

HISTORY 112: A SURVEY OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE FROM THE LATE ROMAN
EMPIRE TO THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE, ca. 300 - ca. 1500

Winter Term, 1984-85

M,T,W,F, 12 noon, Chambers 316

Instructor: Keefe

Office Hours: 9-10, 1-2 M-F, Chambers 331, ext. 211

Course Description:

What happened **AFTER** the fall of the Roman empire in the West? Martin Luther and Dr. Barnes do not come on stage for eleven hundred years! Those eleven centuries hold the key to the how and why of many of our current attitudes, customs, and legal and educational institutions. They offer us students baffling periods of darkness and perplex questions about daily life and social arrangements; but there are also great periods of artistic and architectural creativity, of learning and new ideas, of inventions and scientific discoveries, of geographic expansion. There is war, famine, plague, death, corruption, torture, superstition, witchcraft (cf. today's Charlotte Observer!), but they have a unique context in an age united in one faith.

This course invites you to explore the whole period which bridged the ancient and the modern world in the West. Through readings of primary sources in translation you will be asked to put yourself in the shoes of medieval men and women -- monks, nuns, popes, kings, queens, saints, peasants, heretics, crusaders, pilgrims, mystics, and pseudo-mystics. Basic requirements are imagination and your willingness to explode whatever preconceptions the word "medieval" brings to your mind. By the end of ten weeks you will be able to explain the major events of each century of western European history from 300 to 1500 and you will be familiar with the location of the oldest and most important countries, cities, rivers, and mountains of Europe and the near East. Next summer, as you backpack up the Rhine, through the Brenner Pass over the Alps and down to the Adriatic port of Venice you will knowingly retrace the steps of pilgrims from Canterbury and crusader knights from Flanders on their extraordinary trek to the Holy Land.

Please purchase the following at the Bookstore (titles are listed in the order we will read them):

C. Warren Hollister, Medieval Europe: A Short History

Brian Tierney, The Middle Ages, volume 1: Sources of Medieval History

A. C. Meisel & M. L. del Mastro, transls., The Rule of Saint Benedict

Gregory the Great, The Life of St. Benedict: Book II of the Dialogues of Gregory the Great

Einhard, The Life of Charlemagne

Joseph R. Strayer, Feudalism

J. T. Muckle, transl., The Story of Abelard's Adversities

Louise Collis, Memoirs of a Medieval Woman: The Life and Times of Margery Kempe

Hammond, Historical Atlas of the World

Course Requirements:

1. Assigned readings, due on the day shown below on the Schedule. I will lecture on Mon., Tues., and Wed. Class will not meet on Thursdays. Fridays will usually be reserved for class discussions of the medieval texts you have read each week.
2. Attendance and participation: attendance will be taken (you are responsible to sign a sheet) and no student may miss more than 10 classes for any reason and pass the course. Your participation in class discussions is expected and will be taken into consideration in your final grade for the course.
3. Respect for the Honor Code: simplified, to do nothing that takes unfair advantage of anyone else, but to do everything that fosters love and respect for yourself.
4. A brief (10-12 pp.) research paper, due Fri., Feb. 15. This must have a bibliography including at least two primary source texts. I will give out a list of suggested topics and texts to read, but you are encouraged to explore any aspect of medieval life of interest to you. There must be a thesis statement in which you ask a question, challenge a statement, propose an original hypothesis, or suggest answers to a problem. You will be graded especially on your attempt to do creative and original thinking, perhaps by drawing analogies with a modern situation, or casting your paper in the form of a medieval letter, diary, sermon, university lecture, trial record, monastic annal, biography, or whatever.
5. Mid-term and final exams. These will include a map identification section and there may be occasional map quizzes.
Your final grade will consist of: paper, 30%; exams, 25% each; attendance, participation, and other hand-in work, 20%.

