

Hist 212: Medieval Europe

Fall 2008, Clough 417, MWF 11:00-11:50

Professor Alex Novikoff

Office: Clough 318

Office Hours: M-Th, 1-2 PM, and by appointment

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Course overview

Medieval Europe is a course that covers the history of Europe from the Christianization of the Roman Empire to the beginnings of the Italian Renaissance, or from about 300 CE to about 1500 CE. Lectures and readings from the assigned texts will give consideration to the social, cultural, military, political, religious, and intellectual lives of the peoples who inhabited the landmass of Europe (broadly conceived) during those 1000+ years. Emphasis will be placed not only on understanding the world they inhabited and the world they created, but also in understanding how the legacy of the Middle Ages helped to shape the peoples, ideas, and institutions of the post-medieval world (including our own).

Required Readings

- Barbara H. Rosenwein, [A Short History of the Middle Ages](#), 2nd Edition
- [Reading the Middle Ages](#), ed. Barbara H. Rosenwein
- Patrick J. Geary, [The Myth of Nations: The Medieval Origins of Europe](#)

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 1 midterm (20%), 1 short paper (10%), 1 long paper (20%), class participation (20%), 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. 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 (available through the Rhodes College Writing Center). All other policies are articulated in the Rhodes College Student Handbook: <http://www.rhodes.edu/about/937.asp>. Do not hesitate to ask or email me if you have any questions or concerns regarding policies and assignments.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1: The World of Late Antiquity

W AUG 27: Introduction to class

F AUG 29: Short History, pp. 19-55; Reading the MA, 1.1 + 1.3.

Week 2: The Fall of Rome and the Roman World Transformed

M SEPT 1: Labor Day Holiday (No class).

W SEPT 3: Reading the MA, 1.7, 1.9

F SEPT 5: Reading the MA, 1.10, 1.11, 1.16, 1.17

Week 3: Byzantium, Islam, and the Early Middle Ages

M SEPT 8: Short History, pp. 59-75 + 95-111

W SEPT 10: Reading the MA, 2.3-2.5, 3.6,

F SEPT 12: Reading the MA, 2.6-2.8, 3.7, 3.13-3.14

Week 4: Western Europe and the Early Middle Ages II

M SEPT 15: Short History, pp. 75-92 + 111-128

W SEPT 17: Reading the MA, 2.11-2.13, 3.15

F SEPT 19: Reading the MA, 2.14-2.16, 3.16

Week 5: Y1K and Life around the Turn of the Millennium

M SEPT 22: Short History, pp. 131-162

W SEPT 24: Reading the MA, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4

F SEPT 26: Reading the MA, 4.5, 4.9, 4.15-4.16

Week 6: The Expansion of Europe and the First Crusade

M SEPT 29: Short History, pp. 167-184

W OCT 1: Reading the MA, 5.4-5.5,

F OCT 3: Reading the MA, 5.6-5.10; **Short Paper Due**

Week 7: The Norman Conquest and the Twelfth-Century Renaissance

M OCT 6: Short History, pp. 185-205

W OCT 8: Reading the MA, 5.11-5.13

F OCT 10: Reading the MA, 5.14-5.17

Week 8: Crusading, Local Laws, and Religious Violence

M OCT 13: Short History, pp. 207-246

W OCT 15: **Midterm Exam!**

F OCT 17: Reading the MA, 6.3-6.5, 6.8-6.11, 6.28-6.29

Week 9: Hollywood and the Middle Ages

M OCT 20: Fall Recess: No Classes!

W OCT 22: Documentary viewing TBA

F OCT 24: Film viewing TBA

Week 10: Medieval Europe and the Wider World

M OCT 27: Short History, pp. 251-285

W OCT 29: Reading the MA, 7.1-7.5

F OCT 31: Reading the MA, 7.10-7.12

Week 11: Discordant Harmonies, c. 1250-1350

M NOV 3: Reading TBA

W NOV 5: Reading the MA, 7.19-7.21

F NOV 7: Reading the MA, 7.22-7.24

Week 12: The Tumultuous 14th Century: The Plague and the Hundred Years War

M NOV 10: Short History, pp. 287-307

W NOV 12: Reading the MA, 8.1-8.5

F NOV 14: Reading the MA, 8.11-8.13

Week 13: The Ottomans and the Fall of Byzantium

M NOV 17: Short History, pp. 307-321

W NOV 19: Reading the MA, 8.6-8.7

F NOV 21: Reading the MA, 8.8-8.10

Week 14: Flex Day

M NOV 24: **Long Paper Due**

W NOV 26: Thanksgiving Break: No Classes!

F NOV 28: Thanksgiving Break: No Classes!

Week 15: Italy and the Early Renaissance

M DEC 1: Reading the MA, 8.19-8.21

W DEC 3: Reading the MA, 8.22-8.24

F DEC 5: Reading the MA, 8.25

Week 16: Modern Identities and Medieval Europe

M DEC 8: Geary, The Myth of Nations, introduction and chapters 1-3

W DEC 10: Geary, The Myth of Nations, chap. 4-6

W DEC 17: FINAL EXAM 8:30 AM