



HIST 10300 – Intro to the Medieval World

Instructor

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Student Consultation Hours: I hold virtual office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-2:30pm. In person office hours are available by appointment.

Course Information

Meeting days and times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-5:45pm

Instructional Modality: Face-to-Face, Wilmarth Active Learning Center 3087

Course credit hours: 3 credits

Course Outcomes

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

- Identify the social, economic, religious, and political transitions that occurred from the ending of the Roman era, throughout the Middle Ages, and into the modern Era.
- Discuss the ideas, beliefs, and philosophies that arose in medieval thought and how they were influential to modern thought.
- Recognize the ways in which medieval economic and political institutions both survived and shaped the modern world.

Course Description

The Medieval period has been called the “Dark Ages” because of the common notion that Western civilization was, for 1300 years, mired in superstition, ignorance, and anarchy. But were these centuries all that “Dark?” There are three interconnected goals for this course. The first goal is to rehabilitate the “Dark Ages:” to establish the time between 200-1500 not as a period of stagnation but as a dynamic and rich environment with its own culture, authority, government, and artistic expression. The second goal is to view the events and innovations of the Middle Ages within the traditions of the West, the building blocks for elements of society, law, medicine, and politics. Our last goal will be to recognize parts of Medieval history that appear either strangely familiar or completely alien, to compare the actions and developments done over five hundred years ago with our actions, beliefs, and values.

Learning Resources, Technology, and Texts

Required Textbooks:

- Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Sixth Edition, 2023
 - ISBN: 978-1-4875-4099-9

- Alfred Andrea, *The Medieval Record: Sources of Medieval History*, Second Edition, 2020
 - ISBN: 978-1-62466-838-8

Required Technology:

- High-speed internet connection able to connect with the Brightspace course portal.

Instructor's Hours

I will be available and respond to student questions as soon as I am available (generally within 48 hours during the M-F work week). Student inquiries made during the weekend may experience a delayed response time. When emailing me, please place the course number in the subject line of the email. This will help me tremendously in locating your emails.

Assignments

You will have several assignments throughout the semester. Details on these assignments, along with rubrics to guide evaluation will be posted on Brightspace. The due dates for the assignments posted on the course website are in Eastern Time (the local time zone of West Lafayette, Indiana).

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (12 module quizzes, dropping the lowest 2 grades)	30%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Group Writing, Short Writing, and Self-Reflection (each worth 5%)	15%
Attendance and Participation	25%
Total	100

Quizzes

There are a total of 12 quizzes during the course. These quizzes are to be completed at home, through Brightspace. They are **not timed** and you have **one attempt** on each quiz. Every quiz consists of 5 Multiple Selection questions, 5 True/False questions, and 2 Matching questions for a total of 20 points. You may consult your notes and books (in fact you are encouraged to do so) while taking the quiz. At the end of the semester, your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Each quiz will be made available at 12:00am Eastern on the Monday at the beginning of the module and will be open until 11:50pm on the Sunday at the end of the module.

Midterm and Final

This course contains both a midterm and a final exam. These two exams will be made up of a mix of Multiple Selection, True/False, and Matching questions from previous quizzes in addition to extra questions added to the pool. One of the best ways to prepare for these exams is to complete the weekly quizzes. In addition to these questions, the exams will include source identifications and additional questions. These exams will be taken **at home** via Brightspace. They will be **timed** and each student will have only **one attempt**. You are encouraged and expected to use your notes and books during these exams.

Writings

Over the course of the semester, there will be **two** writing assignments, one completed in a group and one individual submission. Prompts containing the details for the topics and expectations of the writing assignments will be posted in Brightspace.

Group Writing

The first writing assignment will be completed within groups of four students. Prompts will be provided, and each student is expected to participate in the writing activity. Groups will have some choice in how they complete their writing assignments and how they communicate within the group. We will use some class time to coordinate, but groups are expected to coordinate with one another outside of class, using the course discussion boards or other methods.

Individual Writing

In the second half of the semester, you will be given a choice of extra topics drawn from each module. These topics will focus on cultural items, such as medieval philosophy, food, weapons, or fashion. You will be able to select **one set** of these extra materials and write a short analysis of the materials you chose. This analysis will answer questions detailed in the assignment prompt. The individual writing will be due by the end of the semester, and you have some choice when you work on and submit the assignment.

Self-Reflection

At the end of the course, you will individually write a short Self-Reflection on what you learned. The prompt for the Self-Reflection will open on the final week of class and you are expected to submit it by the Friday at the end of Finals week.

