

**Hist 6120: Readings in Medieval History**  
**MEDIEVAL FRANCE, ca. 950-1350**

Fall 2014  
 HIS 6120-101 (#43655)  
 M 7:00-9:30pm  
 Dunbar 4201  
 Web: WMU e-learning coursepage

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will examine the history of medieval France, both classic works and cutting-edge scholarship. All regions of France (and some neighboring areas) will be considered, but there will be a chronological focus on the period 950-1350. The course will have an overarching historiographic orientation: how the *Annales* school has influenced medieval historians in France and beyond. In Fall 2014, the course has three main topical themes:

- 1) **Power and Lordship:** The rise of new ideas and practices of power following the collapse of the Carolingian order in the tenth century, including topics such as “the crisis of the year 1000,” the so-called “feudal revolution,” and ideas and practices of good/bad lordship.
- 2) **Capetian Dynasticism:** Tracing the rise of the Capetians and their attempts to establish their rule over the kingdom, including restraining the principalities, connections with the Church, the development of a dynastic ideology, and possibilities for doing research on royal rule.
- 3) **Women and the Aristocratic Family:** What were the roles of aristocratic women? What were notions of family in the high middle ages? Topics include changes in marriage practice, inheritance, naming patterns, as well as examining aristocratic women in light of the first two course themes.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course will prepare doctoral and master’s students doing theses to take research seminars. This course will also help prepare master’s students taking the general option for a medieval field examination. For those interested in medieval studies, this course will also familiarize them with current scholarly debate in medieval history. For non-medieval historians, the course will provide grounding in French schools of historical thought that influence European history. All students will be prepared to pursue further work on medieval social history, the high middle ages, or France.

**COURSE FORMAT:** The course will be conducted in weekly seminars, which will include extensive discussion, student presentations, and some presentations by the instructor. Discussions will focus on assigned readings and topics for each week. Various written assignments will culminate in a final paper (see below) chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. Working knowledge of Latin and another European language (preferably French, German, Spanish, Italian) strongly recommended.

**REQUIRED BOOKS** (all paper unless indicated otherwise):

- John Baldwin, *The Government of Philip Augustus: Foundation of French Royal Power in the Middle Ages* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991). ISBN: 0520073916. [ACLS E-book at Waldo, also on reserve, available used]
- Dominique Barthélemy, *The Serf, The Knight, and the Historian*, trans. Graham Robert Edwards (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009). ISBN: 0801475600.
- Thomas N. Bisson, *The Crisis of the Twelfth Century: Power, Lordship, and the Origins of European Government* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008). ISBN: 9780691147956.
- Marc Bloch, *Feudal Society (Volume 1, The Growth of Ties of Dependence; Volume 2, Social Classes and Political Organization)*, trans. L. A. Manyon (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961). ISBN: 0226059782 (vol. 1); 0226059790 (vol. 2). [Note: published as one volume in hardback and any edition using 1961 translation will do; widely available.]

## REQUIRED BOOKS, ctd.

Georges Duby, *The Three Orders: Feudal Society Imagined*, trans. Arthur Goldhammer, reprint ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982). ISBN: 0226167720.

Georges Duby, *The Chivalrous Society* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981). ISBN: 0520042719.

Theodore Evergates, ed. *Aristocratic Women in Medieval France* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999). ISBN: 0812217004.

M. Cecelia Gaposchkin, *The Making of Saint Louis: Kingship, Sanctity, and Crusade in the Later Middle Ages* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008). ISBN: 9780801476259.

Valerie L. Garver, *Women and Aristocratic Culture in Carolingian Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009). ISBN: 9780801477881

Geoffrey Koziol, *Begging Pardon and Favor: Ritual and Political Order in Early Medieval France* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1992). ISBN: 9780801477539.

Amy Livingstone, *Out of Love for My Kin: Aristocratic Family Life in the Lands of the Loire, 1000-1200*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2010. I ISBN: 9780801448416.

Jean-Pierre Poly and Eric Bournazel, *The Feudal Transformation, 900-1200*, trans. Caroline Higgett (New York: Holmes and Meier Publishers, 1991). ISBN: 0841911673. (hard)

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (for overview in Units I-II, on reserve):

Jean Dunbabin, *France in the Making, 843-1180*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000). ISBN: 0198208464 (paper, available used, more important).

