

**HISTORY 2401E**  
**Medieval Europe**  
**Fall/Winter 2022-23**  
**Fridays, 1:30-3:30pm, SSC-3018**  
**In-person**

**Instructor: Dr. Michael Fulton**

Office Hours: TBA

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**This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.**

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate that part of the course be delivered on-line synchronously (i.e., on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable) / asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted on-line as determined by the course instructor. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

**Course Description:**

This course examines the transformation of European economies, political structures, religious and social institutions, and cultures in the thousand years between the fall of Rome and the European voyages of discovery, and the degree to which ordinary people shaped their societies and affected the course of historical change.

**Course Syllabus:**

This course is intended to provide a broad introduction to the study of Europe during the Middle Ages. This was a dynamic period in European history, an age of great political transformation, social development, economic transition and religious controversy. Architects built increasingly grand and ornate structures, while artists developed new art forms. Mounted knights secured their place of prominence on the battlefield, only to have it snatched away by the common soldier. Classical knowledge was salvaged from the ashes of Rome, reacquired through foreign caretakers, and ideas were reinterpreted as literacy and education expanded. Trade networks were developed and expanded, reaching eastward as the boundaries of the known world were pushed back. By investigating a range of primary sources, students will gain insights into what life was like during this period, the priorities and concerns of various people, and how historians use these sources to build our understanding of the past.

## Learning Objectives

By their completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Express an appreciation of, and ability to analyze, the principal political, religious and cultural developments of the medieval period, their causes and significance.
- Compare developments in different parts of Europe to identify similarities and differences between political, religious and cultural institutions and traditions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the course material by constructing arguments, both in speech and formal writing, that reveal an ability to analyze primary sources and conduct historical research.
- Discuss and critically evaluate texts, conveying an awareness of influences, biases and historical significance, as well as the ways in which sources can be interpreted differently, leading to historiographical debates.

## Course Materials:

Required texts:

- Clifford Backman, *The Worlds of Medieval Europe*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Oxford University Press, 2022)
- Barbara H. Rosenwein. *Reading the Middle Ages*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Toronto University Press, 2018)

## Methods of Evaluation:

Tutorial participation	20%	Weekly
Research essay 1	20%	Due Tuesday 8 November 2022, 6:00am (upload to OWL)
Midterm essay	20%	TBA [ <i>December exam period</i> ] (upload to OWL)
Research essay 2	20%	Due Tuesday 7 March 2023, 6:00am (upload to OWL)
Final essay	20%	TBA [ <i>April exam period</i> ] (upload to OWL)

*Regardless of the marks received on assignments, in order to qualify to pass the course, students must:*

- Attend at least 70% (17 of 24) of tutorials [excused absences do not count towards the attendance total; any tutorial absence will count against a student's participation marks].
- Complete and submit all four (4) essays and achieve a mark of at least 40% on each.

## *Tutorial Participation*

Students are expected to attend all of their tutorials, arrive on time having completed the assigned readings, and engage in discussions of the weekly primary source materials. Each tutorial will be graded out of five (5): with up to two (2) marks awarded for attendance (marks will be deducted for late arrival/early departure), and up to three (3) marks based on students' level of engagement, preparedness and the insightfulness of their comments.

Tutorial A (002): Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm, STVH-2166

Tutorial B (003): Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30pm, STVH-2166

Grade value: 20%

Due date: weekly

## ***Research Essays***

The research essays provide an opportunity for students to showcase their critical thinking and research skills. Students will have a choice of two topics (to be announced in class). Although the topics are set, students will have considerable freedom to approach their topic in a manner that best suits their personal interests and the findings of their research. Each essay should be argumentative and analytical, rather than descriptive – focus on ‘why’ rather than ‘what’. Essays should be about 2000 words (+/-200). More instructions relating to formatting can be found on OWL.

