



Fall 2023

HIST 103
INTRODUCTION TO THE
MEDIEVAL WORLD



On-line
October 18- December 16

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Course Description

This course is an overview of medieval history from the fall of the Roman Empire to the birth of Renaissance Europe, encompassing the millennium from the 300s to 1400s AD. The course will explore political, religious, and social changes as well as economic, technological, and cultural developments.

By the end of the course, students will gain a sophisticated understanding of the large historical processes that took place during the period and identify those that have been formative in the development of European Civilization. As we explore the themes of the course, students will also develop an awareness of the complexity of human experience of the men and women who inhabited the medieval world.

Required Texts:

Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages* 5th or 6th editions (University of Toronto, 2018). I will accept either one. You will need this book; get it as soon as possible.

Additional reading assignments will be posted on Brightspace.

Procedures, Organization, and Expectations:

This is an online class and thus you will have a great level of autonomy in how you structure your learning. Remember, however, that this is a short semester and it will be intense. If you spend 6-9 or more hours a week in a regular 16-week course, you should plan to spend double

that amount for an 8-week course. The time you spend working for this class will also depend on your own learning pace. If you spend this amount of time and are still not happy with your grade, it may mean that you need additional time to work on assignments. You will need Internet access for the duration of the course.

Now the fun part: After spending some time learning about the late Roman Empire, we will delve into the history of the Middle Ages. Refer to the rest of the syllabus for specific schedule of the reading assignments, topics, and due dates. The only way to master the material for the course is to do so gradually. Planning to work on it once a week is not a good idea.

Note that the course is divided into three sections. The content in the folders together with the readings from the textbook will be your foundation. They will be made available incrementally.

You will complete three **Learning Guides**. They have questions that you need to answer based on texts, documentaries, power points, and maps. Specific instructions will appear in the appropriate tab. This is the equivalent of exams (open book and several weeks to complete). The **Learning Guides will take time to complete and so you should begin working on them as soon as possible and set aside enough time to work on them conscientiously.**

There will be three **discussion forums**, which pose an original question to generate a discussion. You will make an initial post that responds to the question. Then, students will respond to someone else's post. It is important to adhere to the due dates so that everyone has a chance to respond. The two due dates are stated in the Due Dates, List Format and a Printable Calendar. The first one is for your **ORIGINAL POST**. Once you submit this, your classmates' posts will be available for you to read. Then you will have an additional few days to respond. To earn full credit, you must have at least **TWO RESPONSE POSTS** and they should be meaningful (rather than repeating or agreeing, etc.) So, each forum requires you to post at least three times. There are no limits as to how many posts you can engage with.

This is a three credit-hour course that covers in four weeks the material that is usually given in fifteen weeks during the regular semester. The course is designed with the appropriate pedagogy for online learning and time allotted. However, it will require substantial attention on your part. Being without internet (if you plan to go on vacation) will prevent you from completing the assignments. The course will require you to work on the assignments every day of the week, Monday through Saturday and possibly Sunday as well. The calculation made by registration is that students will be spending a *minimum* of **20 hours** a week working on this course. However, individual learning styles and skills will affect the number of hours.

Course notifications

Occasionally you will receive notifications about the course as an announcement. **Make sure that you select Announcements and Assignments updates in your Brightspace profile.** Check your email as well on a regular basis.

Late work, time zone, and extra credit.

If you have an emergency and need an extension, get in touch with me as soon as possible. Extensions have to be approved and are not granted automatically. I encourage you to keep me informed of difficulties that you may have. **Vacations are not a reason for an extension.** If you need assistance with the material or would like to discuss assignments, I can meet you over Zoom; just send me a quick email and I will set it up. Give me blocks of time (in the EST zone) that you can meet. I can do phone appointments as well (only U.S. numbers).

Lack of access to the Internet is also not a justification for late work. You need to make sure that you will have access to the Internet, plan your travel accordingly. If you have technical difficulties, you need to contact support and let me know that there is an issue early. It is up to you to follow up and resolve the problem.

TIME ZONE for late work is that of Purdue, West Lafayette campus: Eastern Standard Time. I am aware that many of you are not in this time zone, but you work will be counted late if submitted after the due date time set in the system.

NO EXTRA CREDIT opportunity available due to the shortness of the semester and the number of students registered in the course.

Course Units

The course is organized thematically as follows. Refer to calendar for readings and assignments

1. **Decline and Dissolution of the Western Roman Empire, 300-600 AD**
2. **Europe after Rome, 600-1000 AD**
3. **European Expansion, 1090-1500 AD**

Assignments and Evaluation:

Assignments for this course provide students the opportunity to build, improve, and expand their historical knowledge and analytical skills. **Due Dates** are posted in the calendar tab and I have created downloadable calendars (one list format and the other one calendar format). Be organized, download the calendars and keep them at hand.