Elizabeth Hallam and Judith Everard, *Capetian France, 987-1328*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Longman, 2001). ISBN: 0582404282 (paper, available used, less important)

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS (on reserve):

Timothy Reuter, *The Medieval Nobility* (New York: North-Holland, 1978), ISBN: 0444851364 (out of print, see week 9)

Susan Reynolds, *Fiefs and Vassals: The Medieval Evidence Reexamined*, reprint ed. (Oxford University Press, 1996). ISBN: 0198206488. (paper, see option 1 in week 4)

REQUIRED ARTICLES: See weekly entries on the reading list below, available digitally.

COURSE FORMAT: The course will be conducted in weekly seminars, which will include extensive discussion, student presentations, as well as some instructor presentations. Various written assignments include a book review, a regional research prospectus, and a final paper. Discussions will focus on assigned readings and topics for each week.

GRADE COMPONENTS: Participation 30%; three book reviews 30%; final paper 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: 93-100 = A, 87-92 = BA, 83-86 = B, 77-82 = CB, 73-76 = C, 67-72 = DC, 60-67 = D, and less than 60 = E.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Much of your grade will be determined by your efforts in our weekly meetings. To be an effective participant, you will need to complete all readings and assignments prior to class. A class that only meets once per week cannot be skipped, if you wish to receive a satisfactory grade. 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. Vigorous participation (speaking) as contrasted with mere attendance (being physically present) will count for 20% of the final grade.

**BOOK REVIEWS:** Students will write three short (3-5 page) analytic book reviews, one due on Sept 29 (concerning the problem of “feudalism”), the other two on any works listed as “recommended readings” under each major course “theme” and due on the date the work is listed. These reviews will count for 30% of the final grade. As part of their reviews of works not read in common, students will also deliver an oral report (approximately 8-10 minutes) on the book they review in class, explaining its content and relevance to the required reading for that week. Students who choose to review a book *not in English* will have that review count as doing two in English. I am willing to discuss possible substitute works for those listed below, but all such works must be approved in advance. The schedule of works to review will be determined during the second week of class, so that students may obtain copies of the works well in advance.

**FINAL PAPER:** In consultation with the instructor, students will prepare a final paper. The paper may take one of three forms: 1) an historiographic essay (a critical evaluation of the strengths/weaknesses of previous historical approaches to a topic); 2) a "needs and opportunities" paper, which explains possible avenues for future research; 3) advanced students may write a research paper analyzing primary sources (in original or in editions). Every paper will have a bibliography of relevant historical works (if about future research, this will include archival sources, source editions, and research aids). The narrative portion should be 15-20 pages with bibliography as necessary. Students are expected to develop their own topic and bibliography in consultation with Prof. Berkhofer, including submitting a one paragraph description of the topic with a preliminary list of works by Oct 6 and a draft of the bibliography by Nov 10. This paper is due the final day of class, Dec 8, and will count for 40% of the final grade. Students are also responsible for submitting an electronic copy of their final paper readable in MSWord.

**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> in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogues.] 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](http://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.

**Paper Submission Policy:** You are responsible for providing an electronic copy of your final paper in addition to submitting a hard copy (due when you hand it in). This copy must be readable by MSWord.

**Students with Disabilities:** You should register with Disability Services for Students (269-387-2116 or [www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices/](http://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:** Extensions will be granted only for valid, university-approved written excuses, at the instructor's discretion. Assignments must be turned in as soon as possible after the original due date. 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.

## READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (Sep 8): Introduction to France and the *Annales*

*Course Mechanics*

*Thematic Overview: Power, Regions, Aristocratic Women*

*Origins of the Annales School: The Legacy of Bloch, Febvre and Braudel*

*Where was medieval France?*

Reading: read before first class Marc Bloch, *Feudal Society* (entire)

Additional Readings: André Burguière, *The Annales School: An Intellectual History* (Cornell, 2009); Joseph Tandler, *Opponents of the Annales School* (New York: Palgrave, 2013).

