

Department of English & Writing Studies

Introduction to Medieval Studies

Medieval Studies 1022 (001)

Fall/Winter 2022-23

[DRAFT: SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES BEFORE SEPTEMBER]

Instructor: Richard J. Moll

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Course Location: UCC-37

Course Day/Time: Tues. 9:30-10:30,

Thurs. 9:30-11:30, Synchronous, Live

Office Hours: Tues. 12:30-2:30

Feel free to drop by during office hours, but really I'm around most afternoons (not Thursdays) and don't mind people just showing up. Email if you'd rather arrange a Zoom or Teams meeting.

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

Course Description

The medieval aesthetic, political and moral outlook, sense of the divine and (most obviously) languages all frustrate modern expectations. To study the Middle Ages, therefore, the modern student must engage with the academic disciplines (art history, philosophy, theology, comparative literature, etc.) which seek to illuminate these points of contrast.

This course will not attempt to survey the entire 1000 years of European history, literature, and culture that constitute the medieval world. Instead, we will focus on four topics: early monks and nuns (400-700), the age of Vikings (800-1100), tournaments and courtly society (1300s) and the fall of Constantinople (1453). We will approach each topic from a variety of points of view, using a variety of academic disciplines. The course will introduce you to some of the topics that define the Middle Ages and it will provide training in some of the many disciplines necessary to understand the medieval world.

Objectives:

Students who successfully complete MedST 1022 will have:

- a broad sense of the scope of Medieval Studies as an interdisciplinary field
- an understanding of several specific issues within the broader field (e.g. the tournament)
- a basic ability to use the library catalogue and disciplinary databases for research
- a basic ability to use and analyze secondary scholarship
- a basic understanding of close reading practices as they are applied to several genres
- a basic ability to organize and communicate their own analysis of texts and images

Course Materials

Texts:

Because of the nature of the course, many of the texts we will be reading are available online, either through internet resources or through OWL. Please consult the syllabus regularly and follow any links provided. There are three books you will need to purchase (listed below). These are available through the BookStore or from other sites like Amazon or Chapters (check out www.abe.com for used copies).

The Rule of Saint Benedict. Ed. & tr. Caroline White. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2008.

Harris, Jonathan. *The End of Byzantium*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011.

The Viking Age: A Reader. 3rd ed. Ed. Angus A. Somerville and R. Andrew McDonald. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019. (Be sure to get the 3rd edition.)

Methods of Evaluation

Each of the four topics in the course (monks, Vikings, tournaments and Constantinople) will include a short written assignment and an in-class test (the test on Constantinople will be incorporated into the final exam), each worth 10%. The final exam will make up the remainder of the grade:

Written assignment 1	Due date: Oct. 20	10%
Test 1	Due date: Oct. 20	10%
Written assignment 2	Due date: Dec. 8	10%
Test 2	Due date: Dec. 8	10%
Written assignment 3	Due date: Feb 16	10%
Test 3	Due date: Feb 16	10%
Written assignment 4	Due date: March 30	10%
Exam: Constantinople (Test 4)	TBD	10%
Comprehensive	TBD	20%

Written assignments (ca. 3 pages each) will give you several options to analyze the texts and scholarship we are discussing in class, or to explore material beyond our class discussion. They will be submitted electronically through OWL and assessed by Turnitin.

Late penalties:

The written assignments can be handed in any time during a topic. They are due the last day of each topic. A late penalty of 3% per day will be imposed on late assignments. You will have many assignments due at these times, so I recommend that you complete these as early as possible.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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.

Timetable

Read the assigned texts before coming to class. We will discuss using the Library system to get access to some of this material in the class before anything is assigned. We will almost always be talking about specific passages of the texts or specific images, so please bring the texts with you! It may be easier to print out online material.

Thur. Sept. 8 What are “The Middle Ages” and why should I never say or write “Medieval Times”?

Tues. Sept. 13 Monks and Hermits and Nuns, Oh my!
The early church: Desert Fathers and the rise of monasticism
Read: *Rule of Saint Benedict*, Introduction (pp. i-xxxix)

Thur. Sept. 15 Monks and Hermits and Nuns
Read: *Rule of Saint Benedict*, pp. 1-26.
Consider: What kind of monk does Benedict envision?
Try not to focus on the obvious.

