

HIST3361 The High and Later Middle Ages

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Office hours: Tues 12:30-2:30 & by appointment

Spring 2017
TuTh 11:00 – 12:15 Oak104
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Europe is a creation of the Middle Ages. In this class we survey its historical development over the years (A.D./C.E) 1000-1450. In this period, western societies began to emerge from two centuries of invasion and endemic strife, expanded from their late classical and early medieval roots, and acquired essential features that are still recognizable today. The “fortress mentality” of the early Middle Ages gave way, in the high Middle Ages (1000-1300), to the maturing and stabilizing of a basic framework of political, economic, social and cultural institutions. That stability was disrupted, but not destroyed, by demographic loss and economic upheaval after 1300, the period referred to as the later Middle Ages. In our class we give special attention to peasant life, history of religion, and communities and community formation, of all types. These topics embrace the experience of all the peoples of the medieval West.

Much of the class focuses on primary sources, the evidence that historians use to reconstruct and interpret the past. Students will learn something about “our medieval ancestors” (Backman, p. xviii), and an eventful and often misunderstood period that lies at the roots of modern western societies. They will also gain an understanding of the great diversity of historical evidence that has come down to us.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Clifford Backman, *The Worlds of Medieval Europe* (3rd ed., 2015)

Clifford Backman, ed., *A Medieval Omnibus: Sources in Medieval European History* (2015)

Maureen C. Miller, *Power and the Holy in the Age of the Investiture Conflict: A Brief History with Documents*

Edwin DeWindt, *A Slice of Life: Selected Documents of Medieval English Peasant Experience*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Two hourly exams, each worth 25% of the final grade

One final worth 30% of the final grade. All exams are essay and short answer format. A set of essay questions will be handed out one week before each exam).

One 10-page paper worth 20%, due in class on April 13 (details later). A copy of the course syllabus is on HuskyCT, and a set of lecture outlines will follow shortly. You should come to class having done the reading and prepared to answer and raise questions on the material. Those who contribute regularly and meaningfully to class discussion will receive extra points in the calculation of their final grade.

Note: on days when there are reading assignments in Backman’s *Medieval Omnibus*, Miller’s *Power and the Holy*, or DeWindt’s *Slice of Life*, please bring that book to class for discussion.

Policy on plagiarism: The *Oxford English Dictionary* (available at <http://www.oed.com/>) defines plagiarism as follows: “to take and use as one’s own (the thoughts, writings, or inventions of another person); to copy (literary work or ideas) improperly or without acknowledgement; to pass off as one’s own the thoughts or work of another.” For a discussion of academic integrity see: <http://community.uconn.edu/academic-integrity-faculty-faq/>

READINGS (come to class having read for that day):

January

- 17 Introduction to the course: “getting medieval.”
- 19 More intro! Backman, pp. xv-xxi; 597-599; & ‘Primary Sources: What Are They, and How Do We Read Them?’ in *Medieval Omnibus*, pp. vii-xiii; Miller, *Power and the Holy*, Documents #1 & 2.
- 24 Europe in the Year 1000: Medieval husbandry & demographic recovery. Backman, pp. 212-228, 455-460 (note appendices & glossary of terms, pp. 601-626).
- 26 Medieval husbandry, cont’d. DeWindt, *A Slice of Life*, pp. 1-44 (i.e., introduction and 1st document; note glossary of terms on pp. 89-95).
- 31 DeWindt, cont’d: pp. 45-88.

February

- 2 Film: “The Tree of Wooden Clogs” (1978).
- 7 Commercial recovery & town life. Backman, pp. 228-237, 447-455, 460-480; *Medieval Omnibus*, #13.3.
- 9 Town life, cont’d. *Medieval Omnibus*, #15.1, 15.2, 15.3.
- 14 The medieval monastery & the beginning of reform: ideals & realities. Backman, pp. 204-210, 284-291, 310-315; Miller, Documents 3 & 4.
- 16 Reform & the Papal Revolution. Backman, pp. 291-297; Miller, pp. 1-27, Documents 6 & 7.
- 21 **EXAM ONE**
- 23 The Investiture Conflict, up to Canossa (1077). Miller, Documents #11 - 13 & pp. 74-103.
- 28 Lordship & kingship: North of the Alps & Pyrenees. Backman, pp. 239-268; *Medieval Omnibus*, #9.3.

March

- 2 Lordship & kingship: South of the Alps & Pyrenees. Backman, pp. 268-282; *Medieval Omnibus*, #9.4
- 7 Byzantium & the First Crusade. Backman, pp. 297-310; Miller, Document 34.
- 9 Film: “A World Inscribed: Medieval Manuscripts.”
- 21 The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century. Backman, pp. 317-338, 346-355; *Medieval Omnibus*, #11.1.
- 23 The University: a great medieval invention. Backman, pp. 338-345, 421-445; *Medieval Omnibus*, #14.1.

28 EXAM TWO

- 30 Papal monarchy and the rise of heresy. Backman, pp.357-384; *Medieval Omnibus*, #12.4; Miller, Documents 31, 32 & 33.

April

- 4 Mendicants & Mysticism. Backman, pp. 482-504.
- 6 The Thirteenth-Century State. Backman, pp. 389-418; Miller, Documents 45 - 48.
- 11 The ‘Great Pestilence’ (Black Death). Backman, pp. 506-524.
- 13 The Black Death, cont’d. *Medieval Omnibus*, #17.2, #17.5 & **Papers due in class.**
- 18 Schism & Conciliarism in the late medieval Church. Backman, pp. 533-542, 583-585.
- 20 Warfare & the State. Backman, pp. 524-533, 567-582.
- 25 Late medieval voices. Backman, pp. 544-561; *Medieval Omnibus*, #18.5.
- 27 The Abolition of Sanctuary in the 16th Century.