

Department of English & Writing Studies
Medieval Studies Program

Introduction to Medieval Studies
Medieval Studies 1022 (001)
Fall/Winter 2018-19

Instructor: Kate Helsen, Ph.D.
kate.helsen@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Caroline Diezyn

Office Hours (TC 227): Wednesdays 12:30 –
2:00 and by appointment

Course Location: UCC-56

Course Date/Time: Monday 6:30-9:30 pm

Antirequisites: Medieval Studies 1025A/B, Medieval Studies 1026A/B, and the former Medieval Studies 1020E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Description

The medieval era, in Western culture, covers roughly one thousand years, and its significant events take place everywhere from Jerusalem to England. This course is meant as an overview and introduction to what life was like any time between the fall of the Roman Empire in the 4th century and the rise of the Renaissance philosophers and artists in Italy in the 14th and 15th centuries. It is, therefore, necessarily broad and moves quickly – one textbook chapter per week – as students work their way through the cultural, religious, political, and artistic ideas chronologically. In addition, small groups of students will work with English translations of medieval texts, presenting their content and significance to the class and submitting short written analyses for evaluation. Lecture, group presentations, and class discussion will be the three main formats for this course. Content will be evaluated through two in-class tests and one final exam at the end of the academic year.

Course Materials

Required Text:

- Backman, Clifford. *The Worlds of Medieval Europe* 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Methods of Evaluation

- Online chapter quizzes (open Mondays from 6:30pm - 7:00pm): 20% (1% x 20 quizzes)
- Participation in 15 minute Topic Video: 10%
- One written summary of a Close-Reading Selection: 10%
- Part One Test: 15% (Monday, Nov. 5 IN CLASS during regular class time / room)
- Part Two Test: 15% (Monday, Jan. 21 IN CLASS during regular class time / room)
- Final Exam: 30% (Material weighted (about 70 / 30) towards content from Jan. 28 – April 1, but important previous material will also appear.) Time and Location TBA

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted, resulting in a grade of zero for that assignment, except in cases in which there is a documented illness. See “Statement regarding Illness” (above).

Timetable

Class Date	Topic	Reading Required text for this course: <i>The Worlds of Medieval Europe</i> , 3 rd ed. C. Backman	Special Focus Groups: - Excerpts from the following will be distributed
Sept. 10	Introduction	“How to Read a Primary Source” – C. Backman	
Sept. 17	The Roman World	pp. 3 - 24	1. Virgil, <i>The Aeneid</i> 2. Marcus Aurelius, <i>Meditations</i>
Sept. 24	Research and Writing Workshop (attendance will be marked)		
Oct. 1	The Rise of Christianity	pp. 25 - 57	1. Pliny the Younger, <i>Letters to Tacitus and to Trajan</i> 2. St. Augustine, <i>Two Sermons on the First Epistle of John</i>
Oct. 8: Fall Reading Week – no class!	Early Germanic Society	pp. 58 - 87	1. Sidonius Apollinaris, <i>Letters</i> 2. Ethelbert of Kent, <i>Laws Regarding Women</i>
Oct. 15	Cloister and Culture **Please read on your own – it will be tested!	pp. 88 - 111	
Oct. 22	The Emergence of the Medieval Worlds	pp. 112 - 143	1. St. Benedict, <i>The Rule of St. Benedict</i> 2. Caesarius of Arles, <i>Rule for Nuns</i> 3. Procopius, <i>Two Views of the Emperor Justinian*</i> 4. Genealogies of Islam
Oct. 29	The Carolingian Era	pp. 144 - 180	1. The Donation of Constantine 2. Einhard, the Life of Charlemagne
Nov. 5	Part One TEST (in class)	*Material from p. 1 – 180 will be tested*	
Nov. 12	The Time of Troubles	pp. 181 - 211	1. Asser, <i>Life of King Alfred</i> 2. Al-Kindi, <i>On First Philosophy</i>
Nov. 19	Revolutions: Land and Sea	pp. 212 - 238	1. Burchard of Worms, <i>The Corrector*</i> 2. Adso of Montier-en-Der, <i>The Antichrist Letter</i>
Nov. 26	New Europe: North and South	pp. 239 - 283	1. <i>The Song of Roland</i> 2. <i>The Song of the Cid</i>
Dec. 3	The Reform of the Church	pp. 284 - 316	1. Pope Gregory VII, <i>Letters</i> 2. Usamah ibn Munqidh, <i>Memoirs</i>

Jan. 7	The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century	pp. 317 - 356	1. Al-Ghazali, <i>The Deliverer from Error</i> 2. Trotula, <i>Handbook on the Maladies of Women</i> *
Jan. 14	The Papal Monarchy	pp. 357 - 386	1. Caesarius of Heisterbach, Dialogue on Miracles 2. Hildegard of Bingen, <i>The Book of Divine Works</i>
Jan. 21	Part Two TEST (in class)	*Material from p. 181 to 386 will be tested*	
Jan. 28	Politics in the Thirteenth Century	pp. 387 - 420	1. John of Salisbury, <i>Policraticus</i> 2. Ibn Battuta, <i>Journeys</i>
Feb. 4	Art and Intellect in the Thirteenth Century	pp. 421 - 446	1. St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa contra Gentiles</i> 2. Marie de France, <i>Lanval</i>
Feb. 11	Daily Life at the Medieval Zenith	pp. 447 - 481	1. William Fitz Stephen, <i>Daily Life in London</i> 2. Giovanni Villani, <i>Life in Florence</i>
Feb. 25	Changes in Religious Life	pp. 482 - 505	1. Pope Gregory IX, <i>Canonization of St. Francis</i> 2. Mechthild of Magdeburg, <i>The Flowing Light of Divinity</i>
March 4	Crises of the Fourteenth Century	pp. 506 - 543	1. Boccaccio, <i>"The Great Plague"</i> 2. Jean Froissart, <i>Chronicles</i>
March 11	Signs of a New Era	pp. 544 - 564	1. Dante Alighieri, <i>Three Speeches from The Divine Comedy</i> 2. Christine de Pizan, <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i>
March 18	Guest Lecture: Caroline Diezyn		
March 25	Closings	pp. 565 - 585	
April 1	The Renaissance	pp. 586 - 600	1. Francesco Guicciardini, <i>Florence under Lorenzo de' Medici</i> 2. Petrarca, <i>"Letter to Posterity"</i>
April 8	Summary and Review		

Accommodation

Statement regarding Illness:

In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate.

Academic accommodation for work representing less than 10% of the student's overall grade will similarly be granted only in cases of documented illness. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.