Assignment	Due Date
Group Writing	September 25
Individual Writing	December 3
Self-Reflection	December 15

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is an important part of being successful in the course. During our course meetings we will not only be discussing the content, we will also be engaging in discussion, free writing, and peer commentary. Missing even one class can be detrimental to your understanding of the material. That said, sometimes it is impossible to come to class. For this reason, you have **two** unexcused absences before you will see any adverse effect on your grade. If you have a documented reason to be absent for longer than two class sessions, please notify me by email as soon as you can and bring your documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) to the next class you can attend.

During each class session, you are encouraged to be engaged and active. There are multiple ways to participate in the course. For example, asking questions, participating in discussion, and offering insights to questions asked are all good ways to be active.

Grading Scale (%)

A	92.5-100
A-	90.0-92.4
B+	87.5-89.9
B	82.5-87.4
B-	80.0-82.4
C+	77.5-79.9
C	72.5-77.4
C-	70.0-72.4
D+	67.5-69.9
D	60.0-67.4
F	00.0-59.9

Class Etiquette and Netiquette

You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique ideas. However, be mindful that sarcasm and humor can be easily misconstrued, both in person and in online interactions. Please read the following rules:

- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Present ideas appropriately. Be cautious in using colloquial language or slang.
- Keep an “open-mind” and be willing to express even your minority opinion.
- Be courteous and respectful of other people’s opinion.
- Think and edit before you share (e.g., post or email).
- Ask for feedback.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1 Aug. 22 - 24	Introduction and Fall of Rome	Read Syllabus Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch. 1, 1-23 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , Ch. 1, 1-24
Week 2 Aug. 29 - 31	Germanic Tribes	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch. 1, 23-38 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 25-51 Quiz 1 – Due Sunday, 9/3
Week 3 Sept. 5 - 7	Byzantium, Islam, and the West	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch. 2, 40-82 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 52-57, 63-73, 78 -89 Quiz 2 – Due Sunday, 9/10
Week 4 Sept. 12 - 15	Charlemagne and the Carolingians	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch3., 84-117 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 112 -127 Quiz 3 – Due Sunday, 9/17

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 5 Sept. 19 - 21	Vikings and Expansion	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch4., 118-141 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , 128-135, 159-165 <i>The Lay of Thrym</i> Selection from <i>The Prose Edda</i> Group Writing First Post – Due Mon., 9/18 Quiz 4 – Due Sunday, 9/24
Week 6 Sept. 26 - 28	The Orders of Society	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , 141-161 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 136-147, 204-220 Group Writing Responses – Due Mon, 9/25 Quiz 5 – Due Sunday, 10/1
Week 7 Oct. 3 - 5	State Formation	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch. 5, 162-207 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 266-271, 281-298 Quiz 6 – Due Sunday, 10/8
Oct. 9 - 10	Fall Break (No Classes)	
Oct. 12	Midterm Review and Preparation	
Week 9 Oct. 17 - 19	The Crusades	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch. 6, 208-233 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 302-347 Midterm Exam – Due Sunday, 10/22
Week 10 Oct. 24 - 26	Courtly Love, Literature, and Learning	Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 238-253 Quiz 7 – Due Sunday, 10/29
Week 11 Oct. 31 - Nov. 2	Christian Order: Rise of the Papal Monarchy	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch.6, 233-252 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 177-183, 191-200 Quiz 8 – Due Sunday, 11/5
Week 12 Nov. 7 - 9	Heresy, Dissent, and Inquisition	Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 186-191 Selections from <i>Fournier Inquisition</i> Quiz 9 – Due Sunday, 11/12
Week 13 Nov. 14 - 16	People, Cities, and Merchants	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch. 7, 254-293 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 220-236 Quiz 10 – Due Sunday, 11/19
Nov. 21	Medieval Miscellany	
Nov. 22 - 25	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Classes)	
Week 15 Nov. 28 – 30	Catastrophe and Creativity in the Fourteenth Century	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch 8., 294-328 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 350-393 Quiz 11 – Due Sunday, 12/3 Individual Writing – Due Sunday, 12/3
Week 16 Dec. 5 - 7	The Fifteenth Century Transition to Modernity	Rosenwein, <i>ASH</i> , Ch. 8, 328-335 Andrea, <i>TMR</i> , pp. 393-435 Quiz 12– Due Sunday, 12/10
Dec. 10	Last Day of Classes	
Dec. 12-16	Final Exams	Final Exam – Due Friday, 12/15 Self-Reflection – Due Friday, 12/15

Additional Policies

Academic Dishonesty

Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, University Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

Emergency Preparation

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis

Nondiscrimination Statement

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community that 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 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.

Mental Health/Wellness Statement

If you're struggling and need mental health services: 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 mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office on the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours. The [CAPS website](#) also offers resources specific to situations such as COVID-19.

Basic Needs Security

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and it is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Considering the significant disruptions caused by the current global crisis as it relates to COVID-19, students may submit requests for emergency assistance from the [Critical Need Fund](#).