History 101: Introduction to Medieval and Early Modern Europe
MWF 10:00-10:50AM; King 341

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Office Hours Mondays 11-12, Fridays 11:30-1 and by appointment in between

Course description: History 101 provides an introduction to the history of the Mediterranean world and northern Europe from the end of the Roman Empire to the age of absolutism, with a primary focus on the period from 500 to 1500. We will examine the medieval institutions that developed from the crises of the ancient world and the changing political, social, economic and religious landscapes that emerged in the early modern period. During lecture and discussions, we will question preconceptions about these periods: were the Middle Ages a static or even “dark” time, in which people slaved under the twin burdens of bare subsistence and dogmatic belief? Should we understand the breakdowns and breakthroughs that followed—the Renaissance and Reformation, colonialism and capitalism, the Scientific Revolution and the rise of the modern state system—within a context of religious fervor and epic persecution, or rational thought and technological advancement?

Course goals and expectations: The course is designed to engage students who are unfamiliar with European history and wish to learn both the subject matter and the methods used to understand history. As you will discover, there is no one correct way of constructing the historical past—we are constantly creating new narratives and new perspectives. This is the art (and fun!) of studying history. My goal is that this course will not only introduce you to some of the major trends and events that have shaped the European past, but also develop three basic tools of the historian: critical reading, analytical thinking and clear communication. To these ends, you are asked to actively attend to lectures, discuss both primary texts and secondary literature in class, and complete several written assignments, including a midterm and a final exam. There will also be one movie shown outside of class time.

Course materials:
All required books are available at the Oberlin Bookstore and are on reserve in the library.
**Required:**
Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms* (Johns Hopkins, 1992)
Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, 4th edition (Toronto, 2014)

**Requirements and Grading:**

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>Map Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers 1 and 2</td>
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<td>2. 20% (35% total)</td>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
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Grading based on the following: A+ 100-97; A 96-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D 65-69, F below 65.

**All written work must be turned in to receive credit for this class.**

**Details**

1. **Map Quiz** Learning the basic geography of northern Europe and the Mediterranean world is crucial for understanding its history in the medieval and early modern periods. A week before the quiz, I will post on Blackboard the relevant map and what specifically you should identify, which will include bodies of land and water and cities or regions that figure largely in the time period or events we’re discussing this semester. 9/15

2. **Essays** You will complete two essays, one 3-5 pp, the other 5pp, each on a question that I will hand out at least one week before the essay is due. These papers will allow you to evaluate both primary and secondary sources and argue a point that you substantiate from those materials. The first is due at the beginning of class on 10/13 and the second on 12/3.

   NOTE: Essays should be typed and double-spaced, with at least ½ in. margins on all sides. All pages numbered. Your grade takes note of the brilliance of your ideas but also the clarity of your expression, the ironclad tightness of your grammar and the impeccability of your spelling. Proofread! Edit! When you have citations and you need to include footnotes and a bibliography, refer to some of the reference guides from the Oberlin History Department that I have posted on Blackboard. When in doubt, get in touch with me.

3. **Exams** Based on what you’ve learned from readings and class lectures, you will complete a range of questions, from map ids to passage identifications. Each successive exam requires you to absorb more material than the previous one. Exam 1 is on 9/26; Exam 2 on 11/14; Exam 3 is the final on 12/19 and is cumulative.
Class Policies:

Attendance and participation: The course has both lecture and discussion components and therefore, your attendance and participation is important (we need your insights!) If you are able, please let me know before class begins that you will be absent. 4 or more absences will result in a 0 for attendance. If you are over 10 minutes late for class, you will be counted absent. Sign up sheet will be on my desk every class.

Disabilities: If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Jane Boomer in the Office of Disability Services in Peters G-27/G-28.

Lateness: Late assignments will be penalized by dropping 3 points from your grade every day a paper is late.

Plagiarism: All work turned in for this course must be your own. The College requires that students sign an "Honor Code" for all assignments. This pledge states: "I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment." For further information, see the student Honor Code which you can access via http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/2011-2012/11-Policies-Honor.pdf. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me or raise it in class.

