

**HI 201: History of Medieval Europe
Fall 2016
TTh 12:30-2:00. CAS 325**

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Office Hours: MW 1:00-3:00
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This is an introductory course in the history of the Middle Ages. If all you know of medieval Europe is what you have learned from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* – relax, you’re in the right place. We do not assume that you have any background in the topic. The term “Middle Ages” refers to the long period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the start of the Renaissance: about a thousand years, from roughly 400 to 1400. That’s a lot of ground to cover, so we’ll try to make things manageable by focusing on three specific issues: the development of Christianity; the rise of literate, urban society; and the differing political trajectories of northern Europe (with kings, castles, chivalry, etc.) and Mediterranean Europe (with cities, industry and commerce, universities, etc).

There are no discussion-sections for this course. We have had them in the past, but we did not receive funding for them this year. There is a grader assigned to our course, however – one of our PhD students:

Chenguang Zhu (czhu91@bu.edu)

He will contact you separately, regarding his office hours.

Two books are required:

1. Clifford Backman, *The Worlds of Medieval Europe*, 3rd edn. (Oxford).
2. -----, *A Medieval Omnibus: Readings in Medieval European History* (Oxford).

(Note: I make no money by assigning my own books. I donate all royalties to the BU general scholarship fund.)

Course-grades will be determined by three non-cumulative In-class Quizzes and three Take-home Essays:

Quiz #1 // Take-home Essay #1	13 Oct. // 18 Oct.
Quiz #2 // Take-home Essay #2	10 Nov. // 15 Nov.
Quiz #3 // Take-home Essay #3	15 Dec. // 20 Dec.

There will be no Final Exam.

Email is the best way to reach me. I usually check it twice a day – but please note that I never check email on weekends. Also, I do not give out my home- or cellphone numbers. Calls there will not be accepted.

I lecture informally and try to keep an open atmosphere in the classroom. Please feel free to interrupt me whenever you have a question to ask, an observation to make, or a story to share. Since I do not use notes in class, I sometimes make mistakes – especially with dates. When I do, it’s OK to correct me.

Class Schedule: Lecture and Reading Assignments

<< W = Worlds of Medieval Europe. MO = Medieval Omnibus. >>

6 Sept.	Intro. Late Roman Empire.	}	W/MO, ch. 1-2
8 Sept.	Origins of Christianity.	}	
13 Sept.	Rise of Christianity.	}	W/MO, ch. 3
20 Sept.	Early Germanic Peoples.	}	
27 Sept.	Asceticism and Monasticism.	}	W/MO, ch. 4-5
29 Sept.	Origins of Islam.	}	
4 Oct.	Rise of Islam.	}	W/MO, ch. 6-7
6 Oct.	The Carolingians.	}	
11 Oct.	The Time of Troubles.	}	W/MO, ch. 8
13 Oct.	In-class Quiz #1. [Chapters 1-8].	}	
18 Oct.	Recovery and Renewal.	}	W/MO, ch. 9-10
20 Oct.	The Great Church Reform	}	
25 Oct.	The 12 th -Century Renaissance.	}	W/MO, ch. 11
27 Oct.	NO CLASS TODAY. PROF. OUT OF TOWN.	}	
1 Nov.	The Papal Monarchy.	}	W/MO, ch. 12-13
3 Nov.	Cities and Parliaments.	}	
8 Nov.	Intellectual Life in the 13 th Century.	}	W/MO, ch. 14
10 Nov.	In-class Quiz #2. [Chapters 9-14]	}	
15 Nov.	Urban Life, Urban Culture.	}	W/MO, ch. 15-16
17 Nov.	Changes in Religious Life.	}	
22 Nov.	<i>No lecture today. Extra office hour instead.</i>	}	No reading assignment.
24 Nov.	HOLIDAY.	}	
29 Nov.	Crisis, Crisis.....	}	W/MO, ch. 17
1 Dec.	and More Crisis.	}	
6 Dec.	Golden Age? – Ockham and Marsiglio.	}	W/MO, ch. 18
8 Dec.	Golden Age? – Dante and Chaucer.	}	
13 Dec.	Origins of the Renaissance.	}	W/MO, ch. 19-20
15 Dec.	In-class Quiz #3. [Chapters 15-20]	}	
20 Dec.	Your 3 rd Take-home Essay is due at 12:00 noon.		

