HIST 2420 W: The Medieval World

September 3 2012 – April 26, 2013
MWF
12:30 – 1:20
Tier 303 (Winter Semester: 235 Isbister)
VW Date: March 20, 2013
Final Exam: TBA

Instructor: Robert Penner
Office: 455 Fletcher Argue Building
Office Hours: Friday 11:30-12:20 or by appointment
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Course Textbook


Course Content and Requirements

In this course we will be treating the history of Europe from the fall of Rome to the Reformation and the Renaissance as a coherent whole. To do this we will begin by identifying in this “world” an early period; a middle or high period; and a late period. With this traditional narrative of growth and decline in mind we will pursue the development of key political, religious and political institutions against a backdrop of more slowly changing social and cultural structures. We will also be paying attention to how it is historians have constructed this model of the past.

Each of our three periods will consist of a set of four sections in which pursue specific thematic concerns: social structure; cultural life; religious institutions; and political and legal developments. During each section you will be responsible for reading not only your textbook but primary source selections and one assigned scholarly article. Each week you will be required to hand in a brief (1-2 pages) response to your supplemental readings. Each of our three parts will end with a test, and the course will conclude with a final exam. You will also be required to write one short essay each semester on a primary source text of your own choosing (8-10 pages/2000-2500 words).

Weekly Reader Response Assignments: 10%
Three Tests: 3x10% for 30%
Two Essays: 2x 15% (draft outline and bibliography 5%, final draft 10% - 2000-2500 words) for 30%
One Final Exam: 30%

Policy on Late Submissions

With the exception of those with documented medical reasons and in cases of family emergency late assignments will be penalized one-half a letter grade for every 24-hour period they are late. An A becomes a B+; a B+ becomes a B; and so on. Extensions may be granted upon submission of a written request received at least one week prior to the due date. I do not consider broken printers; incompatible file formats; irresponsible pets, family members, or friends; poor time management; or car troubles to be sufficient reasons for last minute extensions.
Academic Integrity

All University policies concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be enforced. It is your responsibility to know these policies. If you have any questions or concerns, ask. See the University’s regulations re plagiarism, cheating and impersonation found in Section 8 of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html) which reads:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Grading

A+  90-100 Exceptional work
A    80-89 Excellent
B+   75-79 Very Good
B    70-74 Good
C+   65-69 Satisfactory
C    60-64 Adequate
D    50-59 Marginal
F    49 > Failure

I will not discuss grades the day on which assignments and tests are returned—with the exception of arithmetic errors. If you believe a grade you receive is unfair or mistaken send me written notice the next day, with your arguments included, and we will set up a meeting during office hours to discuss your concerns.

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the terms have been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.
Course Outline

Fall Semester:

Introduction
Week 1-2: “The Past is like a Different Country”
F, Sept. 7; M, Sept. 10; W, Sept. 12; F, Sept. 14
Readings: Backman Chapters 1-2

What are the Middle Ages in the middle of? What does it mean to call them a World? How can we come to know it?

Introductory Movie: “The Advocate”

Part I: The Early Middle Ages, 500-1000
Week 3-4: Social Structure
M, Sept. 17; W, Sept. 19; F, Sept. 21
M, Sept. 24; W, Sept. 26; F, Sept. 28
Readings: Backman Chapter 3

Primary Source: Selections on Serfdom
http://www.jstor.org/stable/651293

Week 4-5: Cultural Life
M, Oct. 1; W, Oct. 3; F, Oct. 5
M, Oct. 8 University Closed; W, Oct. 10; F Oct. 12
Readings: Backman Chapter 5

Primary Sources: Selections from The Njal Sagas

Week 6-7: Religious Institutions
M, Oct. 15; W, Oct. 17; F, Oct. 19
M, Oct. 22; W, Oct. 24; F, Oct. 26
Readings: Backman Chapter 4

Primary Sources: Selections from The Rule of St. Benedict
http://www.jstor.org/stable/2854041

Week 7-8: Law and Politics
M, Oct. 29; W, Oct. 31; F, Nov. 2(draft outline and bibliography due)
M, Nov. 5; W, Nov. 7; F, Nov. 9 (Test Day)
Readings: Backman Chapter 6
Primary Sources: Selections from *The Life of Charles the Great*

**Part II: The High Middle Ages, 1000-1300**

**Week 9-10: Social Structure:**
M, Nov. 12 University Closed; W, Nov. 14; F, Nov. 16
M, Nov. 19; W, Nov. 21; F, Nov. 23
Readings: Backman Chapters 7-8


**Week 11-12: Cultural Life:**
M, Nov. 26; W, Nov. 28; F, Nov. 30
M, Dec. 3; W, Dec. 5 (First Paper Due)
Readings: Backman Chapter 9


**Winter Semester:**

**Week 1-2: Religious Institutions:**
F, Jan. 4; M, Jan. 7; W, Jan 9; F, Jan. 11
Readings: Backman Chapter 10-11

Primary Sources: Selections on the Mendicant Orders

**Week 3-4: Law and Politics:**
M, Jan. 14; W, Jan. 16; F, Jan. 18
M, Jan. 21; W, Jan. 23; F, Jan. 25 (Test Day)
Readings: Backman Chapter 12

Primary Sources: Urban II’s Speech
Part III: The Late Middle Ages, 1300-1500

Week 5-6: Social Structure:
M, Jan. 28; W, Jan. 30; Feb. 1
M, Feb. 4; W, Feb. 6; F, Feb. 8
Readings: Backman Chapter 15 and 17

Primary Sources: Readings on Peasant Revolts

Week 7-8: Cultural Life:
M, Feb. 11; W, Feb. 13; F, Feb. 15
Spring Break Feb 18-22
M, Feb. 25; W, Feb. 27; F, March 1
Readings: Backman Chapter 14 and 18

Primary Sources: Selections from The Canterbury Tales

Week 9-10: Religious Institutions:
M, March 4; W, March 6; F, March 8 (draft outline and bibliography due)
M, March 11; W, March 13; F, March 15
Readings: Backman Chapter 16

Primary Sources: Selections on Gender and Spirituality

Week 11-12: Law and Politics:
M, March 18; W, March 20 (Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline); F, March 22
M, March 25; W, March 27; F, March 29 University Closed
Readings: Backman Chapter 13

Primary Sources: Various Legal Documents
Readings: Chapter

Conclusion
Week 13: Review: Looking Forward and Looking Back
M, April 1, (Test Day); W, April 3; F, April 5
M, April 8; W, April 10 (Paper 2 Due)
Readings: Backman Chapter 19-20

Exam: TBA