HISTORY 205: EUROPE AND THE MILLENNIUM
PROF. LANDES

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The purpose of this course is to explore the role of apocalyptic millennial expectations (the belief in an imminent and radical transformation of this world) in the development of the Modern World. Dealing with the moments when either calculations or exceptional conditions (natural disasters, cultural collapse) triggered widespread apocalyptic expectations and the formation of millenarian groups, the survey pivots around the years 1000-1033, when such beliefs took new and more aggressive forms and set the West on its peculiar course to modernity. We follow the gradual secularization of millenarian hopes – from a passive expectation of God's actions to an ever-larger role for human agency – and examines the emergence of modern, industrial society as partly the product of redirected disappointed millennial expectations. Now, in the wake of the second Christian millennium, the world is faced with at least two empirically-based apocalyptic threats: Global Warming and Global Jihad.

READING: Reading assignments vary; students will lose a great deal by not keeping up with the reading. Reading Assignments are subject to change. Check your email regularly.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Lectures will cover a certain amount of material, but you are free at any time to raise your hand and ask questions (just as I am free to ignore you if I want to finish a point). Please introduce material and problems from your reading that I have not covered; but don't feel disappointed if I don't take up your point right away. If I can integrate an answer into my lecture I will, if not, see me afterwards. Good comments and questions are worth extra credit on your grade.

CYBERSPACE: Since cyberspace is to 2000 as printing was to 1500, this medium is intensely apocalyptic at its present stage; it proliferates the most intense articulations of millennial desire from the paranoia of conspiracy and hate mongering to the blissful images of planetary renewal. Most students are expected to maintain a presence in cyberspace and contact the rest of the class about their discoveries.

REQUIREMENTS:
1) a bibliographical essay on a given topic [20%] DUE MARCH 1
2) a research essay, focusing on some apocalyptic movement or moment anywhere in the world at any time (millenialism is a global phenomenon with expressions in every culture); in this essay, use the methods of the seminar to assess both initial evidence and earlier historians' treatment of the evidence [40%] DUE APRIL 17
3) final take home exam [40%]
Late work without an extension granted previously will be graded down a degree for every day it is late (e.g., from A to A-, etc.). I expect you to work alone unless you clear a collaborative project with me. Students are expected to know and understand the CAS Conduct Code. Copies available in CAS 105.

Purchase the following books at the University Book Store or at Amazon:
Norman Cohn, Pursuit of the Millennium-Rev.and Expanded (Oxford)
Bart Ehrman, Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet of New Millennium (Oxford)
Richard Landes, *Heaven on Earth*

**SYLLABUS**

I. January 17-19: The Millennial Aviary
Tuesday: *Introduction: Owls and Roosters, Chicken Littles and Ostriches*
Thursday: *The Documentation: Bats and Turkeys*
Reading: Landes, *Heaven on Earth*, chap. 3.
Suggested: Ehrman, *Jesus*, pp. 21-123

II. January 24-26: Monotheistic Millennialism
Tuesday: *Judaism and the Millennial Vision*
*Primary: Genesis*, 1-4, *Leviticus*, 19, *Deuteronomy*, 1-7, 15, 16:18-20, 17:14-21, 23:15-17; *Micah; Isaiah, 65; Daniel, 7-12; Secondary: Mendel, Vision and Violence* chap. 1 (pp. 3-45); Cohn, *Pursuit*, 19-36; Landes, “Under every Fig and Vine”*
Thursday: *Christianity and the Non-arrival of the Kingdom*
*Matthew: 5-7; Revelation* all; *I and II Thess.* and Landes, “Christian Origins”
Suggested: Ehrman, *Jesus*, pp. 125-238

III. January 31-February 2: Christian Reorientations: From Delay to Empire
Tuesday: *Strategies for Coping with the Delay*
Thursday: *The Oxymoron Christian Empire*
Readings: "In Praise of Constantine”*, "Kingdom and Polity in Eusebius”*, Landes, “Christian Empire.”*

IV. February 7-9 Augustine, 6000 AM I, and the Fall of Rome
Tuesday: *Augustine, the Great Horned Owl*
*Augustine, The City of God*, XX 1-12; *Letters* 197-99;
Suggested: Landes, “The Sabbatical Millennium in the Empire”* and “Augustine’s Millennium”*
Thursday: *Y6K and the Fall of the Western Empire*
Readings: Joshua the Stylite’s Chronicle*; Hydatius’ Chronicle*; Landes, “Apocalyptic Expectations and the Fall of the Roman Empire.”*