### Unit I: Power and Lordship in France, 900-1200

Background Reading for Unit: Jean Dunbabin, *France in the Making, 843-1180*. (entire)

Week 2 (Sep 15): The “feudal revolution” model

Georges Duby, *The Three Orders: Feudal Society Imagined* (entire)

Theodore Evergates, “The Feudal Imaginary of Georges Duby,” *Journal and Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 27 (1997), 645-51.

Optional: Georges Duby, *The Early Growth of the European Economy*, ch. 6.

Additional Readings: F. L. Ganshof, *Feudalism*, tr. Philip Grierson, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York, 1964); or the following three items: 1) Joseph R. Strayer, “levels of feudalism” in *Medieval Statecraft and the Perspectives of History*, ed. J.F. Benton, T.N. Bisson (Princeton, 1971), chs. 6-7; 2) Jean-François Lemarignier, “Political and Monastic Structures in France at the end of the tenth and the beginning of the eleventh century,” (1957), tr. Frederic Cheyette, *Lordship and Community in Medieval Europe* (1968); 3) Elizabeth A. R. Brown, “The Tyranny of a Construct: Feudalism and Historians of Medieval Europe,” *American Historical Review* 79 (1974): 1063-88.

Week 3 (Sep 22): *Mutation féodale?*

Jean-Pierre Poly and Eric Bournazel, *The Feudal Transformation, 900-1200* (entire)

Additional Readings: Guy Bois, *The Transformation of the Year One Thousand: The Village of Lournand from Antiquity to Feudalism*, tr. Jean Birrell (Manchester, 1992). Pierre Bonnassie, *From Slavery to Feudalism in South-Western Europe* (Cambridge, 1991). Stephen White, *Custom, Kinship and Gifts to Saints: The laudatio parentum in Western France, 1050-1150* (Chapel Hill, 1988); Barbara Rosenwein, *To be the Neighbor of Saint Peter: The Social Meaning of Cluny's Property, 909-1049* (Ithaca, 1989).

Week 4 (Sep 29): *Mutation documentaire?*

Dominique Barthélemy, *The Serf, The Knight, and The Historian* (entire)

Because the French terms of this debate are so important, we will discuss them. Students with good French should read the preface, chs. 1 and 9 (the new English sections) and the original versions of chs.

2-8 in Dominique Barthélemy, *La mutation féodale a-t-elle eu lieu?* (Paris, 1997); those with some French may read the article which preceded it: Dominique Barthélemy, “La mutation féodale a-t-elle eu lieu? (Note critique),” *Annales ESC* 47 (1992), 767-77.

Readings for Book Review (choose option 1 or 2):

*Option 1:* Susan Reynolds, *Fiefs and Vassals: The Medieval Evidence Reexamined* (entire) and Frederic Cheyette, Review of *Fiefs and Vassals* in *Speculum* 71 (1996): 998-1006.

*Option 2:* The “Feudal Revolution” debate: Thomas N. Bisson, “The ‘Feudal Revolution’” *Past and Present*, no. 142 (1994): 6-42, plus four responses (Reuter, Wickham, Barthélemy, White) and Bisson’s reply in no. 152 (1996): 196-223, and no. 155 (1997): 177-225.

### **Comparative Book Review (Barthélemy compared with readings 1 or 2) due today.**

Week 5 (Oct 6): Beyond France and Beyond Feudalism?

Thomas N. Bisson, *The Crisis of the Twelfth Century: Power, Lordship, and the Origins of European Government* (entire)

Additional Reading: **Collect works for your final paper to prepare your topic paragraph.** Kathleen Davis, *Periodization and Sovereignty: How Ideas of Feudalism and Secularization Govern the Politics of Time* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008); Any 3 articles in Svere Bagge et al., eds., *Feudalism: New Landscapes of Debate* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2011).

**Topic paragraph for final paper with a preliminary list of works is due today; ideally you should meet with Prof. Berkhofer before this week to discuss options.**

### **Unit II: Capetian Dynasticism 987-1328**

Background Reading for Unit: Elizabeth Hallam and Judith Everard, *Capetian France, 987-1328*.

Week 6 (Oct 13): One Among Many: From Robertians to Capetians

Geoffrey Koziol, *Begging Pardon and Favor* (entire).

