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HIST 212-01, Medieval Europe, Fall 2007

Item Type	Syllabus
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Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
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Download date	2026-03-06 18:19:10
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10267/3261

HIST 212: Medieval Europe



Instructor: Carol Ciscel (Sis-'l – rhymes with thistle and whistle)
 Email: ciscelc@rhodes.edu (Quickest way to get a reply.)
 Office: Clough 318: M+F from 2 to 3 p.m.; W from 4 to 5; or by appointment.
 Phone Messages: 843-3584 (If email isn't possible.)
 Home phone: 272-9229 (Please don't call after 9 p.m.)

What you will need to do:

- Come to class prepared to participate.
- Extract meaning from maps & images.
- Refine your ability to think chronologically.
- Read assignments with a questioning mind.
- Write 5 well-organized, on-target essays.
- Watch 3 films and comment on them.
- Take 3 exams – 2 during semester, plus final.
- Place the Middle Ages in historical context.

Books: (1) Rosenwein, Barbara H. *A Short History of the Middle Ages, second edition*. Ontario, Canada: Broadview Press, 2004.
 (2) Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.
 (3) Wilson, Derek. *Charlemagne: A Biography*. New York: Vintage, 2007.
 (4) Ruciman, Steven. *The First Crusade*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.
 (5) Herlihy, David. *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*. Harvard University Press, 1997.

Reading: Plan to do each reading assignment before the lecture and class discussion. Open your books whenever you have a few minutes. Spend time figuring out the maps and looking at the illustrations, if there are any. Always think about what you are reading and ask yourself whether anything surprises you and why. In addition to the 5 books you bought, there will be other reading assignments throughout the semester on the academic server.

Attendance: I do take attendance. Missing a class can't help but be a problem for you that I just can't wave away, no matter why you were absent, but I will always work with you as best I can. You'll be playing catch up whenever you miss class, though, so shoot for 100% attendance.

Class Participation: Plan to take extensive notes in every class. It keeps you focused and gives you something to review for exams or to quote in a paper. Also speaking in class is an important part of your grade. Your questions are always useful and I want to hear your reaction to the readings. If you are shy about speaking in class, come and talk with me so we can figure out a way around that.

Essays and films: You will write 5 three-page essays for the course. These essays will not ask for outside research, but will ask you to integrate the materials we are looking at: texts, lectures, supplemental readings, films, and class discussions. You will watch the films on your own (on reserve in the library) and we'll discuss them in class, so plan ahead.

Exams: Each exam may include maps, chronologies, open-ended questions to answer in written paragraphs, and/or images or quotations to identify. Both the second and final exams may have comprehensive elements.

Cheating & plagiarism: Rhodes has an honor code with which you should be familiar. You should also be knowledgeable about what plagiarism is, so you can avoid it. I will give you a handout to review, because it isn't always obvious.

Make up Policy: If you miss an exam, notify me ASAP and give me a written note (email is best) documenting a sudden, insurmountable emergency beyond your control. Papers should be turned in on time, but if you run into problems, let me know ahead of time (via email) why they will be late and when I can expect them.

Grading:

Notice how important participation, & essays are!

Participation grade	50 pts	500—465 = A (100-93%)	399—385 = C+ (79-77%)
5 essays (30 pts each)	150 pts	464—450 = A- (92-90%)	384—365 = C (76-73%)
2 Hour Exams (100 pts each)	200 pts	449—435 = B+ (89-87%)	364—350 = C- (72-70%)
1 Final Exam	100 pts	434—415 = B (86-83%)	349—335 = D+ (69-67%)
<hr/>		414—400 = B- (82-80%)	334—315 = D (66-63%)
Total	500 pts		314—300 = D- (62-60%)
<u>No work for extra credit will be assigned.</u>			299 or less = F (59% or below)

Etiquette: Class time is short; plan to arrive on time consistently. Anytime you arrive late, come up and talk to me after class. If you ever have to leave early, let me know before class begins. Soft drinks in class are okay, but no snacks, please.

Electronic devices: Cell phones are not permitted in class. They must not ring and you must not look at them. Use of any other device – tape recorders, lap tops, etc. – must be cleared with me first.

Changes: Changes to the schedule in this syllabus will be rare, and if made, each will be announced in class.

Course Calendar: HIST 212 – MWF 3 p.m. (Ciscel) Fall 2007

Last add/drop: 8/28

Unit One: What the barbarians inherited

Read this before class!

Wk 1	Aug 22	Syllabus; the nature of history; Europe	↓		↓
	24	The big picture & time travel – backwards			
Wk 2:	Aug 27	Political geography before the nation-state			
	29	The nature of life in the Middle Ages			
	31	The Ancient Mediterranean & the rise of Christianity			
Wk 3:	Spt 3	[Labor Day – class does not meet]			
	5	Eternal Rome and how it fell		AS = Academic Server	
	7	Essay 1 due: Map in year 600			
	10	The view from the North: Ireland			
Wk 4:	Spt 10	St Patrick comes to Ireland			
	12	Irish Monastic Christianity			
	14	Film Discussion: Beowulf (Films are <u>not</u> shown in class!)			
Wk 5:	Spt 17	The Irish legacy to Christianity			
	19	Byzantium endures; Islam bursts onto the stage			
	21	Essay 2 due: the world of the North			
	24	The view from the Mediterranean: Augustine			
Wk 6:	Spt 24	European diversity			
	26	Has “Europe” emerged?			
	28	First hour exam			

Unit Two: What the synthesis looked like

Wk 7:	Oct 1	9 th century changes			
	3	Life of Charlemagne			
	5	Charlemagne re-establishes empire?			
Wk 8:	Oct 8	Re-alignment in the East			
	10	Dynamic fragmentation in the West			
	12	Essay 3 due: Carolingian significance			
	17	Economic take-off & church reform		Fall recess: 10/15&16	
Wk 9:	Oct 17	Beginning of the crusading era			
	19	Consequences of the crusades			
Wk 10:	Oct 22	Norman kings of England; Christian Spain; & France			
	24	Courtly Love & the reality of marriage			
	26	Film Discussion: Lion in Winter (not shown in class)			
Wk 11:	Oct 29	Universities & Scholasticism			
	31	Essay 4 due: love & marriage in the Middle Ages			
	Nov 2	Monastic splendor			
	Nov 2	Second hour exam			

Unit Three: Change happens: the Middle Ages open up

Wk 12:	Nov 5	Emerging states: England, France, Holy Roman Empire			
	7	Culture & economy			
	9	Religious life			
Wk 13:	Nov 12	The Mongol Empire			
	14	Trade, technology, & popular culture			
	16	Black Death			
Wk 14:	Nov 19	Rise of personal religion		Thanksgiving: Nov 21-23	
Wk 15:	Nov 26	Political Realignment			
	28	Revolt and national identity			
	30	Film Discussion: Joan of Arc (not shown in class)			
Wk 16:	Dec 3	Renewal and the rise of the Atlantic World			
	5	Retrospective			
	5	Essay 5 due: Retrospective of course			

Last day of classes: December 5
Final Exam: Dec 7th at 8:30 a.m.