V. February 14-16: “Christianization” of Europe, Charlemagne and 6000 AM II
Tuesday: *The Conversion of Tribal Europe [Bibliographical Essays Due]*
Thursday: *Charlemagne and the Coronation of the Year 6000*

VI. February 21-23
Tuesday: NO CLASSES
Thursday: Library Tour
VII. February 28-March 1: The Apocalyptic Year 1000
Tuesday: The Approach
Readings: Primary: Abbo, Apologia*; Annales of Eln, ad an. 1000*;
Glaber, Quinque Libri historiarum* [note: the work is divided into books (I-V),
chapters (i-viii...) and sections (1-34...). I refer to these as 1.4.8, 2.11.32, etc.
and give the page numbers of the France edition in parentheses (65-72). If you
become alarmed in reading the assignment, remember it is about half of
what you see, since the facing page (even numbered) is Latin, and I don't
expect you to read that side. + = pay close attention; ++ = rare autobiography]
Introduction ixiii-lxx; Book I: 1.1.0 (pp.3-5) +, 1.5.24-26 (41-47); Book II:
2.5.8-10 (65-71), 2.9.19 (83-85); Vita Guillelmi 23 (293-97) ++;
Suggested: Landes, "Fear of the Apocalyptic Year 1000"*
Thursday: The Peace of God
Reading: Head and Landes, The Peace of God, 327-42 [Documents];* Landes and
Head, Peace of God, "Introduction," pp.1-20;*
Suggested: Paxton, "Historiography" pp. 21-41*
Bibliographical Papers Due

VIII. March 6-8 "Early Modern" Europe: Religious Millennial Centuries: 1100-
1500
Tuesday: From Tanchelm to Joachim
Readings: Mendel, Vision, chap. 2, pp. 47-95; Cohn, Pursuit, chap. 3-5
Friday: From 1260 to the Black Death: Catastrophe and Transformation
Readings: Cohn, Pursuit, chap. 6-7
Suggested: George Huppert, After the Black Death

IX. March 14-16: Spring Recess, NO CLASSES

X. March 21-23: Millennial Printing
Tuesday: Renaissance and Reformation
Readings: Cohn, Pursuit of the Millennium, chaps. 10, 11, 12; Mendel, Vision, pp.
63-93; Pico della Mirandola, "On the Dignity and Excellence of Man"; Donald
Weinstein, Savanarola; Landes, "Millennialism and the Protestant Reformation"; Erik
Middlefort, "Madness and the Millennium at Münster," Fearful Hope, pp. 115-34*
Thursday: Science
Readings: Poincander*; Yates, "The Hermetic Tradition"**;
Suggested: Noble, The Religion of Technology, Selections*

XI. March 28-30: Democratic Millennialism
Tuesday: The English and American Revolutions
Readings: Mendel, Vision, pp. 63-135; Landes, Heaven on Earth, chaps. 9; Steve
Marini, "Millennialism and the American Revolution"**; Susan Juster, "Demagogues
or Mystagogues?"
Suggested: Christopher Hill, "Popular Religion and the English Revolution"**; Clarke
Garret, "Popular Religion in the American and French Revolution"**
Thursday: The French Revolution
Reading: Landes, Heaven on Earth, chap. 10; Popkin, Messianic Revolution, pp. 107-41*
XII. April 3-5: Totalitarian Millennialism  
Tuesday: Communism  
Thursday: Nazism  
Suggested: Robert Ellwood, “Nazism as a Millennial Movement,” Millennialism, Persecution and Violence, pp. 241-260; Cohn, "Postscript"  

XIII. April 10-12: Millennialism in the Holy Land  
Tuesday: Zionism  
Readings: Mendel, Vision and Violence, pp. 265-322; Popkin, Millennial Revolution, chap. 6 (pp. 142-69); ***  
Thursday: Muslim Apocalyptic  
Readings: Gold, The Fight for Jerusalem; Cook, Contemporary Muslim Apocalyptic; Gorenberg, End of Days.  
Suggested: David Pryce-Jones, The Closed Circle, pp. 184-221*  

XIV. April 17-19: Post-War Millennialism: Radical Chic and Global Jihad  
Tuesday: Sixties and New (Last) Age FINAL PAPERS DUE  
Thursday: Global Jihad in the 21st Century  

XV. April 24-26: The Challenge of the 21st Century  
Tuesday: Journalism and the Cognitive War of the 21st Century.  
Readings: Stuart Green, Cognitive War; Landes, TBA; Chomsky, 9-11, TBA*  
Thursday: The Marriage of Pre-Modern Sadism and Post-Modern Masochism  
Readings: Bruckner, The Tyranny of Guilt; Landes, TBA  

XVI. May 2  
Tuesday: Last day of classes