**HISTORY 107**

INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Spring 2019

Professor Brett Whalen

[bwhalen@email.unc.edu](mailto:bwhalen@email.unc.edu)

Office: Hamilton #457

Office Hours: M, 1-2 and by appointment

Tel. 962-2383

Course Time: Lecture M/W and sometimes Friday 11:15-12:05 (some weeks, on W, TH or F recitations meet at various times, as indicated on syllabus)

Location: Manning 209 (recitation rooms vary)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the history of Europe during the Middle Ages (ca. 300-1500), with a particular focus on the High Middle Ages (c. 1000-1350). As a survey, the class will broadly explore events and developments over centuries of political, social, and cultural history. Special attention will be devoted to the centrality of Christian ideas, authorities, and institutions to the medieval world at the intersections of faith and politics. In addition, this course will introduce students to the basic skills employed by historians (e.g. how to analyze, contextualize, and thoughtfully write about primary source materials).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students completing *Introduction to Medieval History* should be able to:

* show a basic familiarity with the key developments of medieval history
* assess the role that Christianity played in medieval politics, society, and culture
* analyze and contextualize primary source documents for medieval history
* evaluate the concept of the “medieval” and its contemporary relevance

TEXTS

* Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages,* 5th ed.(Univ. of Toronto Press, 2018). (required)
* Barbara Rosenwein, *Reading the Middle Ages: Sources from Europe, Byzantium and the Islamic World,* 3rd ed. (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2018). (required)
* Brett Whalen, *The Medieval Papacy* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2014). (recommended)

COURSE FORMAT

The course will meet for lecture on Mondays and Wednesdays, with occasional lectures on Friday (see below under the Course Schedule). Other weeks, rather than meeting at the lecture hall on Friday, students will meet in recitations with the course teaching assistants. When there are recitations, there is no meeting in the lecture hall; when there is a lecture on Friday, there are no recitations that week.

Lectures will provide students with an overview of historical developments and narrative. They will also dig deeper into select events and ideas, including topics not covered in *A Short History of the Middle Ages*. Lecture outlines with select images will be available before class on Sakai under Resources. Students are encouraged to print lecture outlines and to bring them to class to help organize their notes.

Recitations are a place for seminar-style discussion and active participation rather than passive learning. The focus will be on the analysis and discussion of the readings for the week, above all the primary sources from *Reading the Middle Ages.*

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

**Attendance (5%)**: Attendance will be taken in both lecture and recitation sections. Missing class without a legitimate excuse (i.e. religious holiday, official sporting event, documented sickness, etc.) will have a negative impact on your attendance grade: missing 1 class=A (95); 2=A- (90); 3=B (85); 4=C (75); 5=D (65); 6=F (60). Missing 7 or more classes=zero. See also below under policies.

**Course Commitment (10%):** This means primarily active and *informed* participation in recitation sections, but could mean attending office hours, speaking to the TA or professor after class, handing in all work on time, etc. If you are unsure of how best to show your commitment to the course, please speak with your TA and/or the professor.

**Quizzes (8, drop lowest 3, 5 x 3 = 15%):** Where marked on the schedule, there will be a quiz available on Sakai from 6PM Thursday to 6PM Friday. The quizzes are timed: once the student logs into the quiz, they will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. The quizzes are open book/note. On the Honor Code, students are expected not to consult the internet or another student during the quiz. The quizzes are based on the General Reading and Showcased Primary Source(s) for that week. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped (alternatively, the student can take 5 quizzes and not drop one).

**Writing Assignments (3 x 10% = 30%)**: Students will compose three short essays that analyze the assigned primary sources from *Reading the Middle Ages.* The essays should be written in response to the prompt on Sakai under Assignments. On the schedule below, students can see which weeks there is a “Writing Assignment Prompt” available. At least 1 essay must be completed before the midterm; a maximum of 2 essays can be completed before the midterm. A hard-copy of each essay is due at the beginning of lecture the following Monday (e.g. essays responding to the Week Three prompt are due 1/28). You cannot backdate or mix prompts: for each week, you must submit an essay addressing that week’s prompt by the due date for the essay to be accepted. If students do not complete at least one essay before the midterm, they will receive a zero—three essays cannot be submitted after the midterm. For more details on how to write these essays, please consult the “Writing Assignment Guide” on Sakai.

**Exams (Midterm 20% x Final 20% = 40%)**: There will be a midterm and final exam, as noted on the schedule. More details will be provided about each exam beforehand.

