

HIST 212: MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Fall 2009, Palmer 205, TR 12:30-1:45

Professor Alex Novikoff

Office: Clough 318

Office Hours: TR 2-4 PM, and by appointment

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Course overview

This 200-level introductory course 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 consider aspects of 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 has 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*, 3rd Edition
- Reading the Middle Ages, ed. Barbara H. Rosenwein
- Patrick J. Geary, *The Myth of Nations: The Medieval Origins of Europe*
- John H. Arnold, *What is Medieval history?*

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 reaction/review of the book *Myth of Nations* (10%), 1 paper based on primary sources (20%), class participation (20%), and 1 final (30%). The format and expectations 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

R AUG 27: Introduction to class

T SEP 1: [Short History](#), pp. 21-40; Arnold, *What is Medieval History*, chap. 1; [Reading the MA](#), 1.1 & 1.3.

R SEP 3: [Short History](#), pp. 41-58; [Reading the MA](#), 1.10, 1.11, 1.16, 1.17

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

T SEP 8: [Short History](#), pp. 61-70, 101-108; [Reading the Middle Ages](#), 2.3-2.4, 3.6

R SEP 10: [Short History](#), pp. 70-80, 109-117; [Reading the MA](#), 2.6-2.8, 3.7

Week 4: Western Europe and the Early Middle Ages II

T SEP 15: [Short History](#), pp. 118-135; *What is Medieval History*, chap. 2; [Reading the MA](#), 2.11-2.13, 3.15

R SEP 17: [Reading the MA](#), 2.16, 3.16-3.17, 3.19

Week 5: Life around the Turn of the Millennium

T SEP 22: [Short History](#), pp. 139-173; *What is Medieval History*, chap. 3

R SEP 24: [Reading the MA](#), 4.4-4.5, 4.15-4.16

Week 6: The Expansion of Europe and the First Crusade

T SEP 29: [Short History](#), pp. 177-193; [Reading the MA](#), 5.4-5.5

R OCT 1: [Short History](#), pp. 193-201; [Reading the MA](#), 5.6-5.9

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

T OCT 6: Short History, pp. 203-217; Reading the MA, 5.11-5.13—**Book Review Due!!**

R OCT 8: Reading the MA, 5.14-5.19

Week 8: Institutionalizing Aspirations

T OCT 13: Short History, pp. 219-251; *What is Medieval History*, chap 4

R OCT 15: **Midterm Exam!**

Week 9: Hollywood and the Middle Ages

T OCT 20: Fall Recess: No Classes!

R OCT 22: Film viewing TBA (possible evening viewing as well)

Week 10: Medieval Europe and the Wider World

T OCT 27: Short History, pp. 252-261; Reading the MA, 6.3-6.4, 6.28-6.29

R OCT 29: Reading the MA, 7.1-7.5, 7.10-7.12

Week 11: Discordant Harmonies, c. 1250-1350

T NOV 3: Short History, pp. 263-287; Reading the MA, 7.13, 7.15-7.17

R NOV 5: Short History, pp. 287-301; Reading the MA, 7.19-7.21

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

T NOV 10: Short History, pp. 305-324; Reading the MA, 8.3-8.5; Video on the Plague (time permitting)

R NOV 12: Reading the MA, 8.11-8.13

Week 13: The Ottomans and the Fall of Byzantium

T NOV 17: Short History, pp. 330-331; Reading the MA, 8.6-8.7

R NOV 19: Reading the MA, 8.9-8.10

Week 14: Flex Week

T NOV 24: Source Paper Due; Video TBA

R NOV 26: Thanksgiving Break: No Classes!

Week 15: Italy and the Early Renaissance

T DEC 1: Short History, pp. 327-330 & 334-346; Reading the MA, 8.19-8.21

R DEC 3: Reading the MA, 8.22-8.24

T Dec 8: Arnold, *What is Medieval History*, chap 5.

FINAL EXAM TBA!