Essays will be graded on both content and composition.

Attendance is mandatory; if you must miss class because of illness, please notify me immediately, either by phone or by e-mail. Final grades will reflect both participation and attendance. You may assume that your final grade in this class will be no higher than the percentage of classes you attend. This class meets 42 times. If you miss 5 classes, your attendance is 88%, which would be a B+. Assuming your attendance is regular and prompt, grades will be assessed on the following basis:

Papers: 40% (10% apiece)
Midterm: 20%
Final Exam: 30%
Participation: 10%

**WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

Week 1 (Jan. 10-12): The Collapse of the Roman Empire in the West
Text: Chaps 1-2

Sources: See numbers 1, 2
Ammianus Marcellinus on the Faults of the Roman People
The Theodosian Code

Readings: 1, 2
Gibbon on Fall of the Roman Empire in the West
Rostovtzeff on the Decay of Ancient Civilization

Week 2 (Jan. 17-19): The Dual Threat of Christians and Barbarians
Text: Chaps. 3-4

Sources: 5-7, 9-10, 14, 16-17
The Nicene Creed
Two Famous Conversions: Constantine and Augustine
Documents from the Church and State Controversy
The Germania of Tacitus
A Romanized Ostrogoth: Theodoric  
The Primacy of the Roman See  
The Petrine Doctrine  

Readings: 3  
Peter Brown on the Impact of Christianity  

Week 3 (Jan. 22-24-26): Franks and Muslims  
Text: Chaps. 5-6  

Sources: 10, 14, 23, 25  
A Barbarous Frank: Clovis  
The Law of the Salian Franks  
Surah 2 of the Qur'an  
The Founding of the Papal States  

Readings: 4-6  
Pirenne on Muhammad and Charlemagne  
Dennett on Pirenne and Muhammad  
Geary on Merovingian Society  

Paper Due by January 29: Prepare a 3-5 page argument that reacts to one of the issues raised by the Readings in weeks 1-3 above. Writing guides will be found on the class website.  

Week 4 (Jan 29-31-Feb. 2): Charlemagne and Vikings  
Text: Chap. 7  

Sources: 26-29  
Einhard on Charlemagne  
Documents of Carolingian Government  
Carolingian Monasteries  
Rural Life  

Readings: 7  
Dawson on Charlemagne and the Roman Church  

Week 5 (Feb. 5-7-9): The Socio-Economic Structure of the Medieval World  
Text: Chaps. 8-9  

Sources: 32-35  
Lordship and Vassalage  
The Fief and Private Jurisdiction  
Feudal Obligations
The Peace and Truce of God

Readings: 8-12
Marc Bloch on Kinship and Lordship
Strayer on Feudalism in Western Europe
E. A. R. Brown on the Tyranny of a Construct

Week 6 (Feb. 12-14-16): Rising Monarchies and Church Reform
Text: Chaps. 10-11
Sources: 36-39
Foundation Charter of the Abbey of Cluny
Dictatus Papae
Gregory VII and Henry IV
The End of the Investiture Conflict

Readings: 22-24
Ullman on The Hierocratic Doctrine
Carlyle on The Duality of Medieval Society
Berman on The Papal Revolution

Paper Due by February 19: Prepare a 3-5 page argument that reacts to one of the issues raised by the Readings in weeks 4-6 above. Writing guides will be found on the class website.

Week 7 (Feb. 19-21-23): The Crusades and Their Benefits
Text: Chaps. 13-14-15
Sources: 40-45, 48-49, 51
Pope Urban Proclaims a Crusade
The Capture of Jerusalem
A Byzantine View of the Crusaders
An Arab View of the Crusaders
St. Anselm: Proof of the Existence of God
Peter Abelard: Yes and No
Urban Privileges
Guild Organization
A Medieval Merchant's Life

Readings: 14, 16-17, 21
Bartlett on The Expansion of Europe
Southern on Medieval Humanism
Sanford on Renaissance or Proto-Renaissance
Bynum on Fast, Feast, and Flesh
Week 8 (Feb. 26-28-Mar. 2): Feudal Monarchies and Papal Power

MIDTERM EXAM: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Text: Chap 16.

Sources: 60-62
The Campaigns of Louis VI
England's Civil War: Stephen and Henry II
The Incident at Besançon

************************* SPRING BREAK *************************

Week 9 (Mar. 12-14-16): New Voices Speak Out
Text: Chaps. 17-18

Sources: 64-65, 67-68, 70, 76
Letters of Innocent III
The Fourth Lateran Council
Peter Waldo and the Waldensians
The Albigensians
The Testment of St. Francis
Magna Carta

Readings: 32-34
Fossier on Popular Religion
Geremek on Marginal People
Cohen on The Decline of Medieval Jewrey

Paper Due by March 19: Prepare a 3-5 page argument that reacts to one of the issues raised by the Readings in weeks 7-9 above. Writing guides will be found on the class website.

Week 10 (Mar. 19-21-23): The World of Art and Thought

Sources: 55, 82-84
Our Lady's Tumbler
University Regulations
Student Life
Philosophy and Science: Thomas Aquinas et al.

Readings: 30-31
Mâle on The Mirror of Nature
Gilson on Thomas Aquinas

Text: Chap. 21

Sources: 88-89
The Famine of 1315
The Black Death

Readings: 35, 37B
Ziegler on The Black Death and the Jews
Poston on Land and Population

Week 12 (Apr. 2-4-6): Papal Schism
Text: Chaps. 22 and 24

Sources: 85, 100
Clerics Laicos and Unam Sanctam
The Golden Bull of Charles IV

Readings: 39
Cohn on Religion and Revolution

Paper Due by April 2: Prepare a 3-5 page argument that reacts to one of the issues raised by the
Readings in weeks 10-12 above. Writing guides will be found on the class website.

Week 13 (Apr. 9-11): 100 Years War
Text: Chaps. 23 and 26

Sources: 90, 102
The Battle of Crecy
Joan of Arc's Letter to the English

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Week 14 (Apr. 16-18-20): Conciliarism and Reformers
Text: Chap. 27

Sources: 86, 104-105
Four Secular Philosophers
Doctrine of Conciliar Supremacy
Reform and Reaction; "Frequens"

Week 15 (Apr. 23-25-27): The Beginnings of Modern Europe
Text: Chap. 28 and "Epilogue"

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, APRIL 30, AT 8:30 AM