Grading Scale: A=100-93/A-92-90/B+=89-87/B=86-83/B-=82-80/C+79-77/C=76-73

C-=72-70/D=69-65/F=64 and below

POLICIES

**Sakai:** Students are responsible for being familiar with all materials posted on Sakai and any other course announcements by email during the course of the semester. Outlines with select images for lectures will be updated as the semester progresses. See also the *Writing Assignment Guide* (some tips on the writing assignments); *Reading Strategies* (to help draw connections between the secondary and primary sources); and the *Grading Guide* (explaining how the TAs will evaluate your writing assignments).

**Attendance**: Students are responsible for completing any reading/work due during their absence. If you know in advance that you are going to miss class or have a legitimate excuse for missing class, please discuss the matter with your TA.

**Laptops:** are not permitted in the lecture hall unless students need special accommodations and contact the professor in advance. I strongly encourage students to purchase print editions of the required reading, or at least of *Reading the Middle Ages.* If people do purchase a e-version of the texts, tablets might be used in recitation.

**Emails:** The TAs and I will make every effort to respond to emails from students in a timely manner. Last minute emails about assignments, however, might or might not be answered in time to provide critical feedback (please email well before any deadlines). Consider emails as “formal texts” rather than text-messages: include a proper salutation, identify yourself, sign your email, etc.

**Make-Up Exams**: Missing an exam is a serious matter. Student who miss a scheduled exam *must* provide a doctor’s note or some other form of documentation to take a make-up exam. There will be no make-up quizzes (although one quiz is dropped).

**Honors Code:** Students are expected to be familiar with and observe the Honor Code:

<http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/honor-code/>

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Each week, students should first read the *General Reading* (from *Short History*), which provides basic narrative, facts, and other information. This will provide you with context for understanding and analyzing the *Showcased Primary Source(s)* for the week (from *Reading the Middle Ages*), a selection of materials from the historical period under consideration. **These are required readings covering materials that are fair game for quizzes, exams, writing assignments etc.** Most weeks there is also a *Supplementary Source*. While less important than the showcased primary source, reading the Supplementary Source will enrich your understanding of the materials for the week. Finally, there are *Recommended* readings from *The Medieval Papacy* that will deepen our focus on aspects of medieval church history. You will never be tested on materials from the *Supplementary Sources* or *The Medieval Papacy,* although completing these readings might help you produce superior writing assignments or exam essays.

See the “Reading Strategies” Guide on Sakai (Resources) for more information.

The schedule below uses the following abbreviations:

*SH=Short History*

*RMAs=Reading the Middle Ages*

*MP=Medieval Papacy*

WEEK ONE

(1/9) Welcome to *Introduction to Medieval History*

(1/11) Provincializing the Roman Empire

Friday Lecture: no recitations

WEEK TWO

(1/14) A New Religion

(1/16) The Sources of God’s Grace

Recitations meet for the first time on TH or F

General Reading: *SH,* 1-24

Showcased Sources: *RMAs,* 1.8 (*Benedictine Rule*)

Supplementary Source: 1.9 (*Letter 24 to Marcella*)

Recommended: *MP,* chapter 1

WEEK THREE

(1/21) MLK Day (No Class)

(1/23) Rulers, Bishops, & Saints

Recitations Meet

**Quiz 1** (covers *SH,* chapter 1) / **Writing Assignment Prompt Available**

General Reading: *SH,* pp. 24-37 (Week 3 continued next page)

Showcased Sources: *RMAs,* 2.10 (*Life of Queen Balthild*)

Supplementary Source: *RMAs,* 1.15 (*Third Council of Toledo*)

WEEK FOUR

(1/28) Sibling Cultures (I)

(1/30)Creating Christendom

Recitations Meet

**Quiz 2** (covers *SH,* chapter 2) / **Writing Assignment Prompt Available**

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 2 (skim pp. 39-57 for Monday; read carefully for Wednesday, pp. 55-79

Showcased Source: *RMAs,* 2.12 (Bede, *Ecclesiastical History*)

Supplementary Sources: *RMAs,* 2.11 (*Letters to Boniface*); 2.4 (*Qur’an Suras*)

Recommended: *MP,* chapter 2

WEEK FIVE

(2/4) The Carolingian World (I)

(2/6) The Carolingian World (II)

(2/8) Sibling Cultures (II)

Friday Lecture: No recitations

**Quiz 3** (covers *SH,* chapter 3)

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 3 (skim pp. 81-95; read carefully pp. 95-111)

