

## History 103

# INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

*"Medieval history is always slowly turning into romance"*

**Dr. Melinda Zook**

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University Hall 327

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

Fall 2019

MWF 12:30-1:20

Wetherill 172

**Course Description:**

This course is a survey of medieval history in Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the birth of the Renaissance. We explore political, religious, and social changes as well as economic, technological, and cultural developments, seeking to understand the complexity of the medieval past, including an awareness of the experiences of peasants, townsfolk, students, the religious, knights and nobles. Topics include: the Birth of Christianity and decline of the Roman Empire; Barbarian nations; the Feudal World and Crusades; Chivalry, Medieval Warfare, and the Arthurian legend; Cities, Education and Daily Life; the Church, Heresy & Witchcraft; and The Black Death.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the key events, persons, and cultural movements during the Middle Ages in Europe.
2. Describe how encounters among Byzantium, Europe and Islam affected the economies, intellectual, cultural, and political ideas of each.
3. Engage critically with medieval sources (readings, poetry, images, documents, etc.) and demonstrate a clear understanding of their historical context, purpose and audience.

**Graduate Teaching Assistants:**

Mr. Collin Schnakenberg

Email: [cschnak@purdue.edu](mailto:cschnak@purdue.edu)

Office: REC 405; Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 10:30 to 11:30am

Ms. Mindy Williams

Email: [will2146@purdue.edu](mailto:will2146@purdue.edu)

Office: REC 404; Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30am and Fridays, 2:30-3:30pm

## Required Texts:

*The Lais of Marie de France* (Penguin Classics, 1999)

William Chester Jordan, *Europe in the High Middle Ages* (Penguin, 2004)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (Penguin Classics, 1959)

*The Song of Roland* (Penguin Classics, 1990)

## Requirements:

Students will write two short analytical essays (3 to 4 pages) which will be based on the assigned readings. The essays will answer questions handed out in class and must be turned in on the day they are due in class. Late papers will be penalized. No papers will be accepted via email.

Students will also take three in-class essay exams based on the lectures and the textbook.

In-class quizzes will be administered approximately every third lecture and will be based on the lectures. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

A variety of extra-credit assignments will be made available throughout the semester for those students who are eager to improve their grade. Extra-credit assignment points can only be used to improve your quiz grade.

## Grading:

Final grades will be based on the papers, exams, quizzes, class attendance and participation. The grade will be calculated as follows:

Quizzes & Participation	10%
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	20%
Midterm Exam 1	15%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

## Rules of the Game:

**Attendance to all class meetings is mandatory.** Be on time: walking in late is rude. If you are late, however, I would rather you came in than missed class. Simply do not make a habit of it. ***Turn off all phones and electronic gadgets. Anyone caught texting will be escorted from the class.***

Please take notes using pen and paper. Studies show that this is a more effective way to learn than using a laptop. However, if you are wedded to using a laptop, you must sit in the first rows of the classroom and you must use a word processing program only. ***Students viewing any other sites will be escorted from the classroom.***

Understand that plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade for the entire course

and that the Dean of Students Office will be informed. The penalty for plagiarism at Purdue University is suspension.

Students must use proper email etiquette when emailing myself or the TAs (an email should begin with a salutation such as “Dear Professor Zook” or “Dear Mr. Schnakenberg” or “Dear Ms. Williams” and end with a proper closing, such as “Sincerely,” or “Yours,”).

### **SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS:**

August 19	Introduction to the Course
August 21-23	The Birth & Spread of Christianity
August 26-28	The Glory That Was Rome
August 30	Sailing to Byzantium
September 4	Monks and Missionaries
September 6-9-11	Barbarian Nations
September 13-16	Islam & Islamic Civilization
September 18	Review for First Exam
September 20	<b>First Exam</b>
September 23	The Last Invasions Read Chapter 3, <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i>
September 25	The World of Charlemagne Discuss Paper Option 1 Begin Reading <i>The Song of Roland</i>

September 27	The Feudal World
September 30	Feudalism in Action
October 2	Discussion of <i>The Song of Roland</i>
October 4	Library Day
October 9-11	The Crusades Read Chapter 7 <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i> <b>Paper Option 1 due Wednesday October 9 in Class</b>
October 14	Knighthood & Chivalry Begin Reading <i>The Lais of Marie de France</i> Discuss Paper Option 2
October 16-18	The Agrarian and Commercial Revolutions
October 21	The Medieval City Read Chapter 12, <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i>
October 23-25	Education and the Rise of the Universities Read Chapters 8 & 14 <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i> <b>Paper Option 2 due Friday October 25 in Class</b>
October 28	World of the Peasantry Prepare for Second Exam
October 30	<b>Second Exam</b>
November 1	Peasant Lives & Beliefs

Nov. 4-6	Conflict Between Church & State: In 3 Dramatic Acts Read Chapter 6, <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i>
November 8	The Church at Its Height Read Chapter 13, <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i>
Nov. 11-13	Women in Medieval Europe: A Golden Age for Women? Begin reading <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> Discuss Paper Option 3
Nov. 15-18	Heresy, Witchcraft & Minority Groups
November 20	The Troubadours and King Arthur's Court Read Chapter 9 <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i>
Nov. 22-25	Late Medieval Kingship in France & England Read Chapter 15 <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i>
December 2	Late Medieval Piety
December 5	The Black Death Read Chapter 19 <i>Europe in the High Middle Ages</i> <b>Paper Option 3 is due</b>
December 6	The Birth of Modernity Review for Final

- Plagiarism: Please be aware of Purdue University's "Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students" [<http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/integrity.htm>].
- Classroom behavior: See the Purdue University "Student Code of Conduct" available at: [http://www.purdue.edu/usp/acad\\_policies/student\\_code.shtml](http://www.purdue.edu/usp/acad_policies/student_code.shtml). Do not annoy your neighbors: Given the stationary seating of the Brown Hall 1154, please do not eat or drink. Do not text or do email during class.
- Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: [drc@purdue.edu](mailto:drc@purdue.edu) or by phone: 765-494-1247.
- Major emergencies: In the event of a major campus or local emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Changes in this course will be announced via email.
- Classroom emergency: This room has only one exit. Either get out or barricade, depending where the trouble is.
- Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community, which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. Purdue's nondiscrimination policy can be found at: [http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea\\_eou\\_statement.html](http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html).
- CAPS Information: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)494-6995 and <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.
- Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing [integrity@purdue.edu](mailto:integrity@purdue.edu) or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. "As a boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together - we are Purdue."