

History 3321: *Europe in the Middle Ages*

Fall 2009

MW: 2:00-3:15 P.M.

Dr. Charles W. Clark

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and by appt.

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Office: Cobb Hall, Graduate School

Hrs. M 1:00-3:00 P.M. Th. 10-12, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

SYLLABUS

[Note: The on-line version of the syllabus will be the official one. Please see it for up-dates, etc. If any of the links do not work, please let me know.]

Course Description: This course covers the development of Medieval Latin Civilization and its impact on the development of Modern Europe. Chronologically, it covers the period from around 400-1500 C.E. It focuses on the dissolution of the Graeco-Roman World and the development of three civilizations that arose from that past.

Plan for the Course: During the semester, we will be looking at medieval Europe from a variety of perspectives. A medieval commonplace divided the people into “those who fought, those who worked, and those who prayed.” While this is simplistic, given the varieties of life all over Europe, it does capture the “flavor” of the period. So, we will be looking at the people, ideas and events that shaped a period of over ten centuries and a variety of geographical areas. We will be examining the sources and secondary works that help illuminate the period.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able:

- To identify major schools of thought of the medieval era by notable scholars;
- To summarize the major events, persons and ideas that shaped the period orally and in writing;
- To analyze documentary sources from the period and synthesize these materials in various formats, e.g., oral presentations, class discussions, research papers;
- To delineate the ways in which the medieval world shaped early modern and modern Europe;
- And to analyze secondary materials and to present the ideas of various scholars in research papers and oral presentations.

Procedures, Policies, etc.:

READING ASSIGNMENTS: All reading assignments, as listed in the schedule below will be due on the dates listed. This means you should look ahead to see what material we will discuss in class for the next class period. Students are responsible for the material assigned, however, whether discussed in class or not. Part of the final grade will be based upon class discussion.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class each day and to participate in the class discussions. More than **two** unexcused absences will result in a lower final grade. Please make sure that all cell phones, pagers, etc., are turned off before coming into the classroom. Also, disruptive and non-attending students will be removed from the class rolls.

Tests, Quizzes, etc.: There will be **two** tests covering the material in the reading assignments and a final exam that will have at least one cumulative question on it. If class discussion wanes, “pop quizzes” on the assignments may be given. Students with documented special needs must see me to make special arrangements for test taking and/or other needs.

GRADING: Final grades for the course will be based upon the completion of the following:

Hour Examination I	15%
Hour Examination II	15%
Final Examination	30%
Paper*	15%
Three (3) response papers @ 5% each	15%
Class Participation, quizzes, etc.	10%

***Paper:** Students will prepare a five to seven page paper on a topic to be discussed in class. Students will demonstrate an understanding of primary and at least three secondary sources. I will distribute further instructions and topics in class. The paper will be due **30 November, 2009**. Remember, you may not use works assigned for class nor encyclopedias (e.g., Wikipedia) for this paper. One internet website may be used.

Grading Rubric: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/rubric.html> [adapted from Paul Halsall]
How to write a short [History Paper](#).

Response papers: Students will submit **three** response papers, 2-4 pages each. Papers should be typed with standard 12-point fonts and standard one-inch margins. These papers will be in response to three documents I will post on the website for you to consider. Due dates are: **1) September 14; 2) October 12; November 23**. Each paper will analyze the document answering the questions posted with the document on Course Den.

Extra Credit: None. Please do all of your work the first time!

Plagiarism: Please look at the Department of History’s policy on plagiarism: www.westga.edu/~history/plagiarismhtm.htm. No work prepared for another class is acceptable in this course. Students who plagiarize will flunk the course and may be referred for other disciplinary action.

Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor with questions, concerns, etc.

This syllabus is subject to change, so please attend class to keep up with assignments.

Required Books:

Backman, Clifford. *The Worlds of Medieval Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2nd. Ed. 2008

Bouchard, Constance B. *Strong of Body, Brave and Noble: Chivalry and Society in Medieval France*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998

Clanchy, Michael (ed.) *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*. Rev. ed. Penguin Books, 2004

Gies, Frances and Joseph. *Cathedral, Forge and Waterwheel*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1995

***Note:** Additional Readings will be found on-line as cited in the syllabus. Many of the internet sources have been “borrowed” from Prof. Paul Halsall’s sites.

Schedule

August:

17 Introduction, Review of Syllabus and Requirements

19 Late Roman World: Geography and Government

Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, Introduction and chapter 1

26 Ancient Science and Technology

Reading: Gies, *Cathedral, Forge*, chapters 1-2.

31 Religious Change: Ancient religions and the growth of Christianity

Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 2.

September

7 **Labor Day, No Class**

9 Christianity and Rome

Reading: Same and:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/primary/pliny.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/200Tertullian-pagan.html>,

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/edict-milan.html>; for the background on heresies see:

<http://www.the-orb.net/encyclop/religion/early/orb-councils.index.htm>

14 The Germans: Society and Relations with Rome

Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch.3 and:

Attila the Hun: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/attila2.html> Map of Europe after the invasions in 476: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/maps/476eur.jpg>

First Response paper due

16 Continuity and Change: Monasticism and Cultural Life in the West

Readings: Backman, *Worlds*, chs. 4-5

21 Rise of Islam and the Byzantines
Readings: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 5 and Byzantium: Map of the Eastern Empire in
395 <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/maps/395eastemp.jpg>

23 The Islamic Empire
Readings: Same and Map of the Islamic Empire in 750
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/maps/islam2map.gif>

28 **First Hour Exam**

30 The Emergence of Europe: Merovingians and Carolingians
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 6

October:

5 Carolingian Society and the Papacy; Times of Troubles
Reading: Same and ch. 7.

7 Creation of Medieval Society: “Those who Work”
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch.8; Gies, *Cathedral, Forge*, chapters 3-5

12 “Those who work” continued
Reading: Same

Second Response Paper: Due by class time

14 “Those who fight”—Creation of the new medieval Europe
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch.9; Bouchard, *Strong of Body*, Preface and chs. 1-3

19 “Those who fight—knighthood and chivalry
Reading: Bouchard, *Strong of Body*, chs. 4-5 and Conclusions

21 **No Class**

26 **Second Hour Exam**

28 “Those who pray”—monks, priests, bishops and popes
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 10, 12

November:

2 “Those who pray” continued
Reading: Same

4 The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 11

9 The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century continued
Reading: *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, all

11 The Fruits of the twelfth century—Art and Intellect in the thirteenth century

Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 14; Gies, *Cathedral, Forge*, ch. 6

16 The late Middle Ages—change and crisis
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 13, 17

18 The World of medieval people
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 15-16

23 TBA

Third Response Paper: Due by class time

25 **Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class**

30 Recovery and the Future
Reading: Backman, *Worlds*, ch. 18-20

Paper Due by 4:00 P.M.

December

2 Summary and Review

Final Exam: Monday December 7, 2:00-4:00 P.M.