



SYLLABUS

HISTORY 3235 MEDIEVAL EUROPE I: 284-1000

The Ohio State University
Autumn Semester 2012
Monday & Wednesday 11:10-12:30
Macquigg Lab 159

Instructor: Prof. Alison I. Beach

Office: 257 Dulles Hall

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:45-2:45

Telephone: 292-6594

email: beach.174@osu.edu

course website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/osumedievalhistory1/>

A. Course Objectives and Requirements

Course Objectives

Content:

1. To understand the complex and interacting historical factors that led to the decline of the Roman Empire and the birth of 'Europe'...
2. To become familiar with the political, economic, spiritual, intellectual, and institutional dimensions of medieval European civilization to c. 1000...
3. To trace the historical development of towns & cities (urbanization) in the Middle Ages.

Skills:

1. To read and think critically about the sources of the history of medieval History...
2. To speak thoughtfully and coherently about primary and secondary course readings in class discussions...
3. To research and prepare a media-based study of an historical object that reflects some aspect of medieval European culture.

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. Class Participation (10% of final grade)
2. 3 Reading and 3 Map Quizzes (10% of final grade)
3. 5-page Critical Book Analysis (15% of final grade) *due in class on Monday, 24 September*
4. Midterm Exam (20% of final grade) *in class on Wednesday, 10 October*
5. Media-Based 'Object Project' (20% of final grade) *due electronically on Wednesday, 28 November*
6. Final Exam (25% of final grade) *on Tuesday, 11 December from 10-11:45*

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:

Julian D. Richards, *The Vikings: a Very Short Introduction* (2005)

William Rosen, *Justinian's Flea: The First Great Plague and the End of the Roman Empire* (2007)

Barbara H. Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*. 3rd edition (2009)

Barbara H. Rosenwein, *Reading the Middle Ages* (2011)

All other readings are posted on the course website!

<https://sites.google.com/site/osumediievalhistory1/>

C. Schedule of Classes & Readings

Lecture	Date	Topic	Textbook	Primary	Secondary
1	8/22	Introduction and Background			
2	8/27	Constantine and the Formation of a 'Christian Roman Empire'	21-40	Edict of Milan (1.1); Eusebius, <i>History of the Church</i> (1.2)	Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i> , I-36
3	8/29	The Arrival and Impact of the 'Germans' 1	40-45	Jordanes, <i>The Origins and Deeds of the Goths</i> (on course website)	Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i> , 37-63
	9/3	No Class: Labor Day			Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i> , 64-118
4	9/5	The Arrival and Impact of the 'Germans' 2		Jordanes, <i>The Origins and Deeds of the Goths</i> (on course website)	Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i> , 118-163
	9/10	NO CLASS: Individual Visits to Office Hours (<i>Mandatory: by Midterm Exam</i>)			Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i> , 167-223
5	9/12	Justinian & the Survival of the Roman Empire in the East	54-57	Procopius, <i>Secret History</i> (on course website)	Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i> , 227-268
6	9/17	The Roots of a New Western Europe: Clovis and Frankish Society	75-87	Avitus of Vienne, Letter to Clovis (1.14); Council of Orléans (1.15); Gregory of Tours, <i>History</i> (1.17)	Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i> , 269-324
7	9/19	Britain and Ireland, Spain and Italy	87-99	The Visigothic Code (1.16)	
8	9/24	Fleas, Rats, & the 'Fall' of the Roman Empire			DUE: Critical Analysis of Rosen, <i>Justinian's Flea</i>
9	9/26	Religious Life in Western Europe – Monasticism		Rule of St. Benedict (1.9)	
10	10/1	The Resilience of Byzantium	68-70; 101-108	John of Damascus, on Holy Images (2.3); The Synod of 754 (2.4); The Chronicle of Theophanes Confessor (2.5)	
11	10/3	The Glory of the Abbasids & the Civilization of Al-Andalus	108-117	Muhammad ibn Ishaq, Life of Muhammad (3.7); Al-Bukhari, On Fasting (3.9); Abu Dawud al-Sijistani,	

				Compilation of Law (3.10); Ibn ‘Abd Rabbihi, I have Never Seen (3.13); Dunash ben Labrat, There Came a Voice (3.14)	
12	10/8	Object Project Organization and Google Sites Orientation		Handout/Video on using Google Sites	
	10/10	Midterm Exam			
13	10/15	Charlemagne	118-126	The <i>Admonitio Generalis</i> (3.17); Einhard, <i>Life of Charlemagne</i> (on course website)	
14	10/17	The ‘Carolingian Renaissance’ & Reformation	126-138	The Double Capitulary of Thionville for the <i>missi</i> (3.18)	
15	10/22	The Crisis of the Carolingians & the End of an Empire		Dhuoda, Handbook for her Son (3.19)	
16	10/24	Violence in the Early Middle Ages I: The Concept of ‘Just War’		Augustine, <i>The City of God</i> (selections posted on course website)	
17	10/29	Viking Week!	152-155	Three Sources on the Ravages of the Northmen in Frankland, c. 843-912 (on course website)	Richards, <i>The Vikings: a Very Short Introduction</i>
18	10/31				
19	11/5	The Concept of ‘Feudalism’	156-159	Polyptyque of the Church of St. Mary of Marseille (3.1)	Elizabeth A.R. Brown, “The Tyranny of a Concept: Feudalism and Historians of Medieval Europe” (on course website)
20	11/7	Violence in the Early Middle Ages 2: The Peace and Truce of God	159-160	Andrew of Fleury, The Miracles of St. Benedict (4.5); Acts of the Councils of Charroux and Poitiers (on course website)	
	11/12	No Class: Veteran’s Day			
21	11/14	New forms of Kingship	161-172	‘Older Life’ of Queen Mathilda (4.13); Thiemar of Merseberg,	

				The Accession of Henry II (4.14)	
22	11/19	Agriculture and the Roots of the Economic Take-Off	177-187	Capitulary <i>de Villis</i> (on course website)	
	11/21	No Class: Thanksgiving Break			
23	11/26	The Crisis of Church and 'State'	187-193	Pope Gelasius, Power and Authority (on course website)	
24	11/28	Life, Death, Sickness, Health: The State of Things in the Year 1000			DUE online: Object Project
	12/3	Review for Final Exam			
	12/11	Final Exam: 10:00-11:45 in Macquigg Lab 159			

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.