Showcased Source: *RMAs,* 3.4 (Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*)

Supplementary Sources: *RMAs,* 3.6 (Dhuoda, *Handbook for her Son*); 3.12 (*Admonitio Generalis*)

Recommended: *MP,* chapter 3

WEEK SIX

(2/11) The Last Invaders of the West

(2/13) Private Power & Public Relationships

Recitations meet

**Quiz 4** (covers *SH,* chapter 4) / **Writing Assignment Prompt Available**

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 4 (skim pp. 113-129; read carefully pp. 129-135

Showcased Sources: *RMAs,* 4.5, *Agreements between Count William of the Aquitanians and Hugh IV of Lusignan*

Supplementary Source: *RMAs,* 4.3, *Cluny’s Foundation Charter*

WEEK SEVEN

(2/18) Church Reform

(2/20) The Crusades

Recitations Meet

**Writing Assignment Prompt Available** (Week Seven continued next page)

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 5 (skim pp. 161-172; read carefully pp. 172-183)

Showcased Sources: *RMAs,* 5.6-5.8 (*Admonition to Henry VII; Letter to Gregory VII; Letter to Hermann of Metz*); 5.11 (Robert the Monk, *Urban II Preaches the First Crusade*)

Supplementary Source: 5.12 (Solomon bar Samson, *Chronicle*)

Recommended: *MP,* chapter 4

WEEK EIGHT

(2/25) Midterm Exam Review

(2/27) Midterm Exam

No recitations or Friday Lecture

WEEK NINE

(3/4) Europe’s Economic Miracle

(3/6) New Forms of Learning

(3/8) New Forms of Religious Expression

Friday Lecture: No recitations

**Quiz 5** (covers *SH,* chapter 5)

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 5, pp. 183-203

WEEK TEN

(3/11) Break

(3/13) Break

WEEK ELEVEN

(3/18) Expanded TA Office Hours

(3/20) Culture of the Courts

(3/22) Royal Governance

Friday Lecture: No recitations

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 6 (focus on pp. 214-237)

Showcased Source: *Reading the Middle Ages,* 6.14, *Magna Carta*

Supplementary Source:6.21, Chrétien de Troyes, *Lancelot*

WEEK TWELVE

(3/25) The Papal Monarchy

(3/27) “Others” and Inquisition

Recitations Meet

**Quiz 6** (covers *SH,* chapter 6) / **Writing Assignment Prompt Available**

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 6 (skim pp. 207-214, focus on pp. 237-247)

Showcased Source: *RMAs,* 6.22 (*Fourth Lateran Council*)

Supplementary Sources: 6.27 (*Chronicle of Trier*)

Recommended: *MP,* 5-6

WEEK THIRTEEN

(4/1) Lay Piety

(4/3) Scholasticism

Recitations Meet

**Writing Assignment Prompt Available**

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 7 (but focus on pp. 275-82)

Showcased Source: *RMAs,* 6.24 (*Life of Mary of Oignies*); and 6.25 (St Francis, *Rule for Hermitages/Testament*)

Supplementary Source: *RMAs,* 7.20 (Aquinas, *On Love*)

Recommended: *MP,* chapter 7

WEEK FOURTEEN

(4/8) “Church” and “State” in Later Middle Ages

(4/10) Sibling Cultures (III)

Recitations Meet

**Quiz 7** (covers *SH,* chapter 7)

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 7 (whatever you did not read last week)

Showcased Source: *RMAs,* 7.18 (Joinville, *Life of St Louis*), and 7.19 (*Unam sanctam*)

Supplementary Source: 7.6 (Pegolotti, *Pratice of Trade*)

WEEK FIFTEEN

(4/15) Plague & Society

(4/17) War & Society

Recitations Meet (Final Time)

**Writing Assignment Prompt Available**

General Reading: *SH,* chapter 8, skim pp. 301-308; read carefully 308-342

Showcased Source: *RMAs,* 8.10 (Froissart, *Chronicles*) 8.13 (*Wat Tyler’s Rebellion*)

Supplementary Sources: *RMAs,* 8.3 (Warding Off Plague)

Recommended: *MP,* chapter 8 (for next week)

WEEK SIXTEEN

(4/22) Renaissance

(4/24) New Worlds

(4/26) Modern Worlds, Medieval Worlds

**Quiz 8** (covers *SH,* chapter 8)

**Final Exam**: **Tuesday May 7, noon**