

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**Medieval Studies 1022**

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Mondays 5:30-7:00, Wednesdays 5:30-7:00

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5-7 p.m. by zoom

T.A. Brianne Durant  
University College \*\*\*\*  
Office Hours: \*\*\*\*

**COVID-update:** This course is now scheduled for Con Hall, UC 3110, which holds 30 students under the Covid restrictions. My plan for the course, which has a current enrolment of just over 60 students, is for each of you to attend one class in three classes, and I hope to move to one class per week by the end of September at the latest. Our tutorial assistant will be assigning you to your inperson class in the day or two before classes actually begin. Note that the time at which this course was originally scheduled has changed somewhat, and it is now squarely in the time period when normally no other courses are scheduled. Effectively this means that once every three classes you will come to class for the lecture/discussion in class, and for the other two meetings you will be able to attend by zoom. My hope is that by the second term we will all be in the classroom for every class. Note that the time will not change; this is our scheduled time for the year. The two midterms are scheduled during class times; some of you may be writing the first one through OWL or proctored via zoom, while others write in the classroom. We'll make it work. But note that this is a blended course; you will need to be in the classroom once every three classes.

**Academic Calendar Description**

This foundation course will over the year introduce civilization and thought in Europe and the Mediterranean between 400 and 1500, with emphasis on the medieval roots of many modern institutions and attitudes, including philosophy, technology, law, governance, courtly love and attitudes to women, warfare, art and archaeology, Christianity and Islam, literature, music and coinage.

Antirequisite(s): Medieval Studies 1025F/G, 1026F/G, Medieval Studies 1020E  
3 hours, 1.0 course

## Course Description

This course introduces the Middle Ages, looking at the major developments of technology and ideas, of religion and the development of countries and nations. We will look at Charlemagne and Alfred, Eleanor of Aquitaine and Abbess Hild of Whitby, Bernard of Clairvaux and Pope Sylvester II at the turn of the first millennium. This year we will also focus on medieval bodies, looking at the parts of the human body and what information available in the Middle Ages tells us about the health and welfare of the human body. We will consider the five senses, medicine, sex and sexuality, life and death, reliquaries and resurrections, in an effort to determine what ordinary and extraordinary people in the medieval world knew and believed about the human body and its functions.

The detailed syllabus will offer a set of websites for most classes, as well as an introductory paragraph or two situating the topic of the day. You should go through all of the websites and readings before the class, thinking about the material presented, taking notes as necessary, and engaging closely with the material. Classes will largely be run as discussions, not lectures, after a preliminary mini-lecture. This means that your engagement with the material, and your willingness to discuss it in class, will be a significant feature of the course. You will not be sufficiently engaged with the course if you just come to class and take notes from the class discussion, or



Participation Marks - 5%  
Participation bonus marks - up to 3%

check the course website for the class reviews which the teaching team will provide. At the same time, you should use your discretion; some of the websites are very full and detailed, with more detail than is necessary for you at this level. Others are quite short clips, and still others are extended but user-friendly videos. Also, some of the websites are there so that you can develop a critical understanding of how to assess websites and especially the quality of their information. Some effort has been made to provide different kinds of material each week, to appeal to different learning preferences.

## Required Textbooks

Beroul, *The Romance of Tristan*. Intro and trans Alan S. Fedrick (London: Penguin, 1978).

Jack Hartnell, *Medieval Bodies: Life, Death and Art in the Middle Ages* (London: Wellcome Collection, 2019).

*Vinland Sagas*. Tr. Keneva Kunz, Ed. Gísli Sigurðsson (London: Penguin, 2008).

## Course Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Mid-term 1 - Nov. 11	20%
Mid-term 2 - Feb. 3	25%
Online assignments 2 @ 7.5%	15%
Final Examination	35%

## Mid-terms and Final Examination:

The two mid-terms and the final examination will have short-answer and identification questions amounting to about 25% of the total, and short and long essay questions whose value will be about 75% of the total. Sample midterms and final examinations will be posted as study aids.

