## Course Information

History 4213-101: Europe in the Middle Ages

Fall 2019

Meeting Times: TR 11:00 am – 12:20 pm

Meeting Location: PY 202

## Professor

Dr. Tiffany A. Ziegler

Department of History

Midwestern State University

Office: O-220

Office Hours: MW 1:00-3:00 pm; 3:30-4:00 pm; by appointment; subject to change

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# Course Description/Objectives

The Middle Ages is a period in history that has received unfortunate press. Sometimes termed the “Dark Ages” and sometimes plagued by “flat earth” myths, the European Middle Ages has suffered its share of misconceptions. In addition to imparting general knowledge about the people, events, ideas and themes of this age, the purpose of this course is to place the Middle Ages in its rightful history. We will tackle themes of “continuity,” “decline,” “civilization,” “barbarism,” and other myths/misconceptions. Many such myths stem from the fact that during this period, the ‘Church and State’ were inextricably linked, a concept that is sometimes perceived as odd by modern standards. Thus, while the focus of the course will be a survey of the European Middle Ages, special attention will be given to the development of Western Christendom, which, in many ways, shaped the course of medieval history. By the end of the course, students should have a broad knowledge of the people, places, ideas, and themes of the Middle Ages, and students should be able to see how the world was shaped and continues to be shaped by the inhabitants of the Middle Ages. In addition, students will be introduced to basic documentary sources of the Middle Ages. After introducing the procedures historians use to evaluate these sources, students will be required to perform similar tasks through papers and exams. Finally, student will develop historical writing skills through course assignments and exams.

Required Books and Readings

Bennett, Judith M. *Medieval Europe: A Short History*, eleventh edition

ISBN: 978-0-07-338550-1

# Primary Sources Provided via D2L

# Requirements and Grading

# The grade for this course will be based on attendance, discussion, and participation; two papers; a midterm project, a final project or final exam; and possible weekly quizzes.

# Class Attendance, participation, and discussion

I am assuming that you are an adult and that you can make your own decisions about coming to class. Regardless of what you choose, attendance will be taken at the beginning of class as is required per the Texas University System rules. If you miss 7 or more times your attendance grade will drop one letter grade. The grade will then continue to drop one letter for every additional time missed until ten times missed. After ten times missed you will receive a failing grade for attendance, discussion, and participation. You will also be counted as absent if you show up more than 15 minutes late for class without an appropriate excuse or if you are consistently unprepared for class, fail to pay attention during class, and/or fail to participate in class discussion.

## Papers

Students will be required to write two papers using the primary and secondary sources discussed in class.

Each assignment must be handed in at the start of class on the day the paper is due. Furthermore, because the assignments will be handed out in advance, no excuses will be accepted for late papers. If you *know* that you will be gone, you *must* hand in the assignment before you leave.

# Midterm Project

Pope Innocent III is on trial! Will he be stroll through the pearly gates or will he suffer an eternity of hell? You will decide by putting him on trial. All students will play a specific role as either a witness, Saint Peter, a member of the prosecution, a member of the defense, or a member of the jury, and through RESEARCH you as a class will decide Innocent III’s fate. More details about this will be distributed as the time nears.

# Final Project or Final Exam

Because I recognize that not everyone learns the same way or demonstrates learning in the same way, I am giving students a choice. For the final, you may take a final exam or you may do a 10-page research paper on a topic of your choosing that will be appropriately researched. While the topic is up to the individual student, the theme this semester is “the white Middle Ages.” I encourage each of you to do the research paper, especially since our department will be hosting the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference this spring. You do not need to be a member to present.

# Grading Breakdown

Grading for the course will be as follows:

* Two Papers: 20% each 40%
* One Midterm Project 20% 20%
* One Final Project: 20% 20%
* Attendance and participation in discussion: 20% 20%

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100%

The grading scale is as follows: A = 90 and above; B = 80-89; C= 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below.

# Paper Help

I am more than happy to help you with your papers during office hours and by appointment, but you must come in and get the help *in person*. In addition, the campus writing center provides free help to any enrolled student: Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4pm; you can also find a tutor at the satellite location in Moffett Library Honors Lounge, Sunday and Thursday from 6pm to 9pm.  Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

## Quizzes

We will begin the semester as follows: you read and actively participate. If this continues, nothing will change. If, however, students fail to read and discuss, I will administer weekly quizzes based on the readings.

## Missed Exams or Assignments

A makeup final exam will not be given unless you have a valid class excuse, including, but not limited to severe illness (with documentation) and a university excused event (again, with documentation). Please notify me *in advance* and *in person* if you need to miss class. Avoid any penalties by turning in assignments early or by making arrangements with me if you know you must miss class. In-class work, such as discussion assignments, cannot be made up. Make arrangements to be in class by not scheduling work, child care, doctor’s appointments, and other obligations during class time. Late papers will not be accepted.

## Support Services

In coordination with the Disability Support Service, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities (LD, Orthopedic, Hearing, Visual, Speech, Psychological, ADD/ADHD, Health Related & Other). Please meet with the instructor during the first week of class to make arrangements.

## Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, creed, national origin, race, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. If you believe you have been discriminated against unlawfully, please bring this matter to the attention of your professor or to the Human Resource Office.