Marc Bloch, *The Royal Touch: Sacred Monarchy and Scrofula in England and France* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1973); Jan Dhondt, *Études sur la naissance des principautés territoriales en France (IXe–Xe siècles)* (Bruges: De Tempel, 1948); Jean-François Lemarignier, *Le gouvernement royal aux premiers temps capétiens* (1965); Phillippe Buc, *The Dangers of Ritual* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001); Thomas Head and Richard Landes, eds. *The Peace of God: Social Violence and Religious Response in France around the Year 1000* (Ithaca: Cornell, 1992); Jehangir Yezdi Malegem, *The Sleep of the Behemoth: Disputing Peace and Violence in Medieval Europe, 1000-1200* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013); Any 3 essays in Warren Brown and Piotr Górecki, eds., *Conflict in Medieval Europe* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2001); Florian Mazel, *Feodalités, 888-1180* (Paris: Belin, 2010). Justin Lake, *Richer of Saint-Rémi: The Methods and Mentality of a Tenth-Century Historian* (Washington: Catholic University Press, 2013).

Week 7 (Oct 20): Rise of French Royal Power

John Baldwin, *The Government of Philip Augustus: Foundation of French Royal Power in the Middle Ages* (entire)

Additional Reading: Ferdinand Lot and Robert Fawtier, *Histoire des institutions françaises au moyen âge* (Paris, 1957); Eric Bournazel, *Le gouvernement capétien au XIIe siècle* (Paris, 1975); Michel Pacaut, *Louis VII et son royaume* (Paris, 1967); Andrew W. Lewis, *Royal Succession in Capetian France: Studies on Familial Order and the State* (Harvard, 1981); Yves Sassier, *Louis VII* (Paris: Fayard, 1991); Jim Bradbury, *Philip Augustus: King of France, 1180-1223* (London: Longman, 1998); Lindy Grant, *The Abbot Suger of St Denis: Church and State in Early Twelfth-Century France* (London: Longman, 1998). The following three articles: Karl Ferdinand Werner, "Kingdom and Principality in Twelfth-Century France" in Reuter, ed. *The Medieval Nobility*, 243–290, Elizabeth Hallam, "The King and the Princes in Eleventh-Century France" *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research* 53.128 (1980): 143–156; Thomas N. Bisson, "The Problem of Feudal Monarchy: Aragon, Catalonia, and France." *Speculum* 53.3 (1978): 460–478.

Week 8 (Oct 27): Making of a Saint-King

Cecelia Gaposchkin, *The Making of Saint Louis* (entire)

Additional Reading: Charles Wood, *The French Apanages and the Capetian Monarchy, 1224-1328* (Cambridge, 1966); William Chester Jordan, *Louis IX and the Challenge of the Crusade* (Princeton, 1979); Bernard Guenée, *States and Rulers in Late Medieval Europe*, trans. Juliet Vale (Oxford, 1985); Jacques Le Goff, *Saint Louis* (Paris, 1996); Jean Dunbabin, *Charles I of Anjou: Power, Kingship, and State-Making in Thirteenth-Century Europe* (Longman, 1998). Joseph R. Strayer, *The Reign of Philip the Fair* (Princeton, 1980). Colette Beaune, *The Birth of an Ideology: Myths and Symbols of Nation in Late-Medieval France* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991). Gabrielle Spiegel, *Romancing the Past: The Rise of Vernacular Prose Historiography in Thirteenth-Century France* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995); Justine Firnhaber-Baker, *Violence and the State in Languedoc, 1250-1400* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

### Unit III: Women and the Aristocratic Family in France (1000-1250)

Week 9 (Nov 3): Early Models of Women and Family

Karl Schmid, "The Structure of the Nobility in Earlier Middle Ages" and Karl Ferdinand Werner, "Important Noble Families in the Kingdom of Charlemagne" in Timothy Reuter, *The Medieval Nobility*. George Duby, *Chivalrous Society*, chs. 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 (on lineage, nobility, youths, kinship, genealogy). Susan Mosher Stuard, "Fashion's Captives: Medieval Women in French Historiography" in *Women in Medieval History and Historiography*, ed. Stuard (University of Pennsylvania, 1989), 59-80. Jo Ann McNamara, "Women and Power Through the Family Revisited," in *Gendering the Master Narrative: Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, ed. Mary Erler and Maryanne Kowaleski (Cornell University Press, 2003), 17-30.