My Schedule for Fall 2016

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00					
9:00					
10:00			Grad students		
11:00		HI 214	Grad students	HI 214	
12:00	CC 211	HI 214/HI 201	CC 211	HI 214/HI 201	CC 211
1:00	Office hour	HI 201	Office hour	HI 201	
2:00	Office hour		Office hour		
3:00					
4:00					
5:00					

Classroom Protocol and Expectations

The CAS Student Academic Conduct Code, which covers most issues, is in force. You can find it at:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>

Regular attendance in class is expected as a matter of professionalism and basic courtesy. I recognize that circumstances sometimes arise that may make it impossible for you to attend class. Consequently, you are allowed to miss three (3) class-meetings; any more than that, however, will result in a penalty of one half-grade for each day (beyond the third) missed, from your course-grade.

I am happy to help if you are having any trouble with the course; but please be fair: let me know as soon as the difficulty starts. Don't wait until you discover that you haven't received the grade you wanted.

Speaking of grades, here is the College's guideline to faculty, which I will follow:

Avoid grade-inflation. Grades should reflect the distribution of effort and success in the class. In undergraduate courses, a useful (unofficial) guideline is that an "A" should mean that the student mastered the material and produced excellent work, "B" that the student understood the material but did not master it or whose work was good but not superior, "C" that there were significant gaps in understanding/accomplishment or that the work was lackluster ("satisfactory" is the term used in the Undergraduate Bulletin), "D" ("low pass") that there was limited understanding/accomplishment or effort, and "F" that there was little understanding/accomplishment or effort. If your distribution of grades is skewed toward the high end, it might imply that either an "A" does not require a high level of achievement in the course or you are demanding too little of your students. "High end" is a median grade of "B" or higher for a 100 to 200 level undergraduate course. A median grade of "B" is common for upper-level undergraduate courses. (In graduate courses "C+" is a failing grade, hence the average grade is higher than in undergraduate courses.)

If a student for good reason could not complete the last stages of your course (e.g., missed the final exam because of illness), you and the student can enter into a contract in

which you specify the work that needs to be completed and the date by which it must be handed in to you. That date must be no later than one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the course was offered. An incomplete grade form, available through your departmental administrator, must be submitted with your grade sheet for the course for each "I" grade that you issue.

Classroom expectations are also based on professionalism and basic courtesy. If you are late to class, or if you need to leave the classroom for any personal reason, please do so – but with as little disruption to your neighbors as possible. No need to request permission. I am happy to permit the use of personal computers so long as you use them for class purposes; other students find it distracting if you are watching videos, playing games, or updating your Facebook page. If I receive any complaints, I will contact you privately and ask you either to change your behavior or to cease bringing your computer to class.

Some Useful Websites
Please let me know of any new ones that you discover.

Medieval Christianity

www.bu.edu/people/bpstone/theology	Sources for Christian theology
www.chinstitute.org	Church History Institute webpage
www.doaks.org/byzantine	Website of the Center for Byzantine History
www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook	Collection of primary sources
www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history	Early Christian documents
www.labrynth.org	Collection of primary sources
www.newadvent.org/cathen	The Catholic Encyclopedia (1910 edn)
www.stg.brown.edu/webs/bible-browser	Hypertext browser through the Bible
www.utm.edu/research/iep	Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
www.vatican.va	The official Vatican website. Read it in Latin!
http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rs/resources	Resources for the study of Christianity and Judaism
http://ceel.wheaton.edu/index	Christian Classics Ethereal Library
http://cedar.evansville.edu/~ecoleweb	Early Christian history encyclopedia
http://matrix.be.edu/matrixwebdata	Medieval women's religious communities
http://orb.rhodes.edu	Everything medieval
http://urban.hunter.cuny.edu/~thead/xtain	Guide to research in medieval Christianity

Medieval Judaism

www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/talmudmap	Resources on rabbinics and Jewish mysticism
www.columbia.edu/cu/cijs	Center for Israeli and Jewish Studies
www.du.edu/~sward/institut	Jewish-Muslim relations
www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishbook	Primary source collection
www.jewfaq.org	Introductory information about Judaism
http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/jewishhistory	Sources for Jewish history
http://shamash.org/trb/judaism	Everything (I mean, Everything!!) Jewish
www.jewishencyclopedia.com	1906 edition of the Jewish Encyclopedia

Medieval Islam

www.du.edu/~sward/institut	Islamic-Jewish relations
www.hti.umich.edu/relig/koran	Word-searchable Qur'anic text
www.islam.about.com	Introductory information about Islam
www.islamworld.net	Contemporary Islam
www.islamicity.org	Contemporary Islam
www.sharaaz.com	Islamic bookstore
www.unn.ac.uk/societies/islamic	Islamic social history
http://wings.ubuffalo.edu/sa/muslim/isl	Primary sources