Tues. Sept. 20 Monks and Hermits and Nuns
Read: *Rule of Saint Benedict*, pp. 26-41.
The Catholic daily missal for Sept. 20, 2022.
<https://www.catholicgallery.org/mass-reading/daily-mass-readings-2021/>

Thur. Sept. 22 Monks and Hermits and Nuns
Skim: The Breviary for Sept. 20, 2022.
<https://www.ibreviary.com/m2/breviario.php>
(You can change the date under the “More” icon).
Consider: What is the structure of the readings? What is the effect of this text being *performed* (pay attention to the Response)?

Academic Integrity Tutorial Due (see below).

Tues. Sept. 27 Monks and Hermits and Nuns: Saint Benedict
Read: *Rule of Saint Benedict*, pp. 41-104.

Thur. Sept. 29 Monks and Hermits and Nuns: Saint Benedict
Read: Lynda L. Coon, “Gendering the Benedictine Rule,” in *Dark Age Bodies: Gender and Monastic Practice in the Early Medieval West* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011), pp. 69-97. (notes on pp. 255ff).
[Available electronically through the library.
We'll discuss how to find this on Tuesday]

Tues. Oct. 4 Monks and Hermits and Nuns: Radigund
Read: Gregory of Tours, *History of Franks* [selections in OWL]
“Rade Gund, Queen of the Franks and Abbess of Poitiers,” 61-70. This is in *Sainted women of the Dark Ages*, ed & tr. JO Ann McNamara, John E. Halborg, and E. Gordon Whately (Durham: Duke University Press, 1992), 60-105. Download the chapter from the e-book available through the library. SEARCH BY THE TITLE OF THE BOOK (i.e. *Sainted Women...*). We'll read the whole chapter through these weeks.

- Thur. Oct. 6 Monks and Hermits and Nuns: Radigund
Read: Fortunatis, "Life of Radegund"
In *Sainted women*, 70-86.
- Tues. Oct. 11 Monks and Hermits and Nuns: Radegund
Read: M.E. Carrasco, "Spirituality in Context: The Romanesque Illustrated Life of St. Radegund of Poitiers (Poitiers, Bibl. Mun., MS 250)," *The Art Bulletin* 72.3 (Sept. 1990): 414-35.
[We'll discuss how to find this on Thursday.]
Look: Poitiers, Bibl. Mun. MS 250.
<https://www.bm-poitiers.fr/Default/digital-viewer/c-1117076>
[Note: I've not figured out a way to consistently link to a specific image. The Life of Radegund begins with a picture (technically, an "illumination") of Fortunatis on folio 21v. You can scroll along the thumb nails at the bottom of the screen, or use the thumb nail layout (bottom left), to find it.]
- Thur. Oct. 13 Monks and Hermits and Nuns: Radegund
Read: Radegund of Thuringia, A Letter to the Bishops
<https://epistolae.ctl.columbia.edu/woman/89.html>
A letter from Caesaria, abbess of Arles (c. 550)
<https://epistolae.ctl.columbia.edu/letter/915.html>
- Tues. Oct. 18 Monks and Hermits and Nuns: Radegund
Read: Baudoniva, *Life of Radegund*
In *Sainted women*, 86-105
- Thur. Oct. 20 Finish up with Monks and Hermits and Nuns, start thinking about Vikings.
In-class test (1 hour).
Written assignment 1 due.
- Tues. Oct. 25 Vikings! Raids on the British Isles
Read: *The Viking Age*, "Introduction," xix-xxiii.
The Viking Age, "Viking Raids on England," 206-08.
The Viking Age, "Viking Raids on Ireland," 211-16.
- Thur. Oct. 27 Vikings! Raids on the British Isles
Read: *The Viking Age*, "Alcuin's Letter to King Athelred," 208-10.
The Viking Age, "An English Gospel Book Ransomed," 210-11.
The Viking Age, "Martyrdom of Blathmac," 216-18.
The Viking Age, "On the Causes," 203-06.
- Tues. Nov. 1 Fall Reading Week
Thur. Nov. 3 Fall Reading Week
- Tues. Nov. 8 Vikings! Settling down...
Read: *The Viking Age*, "Viking Activities in England," 245-52.
The Viking Age, "Martyrdom of Saint Edmund," 253-6.