All assignments have explanations of expectations. Familiarize yourself with the expectations and ask questions before assignments are due not after the fact. **I cannot allow resubmissions, so please, review expectations BEFORE completing the assignment.** Assignments have been designed to evaluate content knowledge, critical writing ability, and engagement with the material as follows:

1. **Three Learning Guides.** 60 %. Completion of the learning guides is absolutely essential for your success in the class and the most important assignment. They will help you build content knowledge and achieve mastery of the material. The **Learning Guides** are composed of a series of questions that require you to engage with the material critically and thoughtfully. The Learning Guides must be fully referenced to receive full credit. More information is provided in the Learning Guide Tab. Please, **read carefully** before

completing the assignment.

2. **A Medieval Culture Project and Information Literacy Assignment.** 20 %. You will pick a topic that you are interested in learning about and will find scholarly publications about it. You will also find a Website or Internet resource about the topic and evaluate its scholarly value.
3. **Discussion Forums.** 20 %. Throughout the course, I will post questions for discussion. You will be expected to contribute in a thoughtful manner to my post and your classmates. Discussion will be evaluated on quality and frequency. Specific guidelines are posted in the syllabus tab. Each forum is worth 4 points.

Grade Distribution:

Learning Guides (3 of them @ 20 points each)	60
Medieval Culture-Information Literacy Project	20
Discussion Forums (4 of them @ 5 points each)	20
Total	100

Grading Scale (I do not round up grades), if you earn for example, 92.85, you will get A-. To get the A, you will have to have 93 or above. This is my way of respecting students that earned the grade as it was assigned in the scale.

- 100-98 = A+
- 97-93 = A
- 92-90 = A-
- 89-88 = B+
- 87-83 = B
- 82-80 = B-
- 79-78 = C+
- 77-73 = C
- 72-70 = C-
- 69-68 = D+
- 67-63 = D
- 62-60 = D-
- 59-0 = F

Students must complete the 3 Learning Guides in order to receive a passing grade for the course. If you miss a forum, your grade will be affected but you will not fail the course. If you miss the Medieval Culture Project and Information Literacy Assignment, you will be able to pass, but will not be able to earn a grade higher than a C. **If you miss a Learning Guide, you**

will not be able to pass the course even if the other assignments will give you a passing grade.

Expectations:

You are expected to dedicate enough time to the class, complete all the assignments on time, and be diligent about the work. Late work will be penalized, but health, safety, and well-being are just as important. I will consider giving extensions on an individual basis, which may or may not be granted. If you have a major difficulty that will prevent you from completing the course, you may choose to drop or get an incomplete. To get an incomplete, you would have to had at least 80 percent of the work submitted. Please, get in touch as soon as you see problems. This way, we can decide what would be the best course of action for you.

College of Liberal Arts Classroom Civility Statement:

Purdue University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and welcomes individuals of all ages, religions, sex, sexual orientations, races, nationalities, languages, military experience, disabilities, family statuses, gender identities and expressions, political views, and socioeconomic statuses. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by everyone in this course. Behaviors that threaten, harass, discriminate or that are disrespectful of others will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviors will be addressed with disciplinary action, which may include being referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating can take many forms, including, but not limited to, passing someone else's work for one's own, copying from another student's work during an exam, or using unauthorized material. Familiarize yourself with Purdue's policy on Academic Integrity.

<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php>

All the work for this class must be based on the readings and materials specifically assigned for the course. Resist the temptation to take shortcuts, like, for example, finding answers in Wikipedia. Googling questions will most certainly get the wrong answer because it will not pertain to the material used in the course.

A blatant violation of academic integrity—copy word by word from another source or another student—will be reported to the Dean of Students' office and will result in an automatic failing grade for the course. Students' work is supposed to be individual. If two students submit the same assignment, both will fail and reported to the Dean of Students' office.

If you are aware of someone violating academic integrity standards, I urge you to get in touch and report it.

Course Schedule/Readings and Dates

Unit I

Dates: October 18-November 1

Readings: Chapter 1, see additional material posted in the folders

Topics:

1. Decline and Dissolution of the Western Roman Empire
 - A. The Late Roman Empire
 - B. The Advent of Christianity
 - C. The Barbarians

Unit II

Dates: November 2-November 15

Readings: Chapters 2, 3, and 4, and additional material posted in the folders

Topics:

2. Europe After Rome
 - A. The Heirs of Rome
 - B. Charlemagne and the Carolingians
 - C. Europe under Siege: Viking and Magyar invasions

Unit III

Dates: November 16-December 6 (Thanksgiving Vacation: November 22-26)

Readings: Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8, and additional material posted in the folders

Topics:

3. European Expansion
 - A. Commercial and Intellectual Renaissances
 - B. The First Crusade
 - C. The Black Death and other Crises
 - D. Renaissance and Exploration

Check the due dates for assignments on a different PDF file posted in Brightspace.