Intellectual Property

All lectures, PowerPoints, handouts, and discussion materials in this class are considered the intellectual property of the professor. *Lectures may not be recorded or posted online. This includes taking pictures with your cell phones.* In addition, if you miss class, please ask a fellow classmate for the notes. If you are not able to get the notes, see me and I will help you to make accommodations.

Classroom Etiquette

You are responsible for material presented in lectures and the knowledge of any of it will be necessary for papers and the final exam. Please refrain from behavior disruptive to the conduct of class, including but not limited to arriving late, leaving early, leaving in the middle of lecture to use the restroom, talking with neighbors, texting and/or using a cell phone. Do not bring work unrelated to class. Think carefully about how you are spending your tuition money. If you sleep in class and if you snore, people are likely to laugh at you.

## Academic Integrity

Cheating, dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. You must document all of your source material. If you take any text from somebody else, you must make it clear the text is being quoted and where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain numbers, ideas, or other material. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, ask! Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is also easy to avoid and if you are the least bit careful about giving credit where credit is due you should not run into any problems. Students who plagiarize or cheat on assignments will receive a zero for that assignment—no exceptions. Instances of plagiarism and cheating will be reported to the Dean.

## D2L

Students will need to access D2L for the primary sources and to complete assignments in this course. To access D2L, go to <https://d2l.msutexas.edu/>

Your username is in the format [first initial + middle initial + 12 characters of last name + #### where #### is the first 4 characters of your date of birth], for example:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name: Robert T Jones | Date of Birth: 01/03/1998 | Username: rtjones0103 |

Your password is your Mustangs ID followed by an exclamation mark, for example: M10203040!

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\*Please note that the syllabus, readings, exams, and assignments are subject to change if the professor believes it is necessary to modify the schedule. \*Reminder: Students are expected to read, write, and think in this course.

#### Week 1: 26-30 August

* Introduction to the Course and the “Middle Ages”
* Reading primary sources
* Rome
* Christianity

*Read Bennett Introduction, “Part I” Introduction, and Chapter 1*

*Course Packet Part 1*

#### Week 2: 3-6 September No class 2 September

* Begin Midterm and Final Project Preparations
* The ‘Decline’ of the Roman Empire and the Arrival of the ‘Barbarians’

*Read Bennett Chapter 2*

*Course Packet Part 2*

Week 3: 9-13 September

Early Western Christendom

* Early Medieval Society and Politics
* Early Medieval Church

*Read Bennett Chapter 3*

*Course Packet Part 3*

Week 4: 16-20 September

Carolingian Europe

* The Early Carolingians and Charlemagne
* Charlemagne and the Intellectual Revival
* What is Empire? Is this a Renaissance?

*Read Bennett Chapter 5*

*Course Packet Part 4*

Week 5: 23-27 September:

Invasion and Reorganization

* The Later Carolingians
* Invasions(?): Muslims, Magyars, and Vikings
* The Aftermath: Reorganization and Unification

*Read Bennett Chapters 4, 5, and 6*

*Course Packet Part 5*

Week 6: 30 September-4 October

Economic and Social Change

* Paper One Due
* Revolutions: Agricultural, Rural, Urban, and “Feudal” Societies in Flux
* Discussion: Understanding “Feudal Society”

*Read Bennett Chapters 6 and 7*

*Course Packet Part 6*

# Week 7: 7-11 October Lay Piety, Monks and Popes: Towards Christian Domination

* How We Worship
* Orthodoxy and Heresy
* Crusades

*Read Bennett Chapter 8*

*Course Packet Part 7*

# Week 8: 14-18 October Power Politics in the High Middle Ages

* Crusades
* The Investiture Controversy

*Read Bennett Chapters 9 and 10*

*Course Packet Part 8*

Week 9: 21-25 October

The Rise of Empires and Monarchies

* The Battle for the Italian Peninsula
* The Papal Monarchy
* The Decline of The Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire

*Read Bennett Chapter 10*

*Course Packet Part 9*

# Week 10: 28 October-1 November Empires and Monarchies, continued

* England and Parliament
* France and Monarchy
* Begin Innocent III Midterm Project

*Read Bennett Chapters 10 and 11*

*Course Packet Part 10*

Week 11: 4-8 November  
Empires and Monarchies

* Midterm Project: Innocent III’s Trial

*Read Bennett Chapters 10 and 11*

*Course Packet Part 11*

Week 12: 11-15 November  
The “Twelfth Century Renaissance”

* Popular Piety
* The Rise of Universities
* The Impact of Medieval Scholasticism

*Read Bennett Chapter 12*

*Course Packet Part 12*

Week 13: 18-22 November  
The Later Middle Ages: Plague, Famine, Schism, and more!

* Paper Two Due
* Famine, plague, and economic and demographic crises
* Changes to Late Medieval Christianity

*Read Bennett Chapter 13*

*Course Packet Part 13*

Week 14: 25-26 November

Transitions

* The Rise of the Sovereign State
* The Hundred Years’ War: England and France
* The Holy Roman Empire, Iberian States and Periphery States
* Discussion: Aspects of Sovereignty

*Read Bennett Chapter 14*

*Course Packet Parts 14 and 15*

Holiday Break: 26 November-1 December

## Week 15 2-6 December

## From the Middle Ages to Wars of Religion

* The Later Medieval Church
* Humanism
* Renaissance
* The Legacy of Medieval Culture, Society, and Religion

*Read Bennett Chapter 15*

*Course Packet Part 16*

Final Exams: 7-13 December