### ***Research essay 1***

Grade value: 20%

Due date: Tuesday 8 November 2022, 6:00am (essays must be uploaded to OWL)

Late policy: late essays will not be accepted after Tuesday 15 November 2022, 6:00am.

Choice of Topics: *topics will be announced in the first class of the first term.*

### ***Research essay 2***

Grade value: 20%

Due date: Tuesday 7 March 2023, 6:00am (essays must be uploaded to OWL)

Late policy: late essays will not be accepted after Tuesday 14 March 2022, 6:00am.

Choice of Topics: *topics will be announced in the first class of the second term*

A strong essay will include a range of primary and secondary sources, be logically structured, and maintain a clear focus throughout. A single overarching thesis should be supported by three (3) main arguments, which, in turn, should be supported by clear evidence and examples. At least three (3) primary and six (6) secondary sources should be used.

You Research Essays should:

- Have a clear thesis supported by strong arguments
- Have a logical structure and maintain focus
- Make use of evidence to support points (both primary and secondary sources)
  - These should be academic sources (scholarly books and peer-reviewed journal articles)
- Be clearly written with no spelling or grammar mistakes
- Be properly formatted:
  - Written in English
  - Word-processed (written on a computer)
  - About 2,000 words (+/-200)
  - 12pt. Times New Roman font and double-spaced
- No title page is necessary, but please include 5 things at the top of your first page:
  - Your name
  - Your student number
  - The course code (History 2401E)
  - A title
  - The date of submission
- Pages should be numbered consecutively
- Standard margins should be used (about 1 inch on all sides)
- Make use of properly formatted footnotes and a bibliography according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* – failure to include both references (footnotes) and a bibliography will result in a mark of 0%.
  - For instructions, see [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

Finally, please proofread your essay before handing it in. I suggest:

- Leaving at least a day between finishing your essay and proofreading it.
- Read it out loud to yourself or play it back to yourself through a computer reader.
- Have a friend or family member read your essay – they may find small errors you overlook.

When researching for your essay, please be sure to make use of proper academic sources – books and journal articles. Wikipedia articles, websites and encyclopedia articles are **not** academic sources and should not be used. For journal articles, you have access to online databases, like JSTOR, just be sure the articles you use are not too old and outdated (if it was written before your parents were born, it might be useful to show historiographical developments, but it not current scholarship). An excellent starting point for locating primary sources is Fordham University's Internet Sourcebook, at: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/modsbook.asp>. Short excerpts of primary sources can also be found in 'sourcebooks' (like the Rosenwein textbook), which can be found through the library. Please note that neither of the course textbooks can be used towards your minimum number of required sources.

### ***Midterm Essay***

This take-home essay is an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned and the skills that they have developed during the first term. The essay will be due at the end of the December exam slot assigned to the course by the Registrar; the topic of the essay will be announced 7 days prior to this. This is not a research essay, and students should only make use of their notes and materials assigned in the course (the apparent use or consultation of other materials will be considered cheating). Essays should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words and formatted like the research essays. More instructions will be provided in the last class of the fall term.

Grade value: 20%

Due date: TBA [December exam period] (upload to OWL)

Late policy: Late essays will not be accepted unless the student has received permission from their home Academic Counselling office.

Topic: TBA

### ***Final Exam***

This take-home essay is an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned and the skills that they have developed during the second term. The essay will be due at the end of the April exam slot assigned to the course by the Registrar; the topic of the essay will be announced 7 days prior to this. This is not a research essay, and students should only make use of their notes and materials assigned in the course (the apparent use or consultation of other materials will be considered cheating). Essays should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words and formatted like the research essays. More instructions will be provided in the last class of the fall term.

Grade value: 20%

Date: TBA [April exam period] (upload to OWL)

Late policy: Late essays will not be accepted unless the student has received permission from their home Academic Counselling office.

Topic: TBA

**Use of Electronic Devices:**

The use of audio or video recording devices during lectures is forbidden.

**Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,

for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness