

History 2401E Medieval Europe

2023-24

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the history of Europe from the collapse of the western half of the Roman Empire in the 5th century up to the Renaissance and dawn of the early modern period in about the 15th century. 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. Modern governmental institutions formed as trade networks expanded and the boundaries of the known world were pushed back.

COURSE SYLLABUS

The first half of the course will trace the narrative of this period, providing a chronological overview of what happened where. The second half will take a thematic look at various aspects of life during this period and how it was experienced by different people. 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.

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.

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials. They should arrive prepared (having read the assigned readings) and ready to participate in and contribute to discussions. Students are expected to complete all assignments.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Tutorial participation	25.0%	Weekly
Quizzes	20.0%	Weekly (complete in class using OWL)
Essay proposal 1	2.5%	Due Thu. 5 Oct., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)
Essay 1 (2000 words)	20.0%	Due Sat. 11 Nov., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)
Essay proposal 2	2.5%	Due Thu. 1 Feb., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)
Essay 2 (3000 words)	30.0%	Due Sat. 9 Mar., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)

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.

Grade value: 25%

Due date: weekly

Late policy: missed tutorial marks cannot be 'made-up' – full attendance is expected.

Quizzes

There will be a short quiz each week relating to the weekly lecture material and accompanying readings. Each student's best eighteen (18) quizzes will count towards their final grade. If a quiz is missed, it will receive a mark of 0%. There will be no extensions or re-writes for missed quizzes (for any reason), but as there will be a quiz each week, a missed quiz should not hurt a student's final grade. Students must attend the weekly lecture in order to attempt the corresponding quiz.

Grade value: 20%

Due date: weekly

Late policy: no extensions or rewrites will be offered (no exceptions)

Essay Proposals

Ahead of each essay, students will submit a proposal. This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have begun thinking about their essay and a chance to gain valuable feedback from their TA as they continue to conduct research and begin planning to write their essay. The format of both proposals is the same. See OWL for essay topics.

Proposals should include:

- A summary of what the essay will argue and how it will do this (less than 250 words).

- A point-form outline of the essays structure – its three main points and a rough sense of what will be addressed in each (there might be considerable overlap between the summary and the outline, this is okay).
- A bibliography of six (6) secondary sources and three (3) primary sources that might be used when composing the essay.

All together, the summary, outline and bibliography should fit on two pages.

Proposal 1 grade value: 2.5%

Proposal 1 due date: Thu. 5 Oct., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)

Late policy: proposals will be accepted (without penalty) for one week after the deadline; no proposal will be accepted three weeks after the deadline.

Proposal 2 grade value: 2.5% each

Proposal 2 due date: Thu. 1 Feb., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)

Late policy: proposals will be accepted (without penalty) for one week after the deadline; no proposal will be accepted three weeks after the deadline.

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’.

The first essay should be about 2000 words in length (+/-200); the second should be about 3000 words in length (+/-300). More instructions and the essay topics can be found on OWL.

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.

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)
 - Only academic sources should be used (scholarly books and peer-reviewed journal articles) – significant penalties will be applied for the use of non-academic sources.
- Be clearly written with no spelling or grammar mistakes
- Be properly formatted:
 - Written in English
 - Word-processed (written on a computer)
 - 12pt. Times New Roman font with 1.5 spacing
- 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 (properly formatted footnotes) and a bibliography will result in a mark of 0%.*
 - For instructions, see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

When researching for your essay, please be sure to make use of proper academic sources. 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, through the library, just be sure the articles you use are not too old and no longer relevant (if it was written before your parents were born, it might be useful to show historiographical developments, but may now be outdated). An excellent starting point for locating primary sources is Fordham University's Internet Sourcebook, at: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/sbook.asp>. Short experts of primary sources can also be found in 'sourcebooks' (like the Rosenwein textbook), which can be found through the library. Please note that Backman textbook cannot be used towards the minimum number of required sources, and only one (1) source from the Rosenwein reader can be used towards your minimum required number of primary sources.

Essay 1 grade value: 20%

Essay 1 due date: Sat. 11 Nov., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)

Late policy: essays will be accepted (without penalty) for one week after the deadline; no essays will be accepted after that time.

Essay 2 grade value: 30%

Essay 2 due date: Sat. 3 Feb., before 11:59pm (upload to OWL)

Late policy: essays will be accepted (without penalty) for one week after the deadline; no essays will be accepted after that time.

Important, Please Note:

- **Condition to pass the course:** To pass the course, a student must attend at least fifteen (15) of the weekly tutorials. Tutorial absences approved by Academic Counselling do not count as 'attended' tutorials. Should a student fail to meet this threshold, they will receive a final grade no higher than 45%.
- **Essays will not be accepted without an acceptable proposal:** In order to submit an essay, students must have an approved proposal ahead of time. Proposals submitted more than a week late will receive a mark of 0%; however, students who did not submit a proposal, or whose proposal was judged unacceptable, have three (3) weeks following the original deadline (two weeks after the end of the grace period) to submit an acceptable proposal and qualify to turn in the corresponding essay. The acceptability of proposals will be judged by the course TA in accordance with the criteria listed above and the assigned topics posted on OWL.

