Hist 105-04: What Were the Crusades?

Fall 2008, Buckman 212, TR 2:00-3:15

Professor Alex Novikoff
Office: Clough 318
Office Hours: M-Th, 1-2 PM, and by appointment
Email: novikoffa@rhodes.edu

Course overview

This Freshman Seminar 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.

Required Readings

- 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 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.

Assignments and Grades

Attendance and regular participation in class are mandatory. More than 1 unexcused absence from class will negatively impact your grade. Your grade for this class will be based upon three 5-7 page papers (15% each, plus 5% for the successful revision of one of the papers), class participation (25%), and 1 final (25%). 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

Week 1: What Were the Crusades?

R AUG 28: Introduction to class

Unit 1: Background to the Crusades

T SEPT 2: Illustrated History, chap. 1
R SEPT 4: Crusades Reader, # 2-6
T SEPT 9: Crusades Reader, # 9-11

Unit 2: The First Crusade

R SEPT 11: Crusades: A History, chap. 1; Illustrated History, chap. 2
T SEPT 16: Crusades: A History, chap. 2; Crusades Reader, # 12-14
R SEPT 18: Crusades Reader, # 15, 18, 19, 21, 22

Unit 3: Crusading in the Twelfth-Century

T SEPT 23: Crusades: A History, chap. 4-5; Illustrated History, chap. 3; Crusades Reader, # 49, 50, 54-55
R SEPT 25: Crusades: A History, pp. 137-147; Illustrated History, chap. 4; Crusades Reader, #23, 29, 30
T SEPT 30: Paper #1 Due; Crusades Reader, #33-35, 38-44,

Unit 4: The Age of Innocent III

R OCT 2: Crusades: A History, pp. 147-169; Illustrated History, chap. 5
T OCT 7: Illustrated History, chap. 6; Crusades Reader, # 56-58
R OCT 9: Crusades Reader, # 59-62
Unit 5: Crusades and Hollywood
T OCT 14: Film Viewing TBA
R OCT 16: Film Viewing TBA
T OCT 21: Fall Recess: No Classes!
R OCT 23: Paper #2 Due; Reading TBA...

Unit 6: Crusades of the Holy Roman Empire
T OCT 28: Crusades: A History, pp. 171-182; Crusades Reader, # 64, 66, 69
R OCT 30: Illustrated History, chap. 6; Crusades Reader, # 71-73

Unit 6: Crusading in Spain, 711-1492
R NOV 6: Crusades Reader, # 74-77; J. O’Callaghan, Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain, chap. 1
T NOV 11: Crusades Reader, # 78-81
R NOV 13: Crusades Reader, # 82-83

Unit 7: Varieties of Crusading in the Later Middle Ages
T NOV 18: Crusades: A History, pp. 245-261; Illustrated History, chap. 7; Crusades Reader, # 85-86
R NOV 20: Crusades: A History, pp. 262-274; Illustrated History, chap. 8; Crusades Reader, # 88-90
T NOV 25: Paper # 3 Due; Crusades: A History, pp. 274-299; Crusades Reader, # 91, 93, 95, 99
R NOV 27: Thanksgiving Break: No Classes!

Unit 8: Interpreting the Crusades: The Uses and Abuses of Medieval History
T DEC 2: Crusades: A History, pp. 299-309; Illustrated History, chap. 9
T DEC 9: Final class discussion

T DEC 16: Final Exam 8:30 AM