

## **HIST 2420 W: The Medieval World**

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Classes are Tuesday and Thursday from 1-2:15 pm  
136 Frank Kennedy Building (Fall Term)  
201 St. John's College (Winter Term)  
Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 - 3:30, or by appointment

### **Course Objectives:**

This course seeks to investigate aspects of decline and renewal within European society during the Middle Ages (between 300-1453 CE). Often remembered for its cathedrals and luminous manuscripts, bawdy humour or rampant disease, this period was a formative one in the growth of Western society.

It is through an introduction to the sources themselves that you will expand your knowledge of this historical period. A source may constitute anything from the past, including documents, artworks or buildings. Methodical examination and analysis of certain primary and secondary sources will expand your familiarity with the various ways in which the past can be interpreted by historians.

Developing an awareness of sources and interpretations of the Medieval World through lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, and independent essay assignments will provide you with the opportunity to develop critical thinking, speaking and writing skills.

### **Expectations:**

Attending lectures, completing assigned readings and participating in class discussions are invaluable to both understanding the nuances and working through the challenges that can arise from interpreting historical sources. Students are therefore expected to actively listen to all class discussion and encouraged to take notes to retain facts and concepts. Students should be respectful of the time allocated for their success. Disruptive behaviours including lateness, leaving class, unrelated internet usage, or the use of cell phones are not welcome.

If you are experiencing any difficulties participating in class discussions or researching/writing your assignments, you are strongly encouraged to get in contact with me as soon as possible. I maintain office hours every week so that you can stop by with questions or concerns and can meet on other days/times by appointment. I can always be reached by email and will endeavour to respond within 24 hours.

The Faculty of Arts within the University of Manitoba has established regulations for academic offenses such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. You can familiarize yourself with the policies on academic integrity on the Arts website and below:

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student\\_responsibilities.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html)

*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 (1) 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 (5) 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.*

It is therefore necessary to complete all assessments to the best of your own independent ability. If you attend lectures, take notes, complete assigned readings and ask for clarification when needed, then you will be able to succeed.

### **Required Texts:**

Barbara H. Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 3d edition, 2009).

C. Warren Hollister, Joe W. Leedom, Marc A Meyer and David S. Spear, *Medieval Europe: A Short Sourcebook* (New York: McGraw-Hill Companies Inc., 3d edition, 1997).

Both of these texts will be made available for purchase in the bookstore and it is advised that you obtain copies in order to complete the weekly assigned readings outlined in the lecture schedule below. You will also be required on occasion to print out primary sources or journal articles that will be discussed in class.

### **Assignments & Essays:**

Students will be assessed on their ability to apply approaches and interpretive frameworks introduced in the lectures, discussions and secondary readings to their own written assignments. Early in the term, one class will involve exploring the substantial resources of the University of Manitoba libraries and online databases followed, a week later by your submission of a 6-8 item bibliography and proposal for the first essay. The objective of this

process is for you to become familiar with the range of reading materials (scholarly journal articles, monographs or collections of essays) that constitute acceptable bibliographical sources and with the time commitment necessary for researching, writing and editing a successful essay. Essay topics will be distributed in class prior to the library class, though students wishing to explore an alternate topic within the scope of course material or timeline can have one approved by me at least 4 weeks prior to the essay deadline. Always ask for assistance if you need it.

**Please note:** It is your responsibility to complete and print your research assignment for submission by the start of class. No late assignments will be accepted without penalty (5%/day) unless the instructor can be provided with documentation of major illness or compassionate need. I reserve the right to refuse any late assignments or to deny extensions that are not addressed at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline.

**Exams:**

The midterm examination will consist of short answer questions and source analysis in order for you to test your comprehension of the material covered since September. It will also provide you with the opportunity to apply approaches and investigative techniques learned in the lectures and assigned readings.

The final examination will be of similar format though based on everything covered in the course, including all lecture materials, assigned readings, and class discussions.

