

HISTORY 384: MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Fall 2000

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It is difficult to understand the history of the modern world without understanding our medieval heritage. In this course, through the examination of both primary and secondary sources, we will try to come to an understanding of the political, economic, religious, social and cultural force that shaped the Middle Ages, as well as the ways in which historians have shaped our understanding of the past. We will focus on France and England, with occasional reference to other countries.

Requirements

1. Class attendance, preparation, and participation. More than two absences, except for certified illness will result in your grade being lowered 1/3 grade (i.e., from B to B-) for each additional absence. A reading is assigned for most classes, and you must prepare it beforehand and come to class with questions and observations.

The following are required readings for the course:

Books

John Baldwin, *The Language of Sex: Five Voices in Northern France around the Twelfth Century* (University of Chicago)

Robert Bartlett, *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change, 950-1350* (Princeton Paperbacks)

Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (Penguin)

The Book of Margery Kempe (Penguin Classics)

The Letters of Abelard and Héloïse (Penguin Classics)

Judith Bennett, *Women in the Medieval English Countryside: Gender and Household in Brigstock before the Plague* (Oxford)

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou* (Vintage)

Articles (on reserve in the library)

Historia Pontificalis, by John of Salisbury (handout)

Joseph R. Strayer, "Feudalism in Western Europe"

R.H.C. Davis, "The Norman Conquest"

John Maddicott, "The Origins of the Hundred Years War"

"Saint Francis of Assisi and the Friars": From *The Lives of S. Francis of Assisi* by Brother Thomas of Celano, and *The Rule of St. Francis*

"The Construction of Gothic Cathedrals": From Abbot Suger, *On the Abbey Church of St. Denis and Its Art Treasures* and Gervase of Canterbury, *Tract on the Burning and Repair of the Church of Canterbury*

M. T. Clanchy, selection from *From Memory to Written Record*

"The Chronicle of Rabbi Eliezer bar Nathan"

Gavin Langmuir, "Anti-Judaism as the Necessary Preparation for Anti-Semitism"

Philip Ziegler, selection from *The Black Death*

2. Three essays of 4-6 pages (using Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins), each focused on a particular theme suggested by the readings for the class. These essays will require no reading beyond those assigned for the class. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and properly footnoted, based on the *Chicago Manual of Style* (see Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). See syllabus for dates of assignments. Any paper handed in late will be subject to a penalty of 1/3 grade (i.e., from B to B-) for each business day after the due date.
3. A midterm exam.
4. A final exam.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Class participation	10%
Papers	15% each (45% total)
Midterm	20%
Final exam	25%

CLASS SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL SOCIETY

Aug 29	Introduction
Aug 31	Medieval Europe: The Land, its People, and the Nature of the Sources Barlett, pp. 1-23 Joinville and Villehardouin, pp. 7-25

Handout from *Historia Pontificalis*

THE POLITICAL ORDER

- Sept 5 Feudalism and the Hierarchical Structure of Society
 Article by Joseph Strayer
 Bartlett, pp. 24-84
- Sept 7 The Search for Political Order: England
 Article by R.H.C. Davis
- Sept 12 The Search for Political Order: France
 Joinville, pp. 163-353
- Sept 14 Challenges to the Political Order: The Hundred Years War
 Article by John Maddicott
 Baldwin, pp. xiii-42

MEN, WOMEN AND COURTLY SOCIETY

- Sept 19 Chivalry and Courtly Culture
 Baldwin, pp. 43-172
 Bartlett, pp. 85-105
- Sept 21 Women, Men, and Marriage
 Baldwin, pp. 173-238
 Bennett, pp. 3-47
- Sept 26 The Conflation of Chivalry and Religion: The Crusades
 Villehardouin, 29-160

RELIGIOUS LIFE

- Sept 28 Popes, Bishops and Kings
 Bartlett, pp. 243-255
- Oct 3 Structure of the Medieval Church: Monks and Parish Priests
 Bartlett, pp. 255-268
 Margery Kempe, pp. 9-84
- Oct 5 Challenges to the Religious Order: Reformers and Heretics
 Selection on "St. Francis of Assisi and the Friars"
 Le Roy Ladurie, pp. vii-xvii
 Margery Kempe, pp. 84-215
 ***FIRST ESSAY DUE**
- Oct 10 **FALL READING DAY: NO CLASS**
- Oct 12 Challenges to the Religious Order: Mystics
 Margery Kempe, pp. 216-297
- Oct 17 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- SCHOOLS, HUMANISTS AND THEOLOGIANS**
- Oct 19 The Medieval Renaissance and the Growth of Universities
 Bartlett, pp. 269-291
- Oct 24 Faith versus Reason
 Abelard and Heloise, pp. 9-106
- Oct 26 Medieval Patterns of Thought
 Abelard and Heloise, pp. 109-82; 270-88
- Oct 31 **ADVISING DAY: NO CLASSES**

ARTS, LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Nov 2 Medieval Forms of Art
 Selection on "The Construction of Gothic Cathedrals"
 Video on the Construction of Gothic Cathedrals
 ***SECOND ESSAY DUE**

Nov 7 Literature, Literacy and Culture
 Selection by M.T. Clanchy

Nov 9 **NO CLASS**

THE LIVES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

Nov 14 Peasant Life
 Le Roy Ladurie, pp. 3-135

Nov 16 The Village and Popular Culture
 Le Roy Ladurie, pp. 139-356

Nov 21 Economic Life: Town and Country
 Bennett, 48-64
 Bartlett, pp. 106-96

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 28 Medieval Family Life
 Bennett, pp. 65-198

Nov 30 Images of the "Other": Foreigners and Jews in Medieval Europe
 Chronicle of Rabbi Eliezer bar Nathan
 Article by Gavin Langmuir
 Bartlett, pp. 197-242

RUPTURES AND CHANGES

Dec 5 **Movie: The Seventh Seal**
 ***THIRD ESSAY DUE**

Dec 7 The Black Death and the Waning of the Middle Ages
 Selection by Philip Ziegler
 Bartlett, pp. 292-314

Final exam will be held on 13 December at 2:00 P.M.