Optional: Jo Ann McNamara and Suzanne Wempel, "The Power of Women Through the Family in Medieval Europe, 500-1100," in *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, ed. Mary Erler and Maryanne Kowaleski (University of Georgia Press, 1988), 83-101.

Additional Reading: David Herlihy, *Medieval Households* (Harvard, 1978); the rest of Reuter, *Medieval Nobility*; the rest of Duby, *Chivalrous Society*; the rest of *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*; the rest of *Women in Medieval History and Historiography*; Any 3 articles in Georges Duby, *Women of the Twelfth Century*, 3 vols. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997–1998); Pauline Stafford, *Queens, Concubines and Dowagers: The King's Wife in the Early Middle Ages* (Athens: University of Georgia

Press, 1983); Constance Bouchard, *Strong of Body, Brave and Noble: Chivalry and Society in Medieval France* (Ithaca: Cornell, 1998); Gerd Althoff, *Family, Friends and Followers: Political and Social Bonds in Early Medieval Europe* (Cambridge, 2004).

Week 10 (Nov 10): Carolingian Women and the Development of an Aristocracy

Valerie Garver, *Woman and Aristocratic Culture in the Carolingian World* (Cornell, Nov 2009) (entire)

Additional Reading: Jack Goody, *The Development of Family and Marriage in Europe* (Cambridge, 1983); Suzanne Wempel, *Women in Frankish Society: Marriage and the Cloister, 500 to 900* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1991); Régine Le Jan, *Famille et pouvoir dans le monde franc (VIIe–Xe siècle): Essai d'anthropologie sociale* (Paris: Sorbonne, 1995); Lynda Coon, *Sacred Fictions: Holy Women and Hagiography in Late Antiquity* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997); Constance Brittain Bouchard, *Those of My Blood: Constructing Noble Families in Medieval Francia* (Pennsylvania, 2001); Any 3 articles in Leslie Brubaker and Julia H. M. Smith, *Gender in the Early Medieval World* (Cambridge, 2004).

**Draft bibliography for final paper due today.**

Week 11 (Nov 17): Women and Kinship

Amy Livingstone, *Out of Love for My Kin* (entire).

Additional Reading: Dominique Barthélemy, "Kinship" in *A History of Private Life: Revelations of the Medieval World*, ed. Georges Duby (Harvard, 1988); Gerd Althoff, *Family, Friends and Followers: Political and Social Bonds in Medieval Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004); Georges Duby, *Medieval Marriage: Two Models from Medieval France* (Johns Hopkins, 1991); Katherine S. B. Keats-Rohan, *Family Trees and the Roots of Politics: The Prosopography of Britain and France from the Tenth to the Twelfth Centuries* (Woodbridge: Boydell, 1997); John Baldwin, *Aristocratic Life in Medieval France: The Romances of Jean Renart and Gerbert de Montreuil, 1190-1230* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 2000); Jonathan Lyon, *Princely Brothers and Sisters: The Sibling Bond in German Politics, 1100-1250* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013).

**November 20 (Thursday): Lecture by Jonathan Lyon at 5:30pm (plan to attend)**

Week 12 (Nov 24): Aristocratic Women, Power and Principalities

Theodore Evergates, ed., *Aristocratic Women in Medieval France* (Pennsylvania, 1999). (entire)

Additional Reading: Fredric L Cheyette, *Ermengard of Narbonne and the World of the Troubadours* (Ithaca: Cornell, 2001); Kathleen D. Nolan, *Capetian Women* (Palgrave, 2003); Heather J. Tanner, *Families, Friends and Allies: Boulogne and Politics in Northern France and England, c.879-1160* (Brill, 2004); Kimberly Loprete, *Adela of Blois: Countess and Lord, c. 1067-1137* (Dublin: Four Courts, 2007); Erin Jordan, *Women, Power, and Religious Patronage in the Middle Ages* (New York: Palgrave 2006); Any 3 articles in John Carmi Parsons and Bonnie Wheeler, eds., *Eleanor of Aquitaine: Lord and Lady* (New York: Palgrave, 2002).

Week 13 (Dec 1): Conclusions

**Final Paper due today (remember to submit electronic copy also). Prepare to discuss your paper for 5-10 minutes.**