- Thur. Nov. 10 Vikings! Settling down...
Read: *The Viking Age*, "Ketil Flatnose," 263-4.
The Viking Age, "Earl Sigurd," 265-6.
Shane McLeod, "Warriors and women: the sex ratio of Norse migrants to eastern England up to 900AD," *Early Medieval Europe* 19.3 (Aug. 2011): 332-53.
(Available online through the Library.)
- Tues. Nov. 15 Vikings! Settling down... (Runes)
Read: *The Viking Age*, "Runic Inscriptions from Maes Howe," 266-7.
The Viking Age, "Runic Inscriptions from the Isle of Man," 267-8.
James Farrer, *Notice of Runic Inscriptions Discovered During Recent Excavations in the Orkneys* (Printed for Private Circulation, 1862).
(Available through the Internet Archive:
<https://archive.org/details/noticeofrunicins00farrich/page/n7/mode/2up>)
- Thur. Nov. 17 Vikings! Settling down...
Finish up with runic texts.
- Tues. Nov. 22 Vikings! Warriors and identity
Read: *The Viking Age*, "Accomplishments of a Viking," 155-8.
The Viking Age, "Warrior Women," 158-65.
The Viking Age, "Valkyries," 166-72.
- Thur. Nov. 24 Vikings! Warriors and identity
Read: Oliver J.T. Harris, *et al.* "Assembling places and persons: a tenth-century Viking boat burial...", *Antiquity: A Review of World Archaeology* 91.355 (2017): 191-206.
(Available electronically through the Library.)
- Tues. Nov. 29 Vikings!
Read: Norse religion TBD
- Thur. Dec. 1 Vikings! Vinland and journeys in the north Atlantic
Read: *The Viking Age*, "Into the Western Ocean," 305.
The Viking Age, "Adam of Bremen on Vinland," 322-3.
The Viking Age, "The Norse Discovery of Vinland," 323-8.
The Viking Age, "Thorfin Karlsefni in Vinland," 328-30.
- Tues. Dec. 6 Vikings! Vinland and journeys in the north Atlantic
Read: Paul. M. Ledger, *et al.* "New horizons at L'Anse aux Meadows," *PNAS* 116.31 (July 30, 2019): 15341-3.
(Available electronically through the Library.)
- Thur. Dec 8 Vikings
In-class test (1 hour).
Written assignment 2 due.
Last day of classes before exams.

[Winter exams: We will NOT have a winter exam]

- Tues. Jan. 10 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: James Titterton, "Por pris et por enor: Ideas of Honour as Reflected in the Medieval Tournament," in *The Medieval Tournament as Spectacle*, ed. by Alan V. Murray and Karen Watts (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2020), pp. 44-61. [Available online through the Library.]
- Thur. Jan. 12 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
To do: Jean Froissart, *The Chronicle*, tr. John Bouchier, ed. William Paton Ker, 5 vols. (London: David Nutt, 1901-1902), see below.
(Available from the Internet Archive:
<https://archive.org/details/chronicletransla01froiuoft/page/n9/mode/2up>)
We're going to look at several passages:
Edward III and the Countess of Salisbury, chs. 77-8, 89 (vol. 1, pp. 193-6, 216-18)
Edward III and the Order of the Garter, ch. 100 (vol. 1, pp. 232-3)
[This translation was done in 1523. If you want to read the original, it can be found here: <https://www-proquest-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/eebo/docview/2264222290/pageLevelImage/5137471C769E4412PQ/4?accountid=15115&imgSeq=50>]
- Tues. Jan. 17 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Richard Barber, "Edward III's round table: Richard Barber describes the discoveries he made last summer when Channel Four's Time Team uncovered Edward III's huge circular building at the heart of Windsor Castle," *History Today*, 57. 8 (Aug. 2007): pp. 12-18.
- Thur. Jan. 19 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Van Velthem on the Round Table
[available in OWL, read as far as line 1445]
- Tues. Jan. 24 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: René I d'Anjou, *King René's Tournament Book*
<http://www.princeton.edu/~ezb/rene/renehome.html>
This is an excellent site made and maintained by Elizabeth Bennet at Princeton. Scroll down to read her introduction, "About King René and the Tournament Book," and her "An English Translation." There is a paragraph on the website called "Where are the Pictures?". Ignore this (it is slightly out of date). Instead, have a look at the full manuscript using the Gallica website from the Bibliotheque nationale de France (BnF, fr. 2695):
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53140131s/f27.item.r=Fran%C3%A7ais%202695>
Start at folio 1r (menu at bottom of screen). For comparison, you can also look at a copy of this manuscript if you'd like (BnF, fr. 2692, again, start at folio 1r):
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8449033b/f23.item.r=Fran%C3%A7ais%202695>
- Thur. Jan. 26 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Look: René I d'Anjou, *King René's Tournament Book*
Be sure to look at the BnF fr. 2695 (link above).

