

# ***Course Syllabus***

## **Course Information**

HIST 3318.001, **Medieval Europe**  
Fall 2008  
Monday and Wednesday 2:30-3:45

## **Professor Contact Information**

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## **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the society and culture of Western Europe from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. This period is one of dynamic growth and saw the development of many key characteristics of modern “western civilization.” The twelfth century was a period in which constitutive elements of antecedent civilizations (primarily Classical, early Christian and Germanic) became fully integrated in the west. Just as the thirteenth century saw a “flowering” of medieval culture in Europe, so the fourteenth was a period of crisis and disintegration in philosophy, religion, politics, and society. Nominalism, The Great Schism, the Hundred Year’s War and the Black Death, however, gave rise to traditions and institutions which still inform the west today and define its unique culture. Evident also in these centuries are diverse paths of development in the west. While “gothic” culture flourished in northern Europe, the medieval city-states of northern and central Italy were creating different political and aesthetic traditions. By the late fourteenth century, Italy was ready to reevaluate the legacies of Greece and Rome. As a consequence, by the close of the fifteenth century, cultural, intellectual and political forces were in motion that would ultimately splinter Christendom and bring to a close this “Age of Faith.”

The course will focus on three general topics: (1) the social and economic developments that contributed to the emergence and unique character of this period; (2) political thought and experience in the realms of both Church and State; and (3) intellectual and religious currents. Emphasis will be placed on primary sources.

## **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will be introduced to the history and culture of Western Europe from the twelfth century to the fifteenth through the study and analysis of a variety of primary source material including chronicles, poetry, biography, philosophy and religious texts and art work. Through this course

of study, students will more fully understand this crucial phase of European history as well as hone critical reading and expository writing skills.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Brian Tierney, *Western Europe in the Middle Ages, 300-1475* (sixth edition).  
Brian Tierney, *The Middle Ages vol. I: Sources of Medieval History* (sixth edition).  
*The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*  
Chretien de Troyes, *Yvain*.  
Geoffroy De Villehardouin and Jean De Joinville, *Chronicles of the Crusades*.  
Jean Froissart, *Chronicles*.

### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

- I. (August 25 & 27) Economic and Social Change: City and Country Life  
Tierney, pp. 271-292  
Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 47-51 and 79-81
- II. (September 3) Pilgrimage, Crusade and Knighthood  
Tierney, pp. 251-269 and 292-296  
Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 40-43  
Electronic Reserve: Old French Crusade Songs  
Villehardouin, *The Conquest of Constantinople*, pp. 29-93
- III. (September 8 & 10) The Renaissance in Religion and Learning  
Tierney, pp. 298-318  
Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 44-46 (for 45 read from the bottom of p.151 through p. 155 only)  
*The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, pp. 57-156
- IV. (September 15 & 17) The Flowering of Romanesque Culture  
Tierney, pp. 427-433 and 446-459  
Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 32 (first document on p. 107), 56 (p. 187-189), 57 and 59  
Chretien de Troyes, *Yvain*
- V. (September 22 & 24) Medieval Polities I: The Monarchies  
Tierney, pp. 320-335 and 384-402  
Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 60, 61, 75-78  
Jean de Joinville, *The Life of St. Louis*, pp. 163-179, 191-194 and 317-353
- VI. (September 29 & October 1) Medieval Polities II: Empire and Papacy  
Tierney, pp. 335-341, 345-353 and 375-380  
Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 62-66 and 72-74
- VII. (October 6 & 8) Medieval Polities III: The Italian City-States  
Electronic Reserve: Villani, Statues of Volterra, John of Viterbo, Bonvesin de la Riva  
Mid-term exam

- VIII. (October 13 & 15) Heretics and Friars  
 Tierney, pp. 353-373  
 Tierney, *Sources*, pp. nos. 67-70  
 Electronic Reserve: Thomas of Celano, *The First Life of St. Francis*, Book I, chapters 1, 2, 4-10, 12-16, 20-24, 28-30.
- IX. (October 20 & 22) High Gothic Culture: Scholasticism and the rise of the Universities  
 Tierney, pp. 404-25 and 433-446  
 Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 82-84
- X. (October 27 & 29) Crises in Religion and the Church  
 Tierney, 475-492  
 Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 85-87 and 98-99  
 Electronic Reserve: Meister Eckhart, "Jesus Entered," "Woman, the Hour is Coming," and "Like a Vase of Massive Gold"
- XI. (November 3 & 5) Fourteenth Century Politics and the Hundred Year's War  
 Tierney, pp. 494-531  
 Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 90 and 101  
 Jean Froissart, *Chronicles*, pp. 146-166, 211-230, 421-471
- XII. (November 10 & 12) Death, Decline and Renewal in Late Medieval Society and Culture  
 Tierney, pp. 463-473 and 539-558  
 Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 88, 89, 93, 94, 106-110  
 Jean Froissart, *Chronicles*, pp. 111-112  
 Electronic Reserve: Petrarch, "The Plague and the World's Calamities" and "Memories of a Long Life; and Woes of an Evil World"
- XIII. (November 17 & 19) Schism, Conciliarism and Reform  
 Tierney, pp. 526-531 and 575-587  
 Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 104 and 105  
 Jean de Froissart, *Chronicles*, pp. 201-210  
 Electronic Reserve: John Wyclif, "The Pastoral Office, part ii" and Dietrich of Niem, "Ways of Uniting and Reforming the Church"
- XIV. (November 24 & 26) Emperors and Tyrants: Imperial disintegration and the failure of the Italian City-Republics  
 Tierney, pp. 531-538, Tierney, *Sources*, nos. 100 and 103  
 Electronic Reserve: Marsiglio of Padua, Bartolus of Sassoferrato, Coluccio Salutati, Leonardo Bruni
- XV. (November 1 & 3) The End of the Hundred Years War and the Growth of National Monarchy  
 Tierney, pp. 563-574, 589-604, 606-608  
 Tierney, *Sources*, no. 102
- XVI. (November 8)  
 Review for Final Exam

## Grading Policy

1. One in-class mid-term exam will be given on Wednesday, October 8. (25%)
2. One final exam will be given during finals week which will cover the entire course. (30%)
3. Two short papers (3 typed pages minimum, 5 maximum each) will be required. These will be based on the primary source readings. The first will be due in class *no later than* Wednesday, October 24 and the second *no later than* Wednesday, November 19. Paper topics will be selected from study questions which will be provided for primary readings. Papers will be due at the beginning of class on the date the chosen text has been assigned. ***Late papers will not be accepted.*** (30%)
4. Class participation. Reading in primary sources have been assigned for every week. Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in discussions and/or written evaluations based on these texts. (15%)

## Course & Instructor Policies

Make-up exams will be given only when adequate cause is presented for missing the scheduled test. Any exam or quiz missed for other reasons is calculated as a 0.

## Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

## **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

## **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative

intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***