**Finding and doing the assignments:** All required books are available at the Oberlin Bookstore and are on reserve in the library. Readings posted on Blackboard are labeled Bb. They are located under Course Documents in the file “Reading Assignments”. For Rosenwein, our main textbook, the assignment will appear as R followed by page numbers. The readings listed for a particular class should be done before that class. ABOVE ALL, BRING READINGS TO CLASS!

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Section I Late Antiquity to the High Middle Ages, 450-1250

Week 1

9/3 What is medieval? How do we know, and what do we know?
9/5 Rome...

Week 2

9/8 Barbarians at the gate
R. pp. 21-35; Bb. Augustine of Hippo, City of God, c. 415 (excerpts)
9/10 Byzantium
9/12 Christianity and monastic culture
Week 3
9/15 Islam
R. pp. 50-57, 87-96 Map Quiz
9/17 Charlemagne and the Carolingian Renaissance
R. pp. 96-112; Bb., Geary, ed., Einhard, Life of Charles the Great, c. 825
9/19 Fragmentation and Christianization
R. C. 4, pp. 115-130. Watch the invasion scene of Secret of Kells (netflix or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3AvyeMhmU)

Week 4
*9/21 (Sunday) Movie Showing: Vision: from the life of Hildegard of Bingen (2009)- popcorn provided
9/22 Feudal structure
R. pp. 131-151; Bb. Geary, ed, Clunia Charters c. 950s; Hugh of Lusignan, Agreement between Lord and Vassal, c. 1025
9/24 Lords, peasants and (agro) revolution!
9/26 Exam 1

Week 5
9/29 Europeans on the move
10/1 The makings of a pure church…and state
R. pp. 164-170, 181-192
10/3 Crusades

Week 6
10/6 Law and government in the West
R. pp. 201-213; Bb. Geary, ed, Fuero de Cuenca c. 1190
10/8 12th-century schools and culture
R. pp. 178-181, 213-218; Burgess, ed., Song of Roland, sections 1-150, pp. 29-93
10/10 *Visit to Special Collections, Meet in Mudd Library, 4th floor
Finish Song of Roland, sections 151-298, pp. 93-156

Week 7
10/13 The Gothic
R. pp. 220-228 (mostly pictures);
Due: Essay 1, 3-5 pp.
10/15 Pope Innocent III and the vita apostolica
R. pp. 228-233; Geary, ed. *Canons of the 4th Lateran Council*, selections

10/17 Outsiders: Jews, Lepers, Heretics and more!

Week 8 10/20-10/24  No Classes-Fall Recess

**Section II Late Middle Ages to the Reformation, 1250-1600**

Week 9

10/27 Looking eastward
R. pp. 241-252, 258-261

10/29 Representative government, or why you should love the Middle Ages
R. pp. 252-258 Geary, ed, *Magna Carta*, 1215, excerpts

10/31 Scholastic balancing, or ditto
R. pp. 262-275; Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, c. 1270, pp. 1-top 4

Week 10

11/3 Natural disasters

11/5 War and revolt

11/7 Church in crisis; spirituality in flower

Week 11

11/10 Renaissance Ideologies
R., pp. 305-320

11/12 Art transformed *Meet at the Allen Memorial Art Museum for class*

11/14 Exam 2 (note: I will be out of town for a conference)

Week 12

11/17 New monarchies/exploration

11/19 Print Culture

11/21 Luther and Calvin: Reformations
Bb. Luther, *Freedom of a Christian*, excerpts

Week 13

11/24 Political discord, revolt and war
Bb. Barbara Diefendorf, *St. Bartholomew’s Massacre, 1572*, selections

11/26 **No Class BUT**

    start reading Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*, introduction, xiii-xxvi, and sections 1-23

11/28 **Thanksgiving Break** (eat t/of/urkey but finish the *Cheese and the Worms*)

**Week 14**

    12/1 Heresy and popular culture
    Discussion *The Cheese and the Worms*

    12/3 Witchhunting
    **Due: Essay 2, 5pp.**

    12/5 Missionizing and colonizing

**Week 15 Conclusion**

    12/8 New centers for truth (political and scientific)

12/10 Bringing it all together

    Come with your questions, thoughts, and concerns. Think about themes that can be traced throughout the whole course and themes that apply to the particular periods.

**Final Exam**

    Friday, 12/19  2-4 PM Place TBA