## Online Assignments:

Five times during the year (with an optional extra sixth available only to those who have already

submitted two assignments) I will post a research question two days before the assignment is due. In the intervening time, you will use the course materials and other references to craft an answer to the question in one thousand words (references are additional, and you may use any reference system that is appropriate and consistent), to be submitted in the Assignments portal on OWL by the deadline. The questions will be relevant to the material just studied in class. You must complete one assignment between September and December. 2 @ 7.5% each

**Participation:** These marks will be for attendance at the whole class, evidence of having completed the class preparation, and for good contributions to class discussions. Good contributions need not be lengthy or frequent; they should however be respectful of the class environment, engaged with the material, investigative in nature, and relevant to the issue currently under discussion. 5%

**Course Syllabus (see OWL website for very detailed materials for each class):**

September: Hartnell's *Medieval Bodies*, late antiquity and early Christianity

October: material culture, monasticism and asceticism, rise of Islam

November: Tours, Charlemagne, liturgy and education, life in the tenth century

December: *Vinland Sagas*

January: medieval manuscripts and coins, the first millennium, the eleventh century

February: Crusades, music, the twelfth century

March: courtly love, Beroul's *Tristan*, thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, leisure and work, food, feasts, revisit *Medieval Bodies*, medievalism

April: review

**Materials I am obliged by Senate, by the Faculty, by the council of Associate Deans, or by the Department of English and Writing Studies to provide:**

Extra Material Required for Undergraduates:

1. 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.
2. Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

3. 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](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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

#### 4. 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](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.

#### 5. 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](mailto:MentalHealth@Western):

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

#### COVID EXTRA MATERIAL:

**Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using Zoom.** You will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will not be recorded.\*

More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.

\* Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom for security reasons only, please discuss this with your instructor in advance of the test or examination.

#### 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](#).

### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- " for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- " absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- " assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- " if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

**If you make use of a self-reported absence or a medical certificate absence for Midterm 1 or Midterm 2, the makeup will be a *viva voce* examination over zoom with me on the Monday morning which immediately follows the end of your absence as dictated by the absence form or the medical accommodation from the academic counsellor of your home faculty. Do not email me. I will send you a zoom link on Sunday evening. Note that makeup times are at the convenience of the instructor and not the student, so it does not matter if the time chosen is inconvenient for you. The material covered will be the same as in the midterm, but it will be an oral test whose format will be explained to you at the beginning of the test. Normally the test will last 30-40 minutes.**

**If you make use of a self-reported absence or a medical certificate absence for either of the online assignments, again, do not email. You will be obliged to complete the next assignment. That is, if you do not do the last available assignment in the first term, you will be obliged to do the first assignment in the second term. If you do not complete the last available assignment in the second term, this assignment will be converted into a *viva voce* examination over zoom with me, for the details of which see the procedure above.**

### **Recording of Class Meetings:**

Our classes will not be recorded. If we are obliged to shift to emergency remote delivery of this course, the two class meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 p.m. will be entirely over zoom, but will not be recorded.

One reason for not recording is privacy issues, and another is that you should focus and pay attention during the class. All the research suggests that when students can “watch” the class at a time of their own choosing they “forget” or they “multitask” and the effort is largely wasted. A third reason is that no one has offered me a webcam with which to record these sessions, and I’m pretty sure my faculty would tell me to buy one, learn how to use it, hire someone to record the class, and figure out how to upload it myself (apparently OWL does not permit the uploading of files this large). That’s a lot of work for something I consider a complete waste of time, my time and yours.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. (Note there is no circumstance in which I will give written permission.) I cannot stop you from bad behaviour on this point, but I can say unequivocally that this would be bad behaviour.

### **Contingency plan for an in-person class suddenly being locked down and required to move to emergency remote delivery**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online and synchronously at the times indicated in the timetable. The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online and synchronously as determined by the course instructor.

### **Statements concerning Online Etiquette**

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- please “arrive” to class on time
- please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- to minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- [suggested for classes larger than 30 students] In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
- [suggested for cases where video is used] please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- unless invited by your instructor, do **not** share your screen in the meeting

The course t.a. and instructor will act as co-hosts and moderators for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- if you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking

- self-identify when speaking.
- remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.