

The Medieval World

Spring 2017
 Hist 3600-101 (#13277)
 TR 9:30-10:45
 Sangren 2720
 Webpage: See GoWMU e-learning page

Prof. Robert Berkhofer
 Office: 4424 Friedmann Hall
 Phone: 387-5352 (use email!)
 Hours: TR 11-12 and by appt
 robert.berkhofer@wmich.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The formation of Europe, stressing social, economic, political, and cultural history from late antiquity to the fifteenth century. Designed to introduce topics in medieval history, the course begins by asking what ideas and institutions were inherited from ancient times, then examines Carolingian order and its breakdown before turning to distinctively European developments during the eleventh to thirteenth centuries. Course concludes with the transformations of the fourteenth century and by considering the “medieval” legacy.

COURSE FORMAT: This course will be conducted mainly through lectures with some discussions. Students are required to attend all classes having already read and thought about the reading. Discussions will focus on primary source materials assigned for that day. Students will also write course papers based on primary source materials.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will learn how premodern European society functioned, particularly its economic, political, and cultural institutions. They will be able to analyze and compare different models of historical development for the medieval period, and gain an understanding of how Europe was different from or similar to other premodern cultures and to express this understanding in writing. This course fulfills General Education requirements in Area V, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Aberth, John, ed., *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martins, 2005). ISBN: 9780312400873.
- Burgess, Glyn S., trans. and Keith Busby, ed., *The Lais of Marie de France*, 2nd ed. (Penguin, 1999) ISBN: 9780140447590.
- Ganz, David, ed. and trans., *Two Lives of Charlemagne*, rev. ed. (Penguin, 2008) ISBN: 9780140455052.
- Miller, Maureen, ed. *Power and the Holy in the Age of the Investiture Conflict: A Brief History with Documents*. (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005). ISBN: 9780312404680.
- Rubinstein, Jay, ed., *Monodies and On the Relics of Saints: The Autobiography and a Manifesto of a French Monk from the Time of the Crusades* (Penguin, 2011). ISBN: 9780143106302.
- Rosenwein, Barbara H., *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, 4th ed. (University of Toronto Press, 2014). ISBN: 9781442606111. NOTE: This edition preferable.

E-Sources (available on WMU e-learning website)

Note: You will have to purchase two examination books for the exams.

STUDY AIDS: See E-learning website for aid with all aspects of the course including: taking notes, studying, taking exams, and writing papers.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Rampolla, Mary Lynn, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 8th ed. (Boston: Bedford, 2015). ISBN: 9781457690884. (Previous editions are acceptable.)

HONOR CODE: Students are expected to uphold the Western Michigan University standards of Academic Conduct. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct (osc.wmich.edu). You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. Students are required to maintain an electronic copy of all written assignments and must produce it if asked by the instructor. Suspect papers will be submitted electronically to online clearinghouses to prevent fraud in paper composition.

EXAMS: There will be one midterm exam on Thursday, Feb 23 and a **final exam on Tuesday, Apr 25 from 10:15-12:15** in the classroom. Each exam will cover all the readings, discussions, and lectures to date. Both exams will be essay format, with some short identifications and source-based questions. The final exam will also feature a comprehensive essay. The midterm exam will count 20% of the course grade, the final 40% of the grade.

SOURCE ANALYSIS PAPER: Students will prepare a brief analysis (2 pages; 400-500 words) on an assigned question about Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne*, due Jan 26, which counts for 10% of the total course grade. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of your paper after submitting it.

SHORT PAPER: Students will write a short paper (4-5 pages, 1000-1250 words) of their own design on Guibert of Nogent's *Monodies* or *On the Relics of Saints* due Mar 2. I will suggest paper topics and hand out instructions later. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of your paper after submitting it. This paper will count for 30% of the total course grade.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is a required part of the course; students consistently failing to attend class without a valid, university-approved written excuse may receive an "E" or an "X" for the course at the instructor's option.

GRADE COMPONENTS: Source analysis 10%; midterm exam, 20%; short paper, 30%; final exam, 40%. *You must complete all elements of the course to receive a passing grade.* All late submissions will be penalized, in fairness to students who complete the assignments in a timely fashion. The grade scale is as follows: 100-93 = A, 92-87 = BA, 86-83 = B, 82-77 = CB, 76-73 = C, 72-67 = DC, 67-60 = D, and less than 60 = E.

Students with Disabilities: You should register with Disability Services for Students (269-387-2116 or www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices/). You should discuss any accommodation with them and they will give you a card listing the approved accommodation, which you should show to Prof. Berkhofer. This process should be completed by the second week of class.

Late Work: Make-up exams will be given only for valid, university-approved written excuses, at the instructor's discretion. Make-up exams must be taken as soon as possible after the original test, preferably the day the student returns to class, at a time chosen by the instructor (usually my office hours). Unexcused late papers will be penalized two full letter grades per day they are late (e.g., a "B" paper will become a "D" paper).