**Evaluations:**

A final grade for this course will be determined by the following assessments:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Due Date
Attendance at library introduction	5%	TBD
Research statement and preliminary bibliography	5%	Tuesday, September 23 2014
First essay (4-5 pages, 1000-1250 words)	10%	Thursday, October 23 2014
Second essay (6-7 pages, 1500-1750 words)	15%	Thursday, February 5 2015
Third essay (9-10 pages, 2250-2500 words)	25%	Tuesday, March 31 2015
Midterm exam	10%	Tuesday, December 2 2014
Final exam	30%	TBD - Scheduled during April 13-27 2015 exam period

Constructive feedback will be regularly provided to students in the course of class discussions. For the essays, you will receive a copy of the written rubric outlining how your mark was reached and I would be willing to discuss these results in greater detail with you during office hours or by appointment. Students wishing extra clarification or who are experiencing

difficulties with the process are strongly encouraged to meet with me at least 1 week prior to the deadline or exam date. You will have received considerable feedback prior to the voluntary withdrawal (VW) date of March 19<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Letter grades represent the following percentages in this course:

A+ 90-99%	C+ 65-69%
A 80-89%	C 60-64 %
B+ 75-79%	D 50-59 %
B 70-74%	F below 49%

I am required to remind you that since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must pass the requirement for written English in order 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 term work has been made available to them. You are advised to appeal grades as the term progresses rather than waiting until the end of the course because at that point you are only able to appeal the final exam grade. Any unclaimed term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

**Course Schedule and Readings for 2014-5**

*SHMA – A Short History of the Middle Ages*

*ME- Medieval Europe: A Short Sourcebook*

<b>Class outline</b>	<b>Topics &amp; Required readings (subject to minor change)</b>
Week 1: September 4 2014 Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the course materials, chronology &amp; interdisciplinary approach; expectations, assessment criteria and objectives.</li> </ul>
Week 2: September 9, 11 Setting the context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Roman Empire at its height</li> <li>• Contributing factors to the fall of Rome, fragmentation of the Empire, and the rise of the Provinces</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 21-25</p>
Week 3: September 16, 18 The Fall of Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages; setting the context,</li> </ul>

	<p>chronology and geography.  <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 32-40; <i>ME</i>, pp. 17-9, 45-7</p> <p><b>Introduction to library resources/  bibliographic expectations TBD</b></p>
<p>Week 4: September 23, 25  Holy Men and Holy Women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Roman' religions and the rise of Christianity</li> <li>• Martyrs to hermits to monks/nuns; the move towards communal life</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 25-32; <i>ME</i>, pp. 5-16, 32-5, 159-64, 187</p> <p><b>Research statement and preliminary bibliography due on Tuesday, Sept. 23</b></p>
<p>Week 5: September 30, October 2  New ideas and faiths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The earliest monastic communities</li> <li>• Justinian and the Byzantine Empire</li> </ul>
<p>Week 6: October 7, 9  New ideas and faiths II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iconoclasm and the Eastern Schism</li> <li>• Gregory the Great and the Medieval Papacy</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 40-70, 97-9, 101-8, 139-47; <i>ME</i>, pp. 35-8, 43-4, 51-7</p>
<p>Week 7: October 14, 16  New cultures and faiths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mohammed and the rise of Islam</li> <li>• Meet the Barbarians - 'Germania'</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 70-85, 108-14, 147-51; <i>ME</i>, pp. 22-4, 26-7, 59-70</p>
<p>Week 8: October 21, 23  The Barbarian kingdoms I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gregory of Tours on the Franks</li> <li>• Paul the Deacon on the Lombards</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 85-7,90-7; <i>ME</i>, pp. 22-3, 128-31</p> <p><b>First essay due at the start of class on Thursday, Oct.23</b></p>
<p>Week 9: October 28, 30  The Barbarian kingdoms II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bede on the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms</li> <li>• The Vikings</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 87-100, 152-5; <i>ME</i>, pp. 24-5, 55-9, 111-15, 135-8, 165-7, 190-1</p>

Week 10: November 4, 6 Nostalgia and new beginnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Divine Right of Kings; the Merovingians to Charlemagne</li> <li>• The Carolingians and the Holy Roman Empire</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 118-37; <i>ME</i> , pp. 73, 78-88, 120-1, 188-9
Week 11: November 11, 13 Nostalgia and new beginnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The love of learning; monastic reforms and the Benedictines</li> <li>• Monastic Rules</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 187-93, 203-5; <i>ME</i> , pp. 47-51, 96-9, 202-3, 243-8, 256-66 <b>November 11 is Remembrance Day- no class</b>
Week 12: November 18, 20 Feudalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feudalism and the Normans</li> <li>• The Norman Conquest</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 156-74, 177-82, 197-99; <i>ME</i> , pp. 107-11, 200-1, 276-9
Week 13: November 25, 27 Nobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The division of labour and ownership of land</li> <li>• Leisure and secular music</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 238-42, <i>ME</i> , pp. 39-40, 279-86, 224-5
Week 14: December 2	<b>Midterm exam in class</b>
<b>December 8-19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>University exam period - no classes or exams</b>
<b>December 24- January 4</b>	<b>Holiday period - University Closed</b>
Week 14: January 6, 8 Monasteries and books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flowering of gothic architecture</li> <li>• Monastic manuscript production</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 205-18, 244-51; <i>ME</i> , pp. 115-7, 192-9, 204-16, 228-9, 229-32
Week 15: January 13, 15 Books and readers ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written vernaculars and validating the written word</li> <li>• Chronicles and histories</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 287-303
Week 16: January 20, 22 Popular piety and readership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vernacular genres and lay readership</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cult of Saints <i>ME</i>, pp. 167-77, 224-5, 290-1</li> </ul>
Week 17: January 27, 29 Actions, devotions and reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popular piety, devotions, lay confraternities</li> <li>• Pilgrimage <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 242-44; <i>ME</i>, pp. 336-8, 353-5</li> </ul>
Week 18: February 3, 5 Actions, devotions and reform II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crusaders' ideal</li> <li>• The new monastic orders <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 193-97, 286-7; <i>ME</i>, pp. 149-56, 202, 222-3, 232-9</li> </ul> <p><b>Second essay due on Thursday, Feb.5</b></p>
Week 19: February 10, 12 Authority and faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Avignon Papacy</li> <li>• Mysticism and heresy <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 280-86, 324-27; <i>ME</i>, pp. 239-40, 292-5, 318-25, 350-1</li> </ul>
<b>February 16-20</b>	<b>Louis Riel Day &amp; Winter Break - no classes</b>
Week 20: February 24, 26 Urban developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban centres</li> <li>• Trade and the formation of guilds <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 160-1, 182-7, 237-8, 267-72; <i>ME</i>, pp. 142-9</li> </ul>
Week 21: March 3, 5 Unfamiliar territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration and the Other</li> <li>• Exploration of New Worlds <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 252-61, 272-74; <i>ME</i>, pp. 179-81, 240-3, 341-5</li> </ul>
Week 22: March 10, 12 Plague and uprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Black Death</li> <li>• Rebellions and uprisings <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 305-11, 321-4; <i>ME</i>, pp. 182-6, 301-2, 328-36</li> </ul>
Week 23: March 17, 19 Nation building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments and legality</li> <li>• Nation building in France/England <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 200-202, 219-37; <i>ME</i>, pp. 273-5</li> </ul> <p><b>VW date on Thursday, Mar.19</b></p>
Week 24: March 24, 26 Nation building II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deterioration of the Holy Roman Empire</li> <li>• Developments within the Iberian</li> </ul>

	<p>peninsula  <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 114-18,199-200, 275-79; <i>ME</i>,  pp. 120-1, 270-2, 315-8</p>
<p>Week 25: March 31 – April 2  War and society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hundred Years War</li> <li>• Fall of the East; Rise of the North</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 312-21, 327-49; <i>ME</i>, pp. 304-10  <b>Third essay due on Tuesday, Mar.31</b></p>
<p>Week 26: April 7-9  Considerations and review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medievalism/Neo-Medievalism</li> <li>• Review for final exam</li> </ul>
<p><b>April 13-27</b></p>	<p><b>Final exam TBA during exam period</b></p>