



# SYLLABUS

## HISTORY 507

### the history of medieval christianity

The Ohio State University  
Winter Quarter 2012  
Tuesday & Thursday 11:30-1:18  
31 Hitchcock Hall

**Instructor:** Prof. Alison I. Beach  
**Office:** 257 Dulles Hall  
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## A. Course Objectives and Requirements

### Course Objectives

#### Content:

1. To become familiar with the spiritual, intellectual, and institutional dimensions of medieval Christianity...
2. To trace the historical development of Christian theology in the Middle Ages...
3. To consider the interaction between Christian thought and practice and secular society (including political, economic, and social forces)...
4. To explore the interaction among Christians, Jews, and Muslims in Middle Ages.

#### Skills:

1. To read and think critically about the sources of the history of medieval Christianity...
2. To speak thoughtfully and coherently about primary and secondary course readings in class discussions...
3. To prepare a well-researched and well-written research paper focusing on some aspect of medieval Christianity.

#### Historical Study Expected Learning Outcomes:

History courses develop students' knowledge of how past events influence today's society and help them to understand how human beings view themselves.

1. Students acquire a perspective on history and an understanding of the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students display knowledge about the origins and nature of contemporary issues and develop a foundation for future comparative understanding.
3. Students think, speak, and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

## Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation in Discussions and Group Activities (10% of final grade)
2. 8 1-page Written Responses to the Course Readings (15% of final grade)

The purpose of these short writings is to help you work through the primary source material and to generate discussion in class. Several study questions will be available on Carmen each week. You may choose to focus your reaction on one of these questions or to write about some aspect of the week's reading that interests or puzzles you. In these papers, please avoid voicing reactions of hostility, judgment, congratulation, and the like; the purpose of the writings is to foster historical understanding. These assignments will not be accepted late. Papers will receive a grade of 0, 1 or 2. A total of eight total points is required, so the more 2's you earn, the fewer papers you need to write. Of course, you can continue to submit thought papers after you have earned your eight points (a number of students have done this in the past because they found the exercise of writing the papers helpful for understanding the material), but the maximum number of points you can earn will remain eight. Together, your thought papers will account for 15% of your final grade.

3. Final Exam (35% of final grade)
4. 10-page Research Paper (40% of final grade)

## Grading Scale

From	To	Letter Grade
100%	93%	A
92%	90%	A-
89%	87%	B+
86%	83%	B
82%	80%	B-
79%	77%	C+
76%	73%	C
72%	70%	C-
69%	67%	D+
66%	63%	D
62%	60%	D-
59% and Below		F

## B. Course Readings

Books available for purchase in the bookstore:

Augustine, *Confessions*.

*The Rule of Saint Benedict*.

Peter Brown, *The Cult of the Saints: Its Rise and Function in Late Antiquity*.

Lester Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe*.

R.I. Moore, *The Origins of a Persecuting Society*.

**All other readings are posted on Carmen!**

## C. Schedule of Classes & Readings

### January 3

#### Course Introduction & Overview

- Tuesday 1/3: “The *Christian Middle Ages?*”
- Begin Augustine, *Confessions*

### January 5, 10 & 12

#### The Roots of Medieval Christianity

- Thursday 1/5: Augustine and the Christian World View in Late Antiquity
- Continue Augustine, *Confessions*
- Tuesday 1/10: Discussion of Augustine, *Confessions*
- Finish Augustine, *Confessions*
- Begin Peter Brown, *The Cult of the Saints: its Rise and Function in Late Antiquity*
- Thursday 1/12: Discussion of Peter Brown, *The Cult of the Saints*
- Finish Peter Brown, *The Cult of the Saints*

### January 17 & 19

#### Benedict, Gregory & the Christianization of the West

- Tuesday 1/17: The Roots of Medieval Monasticism
- Benedict, *Rule for Monks*
- Thursday 1/19: Gregory the Great & His Benedict
- Gregory the Great, *Dialogues* Book 2

### January 24

#### The Carolingian ‘Renaissance’

- Tuesday 1/24: The Church in the Carolingian Empire
- Charlemagne, *Admonitio Generalis* (789)

### January 26

#### The Cluniacs and the Latin Church

- Thursday 1/26: What can William of Aquitaine tell us about early medieval Christianity?
- Foundation Charter of Cluny

### January 31

#### European Christianity at the Millennium

- Tuesday 1/31: The State of the Church in the Year 1000 -- Structures and Beliefs
- Begin Lester K. Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe*

### February 2 & 7

#### Eleventh-Century ‘Revolutions’

- Thursday 2/2: The Emergency of the Papacy
- Letters of Henry IV and Gregory VII, *Dictatus Papae*, Papal Election Decree
- Tuesday 2/7: How the Heavy Plow Changed the World
- Continue Lester K. Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy*

## **February 9**

### The 'Renaissance' and 'Reformation' of the Twelfth Century

- Thursday 2/9: "The 'Evangelical Awakening' of the Twelfth Century"
- Finish Lester Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy*

## **February 14, 16 & 21**

### Encountering "The Other": Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the High Middle Ages

- Tuesday 2/14: Imagining 'the Other'
- R.I. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society*
- Thursday 2/16: What were the Crusades really about?
- Fulcher of Chartres, Urban II's Call to the First Crusade
- Thursday 2/21: The View FROM the 'other'
- Jewish and Muslim accounts of the actions of the Christian crusaders

## **February 23 & 28**

### Belief & Unbelief

- Thursday 2/23: Faith Seeking Understanding: the Emergence of Scholasticism
- Anselm of Canterbury, *Why God Became Man* and *the Proslogion*
- Tuesday 2/28: Heresy!
- Account of the Activities of Henry of Lausanne

**NO CLASS ON THURSDAY, 1 MARCH - MARCO INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM**

## **March 6 & 8**

### Religious Responses of the Laity

- Tuesday 3/6: Why did St. Francis Strip Naked in the Middle of Town?
- Thomas of Celano, *The Life of St Francis*
- Thursday 3/8: Witches, Charms, and Holy Greyhounds: the 'Christian Middle Ages' Revisited
- Thomas of Celano, *Dialogue on Miracles*
- John Van Engen, "The 'Christian Middle Ages' as an Historiographical Problem"

## **D. Departmental and University Policies**

### Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://sja.osu.edu/page.asp?id=1>).

### Statement on Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>

### Official Enrollment

All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.