Intellectual Property Policy: Students will not reproduce any portion of course materials (including notes on lecture) without the instructor's express written permission.

Lecture, Discussion and Reading Assignments

Read background readings at the start of each unit. Read sources assigned for each day thoroughly before class to be ready for lecture and discussion of them on that day.

Unit I: The End of Antiquity, 300-500

Background Reading: Rosenwein, preface, ch. 1 (skim) and ch. 2. Look at maps carefully.

Web: Explore the [Study Aids](#) to prepare for the course.

Jan 10 Introduction: Antiquity and the Idea of the "Middle Age"

Web: [Notetaking](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, *Pocket Guide*, ch. 1 "Why Study History"

Jan 12 Legacy of the Ancient World

Web: [Secondary Sources](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, *Pocket Guide*, ch. 2 "Working with Sources"

Bring TWO Unmarked Blue Books to class (do not write on them)

Unit II: The Franks and the Carolingian Achievement, 500-850

Background Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 3.

Jan 17 Franco-Roman Synthesis

Web: Tacitus, *Germania* (e-source), [Primary Sources](#), [Source Analysis Papers](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, ch. 5 "Following Conventions"

Jan 19 Charlemagne and Renewal of Empire?

Web: [Charlemagne's Coronation](#), [Style Sheet](#), [Citing Sources](#)

Recommended: Rampolla, *Pocket Guide*, ch. 6, "Plagiarism".

Jan 24 Carolingian Rule and Culture

Read: Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne* (in Ganz, *Two Lives*, 1-44)

Jan 26 Empire Divided and Migrations

Source Analysis Paper due

Unit III: Social Groups and Social Order, 850-1100

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 4-5.

Jan 31 Order, Disorder, and the Church

Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 1-43 = Introduction and ch 1, part 1, sources nos. 1-4. Be sure to examine the maps and chronology (p. 171-3) carefully

Feb 2 Those Who Fight: The Feudal Revolution

Web: [Homage and Fealty](#)

Feb 7 Those Who Pray: The Investiture Conflict

Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 44-121 = ch. 1 (remainder) and ch. 2 (entire)

Feb 9 Those Who Work: The Manorial Economy

Feb 14 Those Who Don't Fit: Townsfolk

Web: [Guibert of Nogent on the commune](#)

Feb 16 The First Crusade and European Expansion

Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 132-5 = ch. 3, no. 34 (Calling of First Crusade)

Exam Review

Feb 21 New Paths to God

Read: Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 122-142 = ch. 3, nos. 31-38

Read: Introduction to Rubinstein edition of Guibert of Nogent's writings

Feb 23 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Unit III: The New Spirituality of the High Middle Ages

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 4-5

Feb 28 The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century I
 Read: Rubinstein, ed., either *Monodies* (entire) or *On the Relics of Saints* (entire).
 Recommended: Read the other part.

Mar 2 The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century II
Short Paper due on Guibert of Nogent's writings

SPRING BREAK

Mar 14 Popular Religion and Heresy
 Review: Miller, 122-142

Unit IV: Economic and Social Relations in the High Middle Ages

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 6-7.

Mar 16 The Challenge of the Marketplace
 Web: [Venetian commenda](#)
 Note: March 17 last day to withdraw from courses.

Mar 21 Learning and Laity in the Thirteenth Century
 Web: University Regulations

Mar 23 Knighthood, Chivalry, Courtesy
 Read: Introduction to *Lais of Marie de France* and the following: Lanval, Equitan, and 2 other lais of your choice. The rest is recommended.

Unit V: Rule and Governance in the High Middle Ages

Background Reading: Rosenwein, chs. 6-7.

Mar 28 Rise of Lord-Kingship
 Read: Rosenwein, Genealogies 5.3 *Capetians* and 6.1 *Norman and Angevins*
 Web: [Plantagenet and Capetian Genealogies](#), [Maps of France](#)

Mar 30 Two Families, One Madness
 Web: [Magna Carta](#), and look at the genealogies again

Apr 4 Kings and Counsellors
 Web: [Community of the Realm](#)

Unit VI: The Waning of the Middle Ages?

Background Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 8, conclusion

Apr 6 Popes vs. Kings: A New Conflict?
 Read: Begin reading Aberth (entire)

Apr 11 Crises of the 14th Century
 Read: Finish Aberth, *The Black Death* (entire)
 Note: Course Evaluation becomes available in this week. Please fill one out. Log into GoWMU and choose the "ICES Online" link in the "My Self Service" channel.

Apr 13 Old Rome/New Rome

Apr 18 The Death of Chivalry?

Apr 20 Waning of the Middle Ages?
 Exam Review

Apr 25 **FINAL EXAM Tuesday, 10:15-12:15 in classroom**