

History Department, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba

**HIST 2420 A02: The Medieval World**

Dr. Meredith Bacola  
118 St Paul's College  
[Meredith.Bacola@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Meredith.Bacola@umanitoba.ca)

Classes are Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 – 9:45 am  
137 Isbister Building

Office hours are Monday and Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 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, 4th edition, 2014).

C. Warren Hollister, Joe W. Leedom, Marc A. Meyer and David S. Spear, *Medieval Europe: A Short Sourcebook* (New York: McGraw-Hill Companies Inc., 4th edition, 2002).

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 1 week prior to the deadline.

### **Student Resources:**

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage ([http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/)). The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on two days of the week. More information about scheduling, etc. TBA.

All of the above services can also be accessed through this link:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/student-resources.html>

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=219304>

### **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:

Letter grades represent the following percentages in this course:

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

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

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Due Date
Participation & attendance	5%	Ongoing
Research statement and preliminary bibliography	5%	Thursday, October 8 2015
First essay (4-5 pages, 1000-1250 words)	10%	Thursday, October 22 2015
Second essay (6-7 pages, 1500-1750 words)	15%	Thursday, February 4 2016
Third essay (9-10 pages, 2250-2500 words)	25%	Tuesday, April 5 2016
Midterm exam	10%	Tuesday, December 8 2016
Final exam	30%	TBD - Scheduled during April 11-25 2016 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 therefore have received considerable feedback prior to the voluntary withdrawal (**VW**) **date of March 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

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. In other words, the minimum required is that students must complete the third essay assignment and one other essay assignment 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 term work has been made available to them. Should you wish to appeal a grade, you are advised to do so 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 2015-16

*SHMA – A Short History of the Middle Ages*

*ME- Medieval Europe: A Short Sourcebook*

Class outline	Topics & Required readings (subject to minor change)
Week 1: September 10 2015 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 15, 17 Setting the context – The Roman Empire	<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. 1-5; UM Learn: Potter</p>
Week 3: September 22, 24 The Fall of Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages; setting the context, chronology and geography.</li> </ul> <p><i>SHMA</i>, pp. 11-21; <i>ME</i>, pp. 17-19, 20-23</p> <p><b>Introduction to library resources / bibliographic expectations on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup></b></p>
Week 4: September 29, October 1 Holy Men and Holy Women	<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. 5-11; <i>ME</i>, pp. 7-10, 40-43, 193</p>
Week 5: October 6, 8 East and West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The earliest monastic communities and their rules</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justinian and the Byzantine Empire <i>SHMA</i>, 29-35, 39-44; <i>ME</i>, pp. 43-48</li> </ul> <p><b>Research statement and preliminary bibliography due on Thursday, Oct. 8th</b></p>
Week 6: October 13, 15 Popes and Barbarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gregory the Great and the Medieval Papacy</li> <li>Meet the Barbarians - 'Germania' <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 21-24, 74-75; <i>ME</i>, pp. 51-52, 63-67; UM Learn: Tactius</li> </ul>
Week 7: October 20, 22 The Barbarian Kingdoms I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gregory of Tours on the Franks</li> <li>Paul the Deacon on the Lombards <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 58-64; <i>ME</i>, pp. 34-36, 194-195; UM Learn: Paul the Deacon</li> </ul> <p><b>First essay due at the start of class on Thursday, Oct.22nd</b></p>
Week 8: October 27, 29 The Barbarian kingdoms II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bede on the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms</li> <li>The Vikings <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 64-72, 121-123, 128-30; <i>ME</i>, pp. 68-74, 160-164, 196-197</li> </ul>
Week 9: November 3, 5 New faiths and ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iconoclasm and the Eastern Schism</li> <li>Mohammed and the rise of Islam <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 45-50, 50-57, 72-74, 79-85, 87-96, 115-120, 123-127; <i>ME</i>, pp. 75-83</li> </ul>
Week 10: November 10, 12 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 <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 96-113, 139-149; <i>ME</i>, pp. 101-107</li> </ul>
Week 11: November 17, 19 The Coenobitic life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The love of learning; monastic reforms and the Benedictines <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 178-194; <i>ME</i>, pp. 56-63, 115-117, 198-203</li> </ul> <p><b>Visit to Dafoe's archives to view UM's</b></p>

	<b>manuscript collection on Thursday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 12: November 24, 26 Feudalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feudalism and the Normans</li> <li>• The Norman Conquest</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 121-123, 131-139, 173-175; <i>ME</i> , pp. 296-298
Week 13: December 1, 3 Land organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The division of labour and ownership of land</li> <li>• Review for midterm</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 131-135; <i>ME</i> , 134-138
Week 14: December 8	<b>Midterm exam in class</b>
<b>December 11-23<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 7 2016 Saints and relics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cult of Saints</li> </ul> UM Learn: Brown
Week 15: January 12, 14 Cathedrals and pilgrimages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flowering of gothic architecture</li> <li>• Pilgrimage</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 220-228; <i>ME</i> , pp. 204-205, 208-223
Week 16: January 19, 21 Popular piety and readership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written vernaculars and validating the written word</li> <li>• Readers and devotions; popular piety and lay confraternities</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 103-112, 214-218, 260-267; <i>ME</i> , pp. 375-377
Week 17: January 26, 28 Actions and devotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Crusaders’ ideal</li> <li>• Leisure and secular music</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 170- 173, 197-201, 268; <i>ME</i> , pp. 180-188, 230-233
Week 18: February 2, 4 Authority and faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Second Crusade and the new monastic orders</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 164-173, 197-201; <i>ME</i> , pp. 180-

	190, 242-253 <b>Second essay due on Thursday, Feb.4<sup>th</sup></b>
Week 19: February 9, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Avignon Papacy</li> <li>• Mysticism and heresy</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 258-259, 301-304; <i>ME</i> , pp. 313-316, 342-343, 346-348
<b>February 15-19</b>	<b>Louis Riel Day &amp; Winter Break - no classes</b>
Week 20: February 23, 25 Urban developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban centres</li> <li>• Trade and the formation of guilds</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 160-164, 212-214, 218-220, 241-250, 276-280; <i>ME</i> , pp. 178-180, 224-225
Week 21: March 1, 3 Nation building I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments and legality</li> <li>• Nation building in France/England</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 176-178, 201-208, 254-258; <i>ME</i> , pp. 298-313
Week 22: March 8, 10 Nation building II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deterioration of the Holy Roman Empire</li> <li>• Developments within the Iberian peninsula</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 72-74, 175, 207-213, 252-254, 287-289, 304; <i>ME</i> , pp. 339-342
Week 23: March 15, 17 Plague and rebellion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Black Death</li> <li>• Rebellions and uprisings</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 283-286, 297-301; <i>ME</i> , pp. 356-360, 360-366; UM Learn: Cantor <b>VW date on Friday, Mar.19</b>
Week 24: March 22, 24 War and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hundred Years War</li> <li>• Fall of the East; Rise of the North</li> </ul> <i>SHMA</i> , pp. 270-75, 289-97, 304-25; <i>ME</i> , pp. 385-387
Week 25: March 29, 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration and the Other</li> </ul>

Unfamiliar territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration of New Worlds <i>SHMA</i>, pp. 228-237, 250-253; <i>ME</i>, pp. 387-389</li> </ul>
Week 26: April 5, 7 Considerations and review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medievalism/Neo-Medievalism</li> <li>• Review for final exam <i>SHMA</i>, pp. xv, 329; UM Learn: Bishop</li> </ul> <b>Third essay due on Tuesday, April 5th</b>
<b>April 11-25</b>	<b>Final exam TBA during exam period</b>