Harvest of the Middle Ages
01:510:211
Spring, 2016

Prof. Leah DeVun
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Office Hours: T 1:20-2:20
W 3:20-4:20

MW 4:30-5:50
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Course Requirements and Description
This class is an undergraduate survey of the history of Western Europe in the late Middle Ages. We will deal with social, cultural, intellectual, and religious history from the end of the “early Middle Ages” in around 1050 to the Reformation. No previous background in medieval history is necessary.

In this course, students will learn about not only the people and problems of the medieval period, but also the discipline of history and the skills and techniques of the historian. We will therefore work in large part with primary sources (i.e., sources written during the time that we are studying) in translation. At least once each week, we will discuss a different primary source in class.

Requirements for this course are attending class, doing weekly readings, and completing written work. Written work will include a midterm exam (25%), final exam (30%), in-class work and participation (25%), and short written assignments (20%). Our class is fairly small (which is ideal!), but it means that everyone must do the readings and contribute to discussion for our class to work.

Required Texts
Barbara Rosenwein, A Short History of the Middle Ages [T]
Betty Radice, ed., The Letters of Abelard and Heloise
Online Course Reader (on Sakai) [R]

Books are available for purchase at the Rutgers University Bookstore (732-246-8448); they are also on reserve at the library. Required readings for each week are listed below, along with a letter indicating the source in which they can be found (e.g., [T] for the Rosenwein textbook). We will have discussions of readings (and possibly quizzes) so please do all assigned readings by the date they are listed.

Assignments, Lateness, and Absences
Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Please note: My policy is that assigned work is due in class on the days noted below. I will grant extensions or make-up exams for exceptional circumstances (for instance, an exam conflict, a religious holiday, an illness, or a family emergency). If you believe you are embroiled in such a circumstance, I expect you to request an extension at least a day
before the assignment is due, if possible. If you must miss additional classes for a valid reason (such as the above), you should inform me prior to the class or as soon thereafter as you can. Please be advised that in the case of foreseeable absences, the sooner you notify me, the better. Please note that I will not be sympathetic to claims that you “must have a C in this class” or similar, especially after final grades are in. If you must receive a certain grade in this course to continue in your academic program, you are strongly advised to let me know early in the semester so I can help you with your coursework throughout the class. I will not change grades after the course is over.

**Academic Integrity**

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own the ideas, words, writings, etc., of another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. As a practical guideline, if you take five or more words in sequence from any source, place them in quotations marks and credit the source. If you turn in any work that is not your own or not principally your own, you are plagiarizing. This includes exam answers drawn from Wikipedia or other online sources, even those prepared by other students, and even if you change a few words. Your work must be your own!

Any student who turns in work that is not his/her own or who fails to cite all sources consulted in preparing written assignments, *including material found on the internet*, will be subject to the severe penalties mandated by University regulations, which include suspension from the university and a permanent record on your transcript. For details see: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf) and [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/).

**Electronic Devices Policy**

I usually ban laptops and other similar electronic devices from my classes. However, many of the works we are reading will be posted on Sakai, and many of you will purchase electronic versions of the required reading. Therefore, you may use your laptop computer or tablet to bring the required reading to class. Nonetheless, please note that web surfing, chatting and any other use of the computer during class is forbidden (it is also rude). If you are discovered using your laptop or tablet for some purpose other than consulting the day’s reading assignment, you will be forbidden to bring your device back to class for the remainder of the semester. All other electronic devices must be switched off and put away. Cell phones must be off and out of view.

**Class announcements** will be sent to your Eden accounts via Sakai. *Be sure to check your Eden accounts regularly.*

**Recording lectures**

You may not record lectures unless you have documented special learning needs *and* permission from the instructor.
**Students with Disabilities**
If you need special arrangements for exams or other coursework, please contact the Office for Disability Services ([http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/](http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/)) and provide the instructor with documentation as soon as possible.

**Class Plan**

**Week One**

1/20  The Wonders of the Middle Ages

**Week Two**

1/25  Daily Life in the Middle Ages: Peasants and Lords  
[T] 155-178  
Handout: Manners at Court

1/27  Inside the Monastery  
Read: *The Benedictine Rule* [R]  
Discussion of film: “The Monastery”

**Week Three**

2/1  The Invention of Universities  
[T] 178-94, 214-8  
Handout: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*  
Read: *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, 3-43 (“The Story of My Misfortunes”), and begin reading the other assigned pages (see below).

2/3  Courtly Love

**Week Four**

2/8  Discussion: *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, 3-43, 47-111, 130-150. This is a long reading assignment so please start on it early.

2/10  No Class Today

**Week Five**

2/15  Expansion and Counter-Expansion: Christians, Muslims, and the Crusades  
[T] 150-7, 87-9, 170-8, 197-201, 234-6  
Discussion: Readings on the Crusades [R]
Medieval Warfare
*If you own a laptop computer, please bring it to class today*

**Week Six**

2/22 Gothic Architecture
[T] 197-237

2/24 Gender, Marriage, and Family Organization
Discussion: Women, Love, and Marriage; Fabliaux (*Tresses, Priest Who Peeked, Lady Leech*) [R]

**Week Seven**

2/29 The Making of a Manuscript
Meet at Alexander Library Special Collections, Case Room

3/2 Saints, Relics, and Miracles: Religious Life in the Middle Ages
Discussion: Saints, Relics, and Pilgrimages [R]

**Week Eight**

3/7 **Midterm Exam**

3/9 Commercial and Urban Life
[T] 218-20
Discussion: *Regulation of Brothels* [R]

**Week Nine**

3/14 **SPRING BREAK**

3/16 **SPRING BREAK**

**Week Ten**

3/21 Medieval Science

3/23 Heretics and the Beginnings of the Inquisition
[T] 230-4
Discussion: Inquisitorial Trials

**Week Eleven**

3/28 Other Worlds
Discussion: Travel Readings; Hell and Devils [R]
3/30  English and Continental Governments
       [T] 241-79

Week Twelve

4/4  Disasters of the Fourteenth Century: Famine, Plague, and Peasants’ Revolts
       [T] 283-324

4/6  Late Medieval Piety: Mysticism, the Dance of Death, and New Transformations

Week Thirteen

4/11 Late Medieval Politics: Hundred Years’ War

4/13 Due: Plague Paper
       Discussion: Readings on the Plague [R]

Week Fourteen

4/18 Writing Workshop

4/20 East and West

Week Fifteen

4/25 The Beginnings of the Renaissance
       [T] 327-345

4/27 Other Worlds II
       Due: Chronicle Assignment
       Discussion: Oviedo on the Pineapple [R]

Week Sixteen

5/2  Endings and Beginnings

5/6  Final Exam (4:00-7:00)