

MEDIEVAL EUROPE (HIS 102)

Dr. Louis Schwartz

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Room 202 ~ 2:50 to 4:10

Plenary Lectures on Mondays ~ Tutorials on Tuesdays / Thursdays / Fridays

Office Hours by appointment.

Course Description

The term “Middle Ages” signifies the thousand-year period between the decline of Roman imperial rule in the fifth century and the so-called rebirth of classical culture in the fifteenth century. Lectures and primary source readings address such fascinating topics as the Crusades; the place of Jews in Christian society; the rise of Islam; the development of kingship, empire, and papacy; the relations between Church and State; monasticism and innovations in religious life; agriculture and rural life; towns and merchants; feudal epic and chivalric romance; the rediscovery of Roman law and the flourishing of canon law; heresy and inquisition; and the birth of universities. In short, this course introduces students to the beauties and complexities of medieval Christendom.

Required Text

Coursepack = CP

Evaluation Criteria

Tutorial Participation – 35%

Students meet weekly, in small groups, to discuss thematically arranged primary source selections from the Coursepack. Each student brings four typed-out questions inspired by the readings, shares some of them, and submits all of them at the end of the tutorial; the Coursepack contains a detailed description of this process.

Primary Source Analysis – 30%

For this assignment, each student analyzes a text written during the Middle Ages, seeking to gain insights into the culture and society which produced it. The Coursepack contains detailed instructions, along with a list of appropriate texts available in English translation.

Midterm – 15%

Students identify one passage from the Coursepack – author, date, place, literal meaning, larger significance – and respond to one broad essay question. The essay response should cite specific evidence from lecture material and primary source readings.

Final Exam – 20%

Similar to the Midterm, students identify one passage from the Coursepack and answer a broad essay question inspired by the general themes of the course, citing specific evidence from lecture material and primary source readings.

Introduction: Syllabus and Coursepack Distribution

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Jan. 15
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Week One: Barbarians & Rise of Islam

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Jan. 22

CP Reading #1

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Jan. 23
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Jan. 25
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Jan. 26
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Week Two: Carolingians

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Jan. 29

CP Reading #2

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Jan. 30
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Feb. 1
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Feb. 2
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Week Three: Anglo-Saxons & Vikings

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Feb. 5

CP Reading #3

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Feb. 6
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Feb. 8
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Feb. 9
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Week Four: Monks & Conversion

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Feb. 12

CP Reading #4

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Feb. 13
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Feb. 15
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Feb. 16
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Week Five: Bishops & Reform

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Feb. 26

CP Reading #5

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Feb. 27
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Feb. 29
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Mar. 1
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Week Six: Feudal Society & Crusades

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Mar. 4

CP Reading #6

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Mar. 5
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Mar. 7
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Mar. 8
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- Monday, Mar. 11
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Week Seven: Rural & Urban

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Mar. 18

CP Reading #7

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Mar. 19
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Mar. 21
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Mar. 22
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Week Eight: Universities & Popular Religion

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Apr. 8

CP Reading #8

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Apr. 9
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Apr. 11
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Apr. 12
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PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

- Due in-class Monday, Apr. 15
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Week Nine: Heresy, Inquisition & Jews in Christendom

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Apr. 15

CP Reading #9

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Apr. 16
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Apr. 18
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Apr. 19
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Week Ten: Papacy

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Apr. 22

CP Reading #10

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Apr. 23
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, Apr. 25
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, Apr. 26
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Week Eleven: Empire

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, Apr. 29

CP Reading #11

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, Apr. 30
 - Tutorial Group B: Thursday, May 2
 - Tutorial Group C: Friday, May 3
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Week Twelve: Church & State

- Plenary Lecture: Monday, May 6

CP Reading #12

- Tutorial Group A: Tuesday, May 7
- Tutorial Group B: *joins A or C this week*
- Tutorial Group C: Friday, May 10

REVIEW DAY = May 13