- **No extensions for issues arising after a due date:** Recommendations for academic consideration will not be considered if the period in question begins *after the original due date*. In other words, extensions to the one week grace period will not be granted unless academic counselling rules that a student could not submit their assignment at any time during this period (i.e. if a the circumstances impairing a student's ability to submit their work arose after the due date, no extension to the one week grace period will be awarded). Students are expected to submit all work on time. To this end, students are encouraged to submit work early (updates will be accepted until the end of the grace period).

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts:

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

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Tentative list of topics to be covered

FALL TERM

Fri. 8 Sep.	Introduction
Fri. 15 Sep.	Legacy of Rome
Fri. 22 Sep.	Byzantines
<i>Fri. 29 Sep.</i>	<i>NO CLASS (Truth and Rec.)</i>
Fri. 6 Oct.	Gothic Italy
Fri. 13 Oct.	Franks
Fri. 20 Oct.	Vikings
Fri. 27 Oct.	Anglo-Saxons
<i>READING WEEK</i>	
Fri. 10 Nov.	Carolingian Decline
Fri. 17 Nov.	Norman Conquest
Fri. 24 Nov.	England & France
Fri. 1 Dec.	Hundred Years' War
Fri. 8 Dec.	Warfare

WINTER TERM

Fri. 12 Jan.	Popes & Emperors
Fri. 19 Jan.	Communes of Italy
Fri. 26 Jan.	Schism
Fri. 2 Feb.	Al-Andalus
Fri. 9 Feb.	Crusades
Fri. 16 Feb.	Social Order
<i>READING WEEK</i>	
Fri. 1 Mar.	Economics
Fri. 8 Mar.	Monasticism
Fri. 15 Mar.	Knowledge
Fri. 22 Mar.	Belief
<i>Fri. 29 Mar.</i>	<i>NO CLASS (Good Friday)</i>
Fri. 5 Apr.	<i>Health</i>

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Extensions and Late Assignments: Students are expected to submit all work on time. No extensions or exemptions will be granted for quizzes, these cannot be rescheduled or retaken (there is ample opportunity to succeed, as not all quizzes will count towards a student's final

grade). Extensions will not be granted for essays or proposals; however, students have a one-week grace period (168 hours) following the due date to submit their work without penalty. The cutoff point following this grace period will be enforced strictly and without exceptions. Requests for further accommodation issued by academic counselling will not be considered unless the stipulated period in question includes the due date and the entire grace period that follows (the assignment was *due* seven days before the end of the grace period). The grace period is effectively a blanket extension granted to everyone in acknowledgement that things come up (people get sick, accidents occur, technical issues arise, schedules get busy, etc.), but further extensions will not be granted on top of this. Students are encouraged to turn their work in early in order to avoid potential problems. Updates can be submitted until the end of the grace period.

Collaboration: All of the work produced by students needs to be the product of their own individual efforts. Although discussion of topics is to be expected, work submitted for grading needs to reflect original individual ideas and be written independently.

AI: All work submitted by students in this class is to be original and entirely their own. The use of generative AI tools (such as, but not limited to, ChatGPT) is not permitted in any form.

Privacy: Students' names may be divulged in the classroom/OWL, both orally and in written form, to other members of the class. Students who are concerned about such disclosures should contact the course instructor to identify whether there are any possible alternatives to such disclosures.

Use of Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices for the purposes of taking notes is allowed; however, the use of any device to record audio or video during lectures and/or tutorials is forbidden.

Copyright and Intellectual Property: The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, videos, lecture notes, slides, PowerPoint files and displays, handout materials, assignments, evaluations, and any original materials posted to OWL, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content, or any other materials developed for this course, to any third-party violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's code of student conduct and/or academic integrity policies, and will result in appropriate penalties. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant university policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Western University.

Email Policy: Emails requiring a response will typically receive one within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) unless I have established that I will be unable to reply promptly. If your question is about course or assignment requirements, ensure that you check for the answer to your question on the syllabus, OWL and other course documents before sending me an email. I also reserve the right to ask you to attend office hours if your question is

too complex or detailed to be answered over email (but email is often the best place to start for a quick answer). Please use only your Western email (____@uwo.ca) to contact me and include your name, student number and the course code in the body of the email.

Submitting Work: All evaluations must be submitted using OWL. Any work submitted by email, as a hardcopy, or in any other manner will not be accepted.

Technical Issues: Technical issues will not be considered grounds for any extra accommodation (such as an extension, exemption, or re-write). Please plan ahead, do not leave things to the last minute/day, and ensure you have access to a stable and reliable internet connection when submitting assignments and completing quizzes.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

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