Schedule (assignments are **DUE** on the date given):

EARLY MIDDLE AGES, 300-1000
(weeks I-V)

Week

I [4th cent.] The Christianization of the Roman Empire

Week

Mon., Nov. 26 Introduction
Tues., Nov. 27 Hollister, chpt. 1, pp. 5-12
Wed., Nov. 28 Tierney, pp. 17-20, 27-29
hand-out, Life of St. Paul the Hermit by Jerome
Fri., Nov. 30 hand-out, Life of Ambrose by Paulinus

II [5th cen.] The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Mon., Dec. 3 Hollister, chpt. 2, pp. 13-24
Tues., Dec. 4 hand-out, Tacitus' Germania
Wed., Dec. 5 hand-out, Life of St. Martin by Sulpitius Severus
Fri., Dec. 7 map quiz on late Roman Empire

III [6th cen.] Byzantine Influence; Western Monasticism; The Christianization of Britain

Mon., Dec. 10 Hollister, chpt. 3, pp. 25-38
Tues., Dec. 11 Hollister, chpt. 4, pp. 39-50
Rule of St. Benedict, pp. 9-41
Wed., Dec. 12 Rule of St. Benedict, pp. 43-113
Fri., Dec. 14 Gregory the Great, Life of St. Benedict (entire)
Christmas vacation begins, 5:00 P.M.!

IV [7th-9th cen.] The Civilization of Islam; The Merovingians and Carolingians

Mon., Jan. 7 Hollister, chpt. 5, pp. 51-63
Tierney, pp. 94-96
Tues., Jan. 8 Hollister, chpt. 6, pp. 64-72
hand-out, St. Boniface's Life by Willibald
Wed., Jan. 9 Hollister, chpt. 6, pp. 72-85
Einhard, Life of Charlemagne, pp. 5-40
Fri., Jan. 11 Einhard, pp. 40-67
Tierney, pp. 104-111, 117-124

V [9th-10th cen.] The Disintegration of the Carolingian Empire

Mon., Jan. 14 Hollister, chpt. 7, pp. 86-95
Tues., Jan. 15 Hollister, chpt. 8, pp. 96-118
Strayer, pp. 1-23 and associated texts
Wed., Jan. 16 Strayer, pp. 24-42 and associated texts
Fri., Jan. 18 MID-TERM EXAM

THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES, 1050-1300
(weeks VI-VIII)

VI The Crisis of Church and State, 1050-1300

Mon., Jan. 21 Hollister, chpt. 11, pp. 178-200
Tierney, pp. 137-146, top
Tues., Jan. 22 Tierney, pp. 235-244, 271-72

Week

Wed., Jan. 23 Hollister, chpt. 12, pp. 201-220
Tierney, pp. 260-265, 313-316
Fri., Jan. 25 Hollister, chpt. 12, pp. 220-228
hand-out, excerpts from the Chronicle of Salimbene

VII The Growth of Towns; The Crusades and New Frontiers; New Religious Movements, 1050-1300

Mon., Jan. 28 Hollister, chpt. 9, pp. 125-144
Tierney, pp. 181-84, 188-89
Tues., Jan. 29 Hollister, chpt. 9, pp. 144-159
Tierney, pp. 155-162
Wed., Jan. 30 Hollister, chpt. 10, pp. 160-177
Tierney, pp. 250-255
Fri., Feb. 1 map quiz
hand-out, excerpts from the Chronicle of Jordan of Giano

VIII Intellectual Life, 1050-1300

Mon., Feb. 4 Hollister, chpt. 13, pp. 229-252
Tierney, pp. 194-98
Tues., Feb. 5 Hollister, chpt. 14, pp. 253-275
Tierney, pp. 290-92, 295-298
Wed., Feb. 6 Tierney, pp. 163-65, 298-306
Fri., Feb. 8 The Story of Abelard's Adversities, (entire)

THE LATE MIDDLE AGES, 1300-1500
(weeks IX-X)

IX [14th cen.] The Church: Schism, Reformers, and Mystics; The State: The 100 Years War

Mon., Feb. 11 Hollister, chpt. 15, pp. 283-288
Tierney, pp. 322-26
Tues., Feb. 12 Hollister, chpt. 15, pp. 289-303
Wed., Feb. 13 Tierney, pp. 330-341, 349-352
Fri., Feb. 15 RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

X [15th cen.] Changes in Life and Thought: The Waning of the Middle Ages

Mon., Feb. 18 Hollister, chpt. 16, pp. 304-322
Tues., Feb. 19 Memoirs of a Medieval Woman, pp. 9-69
Wed., Feb. 20 Memoirs, pp. 70-131
Fri., Feb. 22 Memoirs, pp. 132-259
LAST DAY OF CLASSES!