

HISTORY 121: KNIGHTS, PEASANTS, AND FRIARS

Fall 2009

Dr. Janet Pope

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Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:30 and by appointment.

Required Readings:

Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, 3rd edition.

The Medieval Record, ed. Alfred J. Andrea.

Supplemental readings.

Course Requirements:

First Paper	20%
Second Paper	25%
Final Paper	30%
Quizzes	15%
Class Participation*	10%

*There are seven scheduled discussion meetings. These meetings are required, and I will take attendance at each one. Your class participation grade will reflect not only your presence at these meetings but also your participation in the discussions. These discussions will focus on the primary documents in the sourcebook. Most lecture meetings will also include a discussion of a document in the sourcebook. You should always bring the relevant readings to each class meeting, and you should be prepared to talk about them. Attendance at lectures is vital for understanding the course, and you are responsible for all material covered in class and in the readings. Do not bring laptops, phones, or any electronic devices to class.

Course Purpose:

This class explores the social, religious, and political history of medieval Europe. We will investigate how Roman, Christian, and Germanic elements fused to form medieval European civilization and why the Byzantine and Islamic empires differed so radically from Western Christendom. A related theme that we will examine is the interplay between religion, social institutions, and politics. Along the way, we will also analyze our current interpretations of the ancient and medieval worlds. The course will also sharpen your use and understanding of the historical method -- the critical use of both narrative and record sources to reason about the past. Finally, this class will sharpen your writing and speaking skills.

Goals:

Students will:

- articulate an understanding of late antique and medieval European political, religious, and social ideas and events as well as knowledge of the changes that occurred in medieval society, religion, and politics;
- demonstrate knowledge of the ancient Roman, early Christian, and early Germanic roots of medieval European civilization;

- demonstrate an understanding of the differences between medieval western Europe and the Byzantine and Islamic empires and demonstrate an understanding of how these three cultures (medieval western Europe, the Byzantine world, and medieval Islam) differ from our own;
- critically evaluate primary sources;
- articulate persuasive historical arguments about significant developments in medieval European history, using evidence from primary sources to support their historical arguments;
- write clear, well-organized, and properly documented essays;
- actively participate in discussions revolving around primary and secondary sources and thereby create connections between the themes of the course and the historical evidence. In these discussions, students will also analyze and evaluate modern views of the late antique and medieval worlds and analyze current views through the lens of the past. They will evaluate previously and currently held opinions and compare and contrast them with alternate views;
- demonstrate an understanding of the connections between modern and medieval ideas and practices.

Academic Honesty:

Hiram College's policy statement on academic honesty says: "Academic honesty is essential to the process of education. There can be no education without it. Any student who violates the integrity of the academic process will be subject to punishment, including possible dismissal from the College." This policy will be strictly followed in this course.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1: *Medieval Record*, xxiii-39 and 475; Rosenwein, 21-58 and 350-364.

- 8/31 Introduction
- 9/2 The Roman World
- 9/4 The Birth of Christianity and the Conversion of Rome

Week 2: *Medieval Record*, 40-72; Rosenwein, 61-100.

- 9/7 LABOR DAY
- 9/9 The Germanic World
- 9/11 DISCUSSION -- *Medieval Record*, 1-72

Week 3: *Medieval Record*, 73-134.

- 9/14 Rome "Falls"
- 9/16 The Papal Ideal
- 9/18 Rome Lives On -- Justinian's Empire

Week 4: Rosenwein, 101-117.

- 9/21 The Southern Mediterranean Converts -- The Birth of Islam
- 9/23 DISCUSSION -- *Medieval Record*, 73-134
- 9/25 PAPER DUE
The Monastic Ideal

- Week 5: *Medieval Record*, 135-162; Rosenwein, 118-138.
9/28 The Germans Convert
9/30 The Franco-Papal Alliance
10/2 Carolingian Europe
- Week 6: *Medieval Record*, 163-198; Rosenwein, 139-174.
10/5 The New Invasions -- Vikings, Magyars, and Saracens
10/7 The French Response: Castles, Counts, and Kings
10/9 Alfred Saves England
- Week 7: *Medieval Record*, 199-200, 228-259; Rosenwein, 177-193.
10/12 DISCUSSION -- *Medieval Record*, 135-198
10/14 Monastic Reform
10/16 FALL WEEKEND
- Week 8: *Medieval Record*, 297-339; Rosenwein, 193-261.
10/19 The Urban Revolution
10/21 High Medieval Kings
10/23 PAPER DUE
Papal Monarchy
- Week 9: *Medieval Record*, 201-227, 260-272, and 340-375; Rosenwein, 263-303.
10/26 DISCUSSION -- *Medieval Record*, 199-200, 228-259, and 297-339
10/28 The Twelfth-Century Renaissance
10/30 Friars and Heretics
- Week 10: *Medieval Record*, 272-296 and 377-397; Rosenwein, 305-326.
11/2 The Cult of Mary
11/4 DISCUSSION -- *Medieval Record*, 201-227, 260-296, and 340-375
11/6 Plague and the Great Schism
- Week 11: *Medieval Record*, 397-426.
11/9 War and Revolt
11/11 DISCUSSION -- *Medieval Record*, 203-208, 377-426
11/13 *Cathedral*
- Week 12: *Medieval Record*, 427-473; Rosenwein, 327-349.
11/16 The Italian Renaissance
11/18 DISCUSSION -- *Medieval Record*, 427-473
11/20 PAPER DUE
The Reformations