- Tues. Jan. 31 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Marie de France, *Sir Lanval*. [Available in OWL.]
To be fair, there aren't any tournaments in this text from the late twelfth century. We'll focus on its image of chivalric identity. It's also important for understanding the English translation that we'll look at for the following two weeks (which does have tournaments).
- Thur. Feb. 2 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Marie, *Lanval* (finish this).
To do: We'll talk about strategies for next week's readings. This will be the only piece of real medieval writing we'll look at (everything else has been later translations). It will be a challenge.
- Tues. Feb. 7 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Thomas Chestre, *Sir Launfal*, in *The Middle English Breton Lays*, ed. Anne Laskaya and Eve Salisbury (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications, 1995): Introduction
<https://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/laskaya-and-salisbury-middle-english-breton-lays-sir-launfal-introduction>
Thomas Chestre, *Sir Launfal*, 1-130
<https://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/laskaya-and-salisbury-middle-english-breton-lays-sir-launfal>
It is difficult, but use the notes in the edition to help you.
- Thur. Feb. 9 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Chestre, *Launfal*
Keep reading. We'll work our way through the poem slowly.
- Tues. Feb. 14 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Thomas Chestre, *Launfal*, 131-1044.
Keep at it. It gets easier with practice.
- Thur. Feb. 16 Tournaments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries
Read: Thomas Chestre, *Launfal*, 131-1044.
In class test (1 hour).
Written assignment 3 due.
- Tues. Feb. 21 Reading Week
Thur. Feb. 23 Reading Week
- Tues. Feb. 28 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Harris, *End of Byzantium*, pp. xvii–45.
- Thur. Mar. 2 Fall of Constantinople
Read: *Mazaris's Journey to Hades* (excerpts in OWL)
- Tues. Mar. 7 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Harris, *End of Byzantium*, pp. 46–102.

- Thur. Mar. 9 Fall of Constantinople
Read: "A Turkish Hero": Ashikpashazade, *Othman Comes to Power* (available in OWL)
Bertrandon de la Brocquière, *The Travels*, in *Early Travels in Palestine*, ed. & tr. by Thomas Wright (London, 1848), 333-49.
Available through the Internet Archive:
<https://archive.org/details/earlytravelsinp00arcuqoog/page/333/mode/2up>
- Tues. Mar. 14 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Harris, *End of Byzantium*, pp. 103–154.
- Thur. Mar. 16 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Documents on the schism (available in OWL).
- Tues. Mar. 21 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Harris, *End of Byzantium*, pp. 155–206.
- Thur. Mar. 23 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Nicolò Barbaro, *Diary of the Siege of Constantinople*.
This is available at:
<https://deremilitari.org/2016/08/the-siege-of-constantinople-in-1453-according-to-nicolo-barbaro/>
Read the introductory blurb, but start into the text near the end, with the paragraph beginning "On the twenty-ninth of May, the last day of the siege" (just search "last day").
- Tues. Mar. 28 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Tursun Beg, *The History of Mehmed the Conqueror* (available in OWL).
- Thur. Mar. 30 Fall of Constantinople
Read: Harris, *End of Byzantium*, pp. 207–258.
- Written assignment 4 due.**
- Tues. April 4 Fall of Constantinople
Conclusion
- Thur. April 6 Some summarizing thoughts, exam preparation
- Tues. Apr. 13 - 30 Exam period