Transformation of Medieval Europe, 1000-1500 (WI)

Spring 2017
History 3606-100 (#15503)  Prof. Robert Berkhofer
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Considers the rise of Europe as a result of the transformative events of the high middle ages, stressing social, economic, political, and cultural history. The course begins by asking what ideas and practices were inherited from the Carolingians and then explores the transformations of the eleventh to thirteenth centuries (including the “feudal revolution,” reform in the Church, the rise of new power structures, and expansion of the intellectual and physical frontiers of Europe). The course concludes by considering the challenges of the fourteenth century and how they helped shape a distinct world culture.

COURSE FORMAT: This course will be conducted through a combination of lectures and discussions. Lectures will review the readings in historical perspective and provide background for student-led discussion of primary source materials. Students will bring a wide variety of assumptions and theoretical starting-points and are encouraged to bring thoughtful comments to class and listen to those of others. Students are required to attend all class meetings and come to discussions having already read and thought about the sources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Designed to introduce topics in medieval history to history majors, this course will fulfill the History Department’s “writing intensive” course requirement through two linked source analysis papers based on primary source materials and a short paper critically evaluating those sources in light of current historical literature, in addition to essay exams.

REQUIRED BOOKS:
E-Sources (available on WMU e-learning website)
Note: You will have to purchase two blue books for the exams.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:
STUDY AIDS: See e-learning website for aid with all aspects of the course including: taking notes, studying, taking exams, and writing papers.

OPTIONAL BOOKS:

HONOR CODE: Students are expected to uphold the Western Michigan University standards of Academic Conduct. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at http://catalog.wmich.edu under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct (osc.wmich.edu). You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty, prior to the submission of an assignment or test. Students are required to maintain and electronic copy of all written assignments and must be able to produce it if asked by the instructor. Suspect papers will be submitted electronically to plagiarism.org, or other clearinghouses that work to prevent fraud in paper composition.

EXAMS: There will be one midterm exam on Feb 9 and a final exam on Wednesday, April 26 at 2:45-4:45pm in the classroom. Each exam will cover all the readings, discussions, and lectures to date. Both exams will be essay format, with some short identification questions and a source-based question. The midterm exam will count 20% of the course grade; the final 20% of the grade.

SOURCE ANALYSIS: Students will prepare two source analysis papers (3-4 pages; 750-1000 words) on source readings assigned for particular days. They will write the first during unit I (due no later than Feb 2), and the second during unit II (due no later than Mar 30), with each counting for 10% of the total course grade (total 20%). These papers will be due at the start of class on the day the sources are assigned, when the students will lead class discussion.

SHORT PAPER: Students will write a short paper (6-8 pages, 1500-2000 words) combining source analysis with evaluating modern historians’ interpretations due Apr 13. I will suggest paper topics and hand out instructions later. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of your paper after submitting it originally. This paper will count for 20% of the total course grade.

PARTICIPATION: Attendance is a required part of the course; students consistently failing to attend class without a valid, university-approved written excuse may receive an "F" for the course at the instructor's option. Discussions (listed in syllabus below) will focus on the assigned source readings for each day. Vigorous participation (as contrasted with attendance) in discussion will count for 20% of a student’s total course grade.

GRADE COMPONENTS: Midterm exam, 20%; two source analyses, 20%; short paper, 20%; discussion, 20%; final exam, 20%. You must complete all elements of the course to receive a passing grade. All late submissions will be penalized, in fairness to students who complete the assignments in a
timely fashion. The grade scale is as follows: 100-93 = A, 92-87 = BA, 86-83 = B, 82-77 = CB, 76-73 = C, 72-67 = DC, 67-60 = D, and less than 60 = F.

Students with Disabilities: You should register with Disability Services for Students (269-387-2116 or www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices/). You should discuss any accommodation with them and they will give you the approved accommodation(s), which you should show to Prof. Berkhofer. This process should be completed by the second week of class.

Make-Up Exams and Late Papers: Make-up exams will be given only for valid, university-approved written excuses, at the instructor's discretion. Make-up exams must be taken as soon as possible after the original test, preferably the day the student returns to class, at a time chosen by the instructor (usually my office hours). Unexcused late papers will be penalized two full letter grades per day they are late (e.g., a "B" paper will become a "D" paper).

Computer and Intellectual Property Policy: Students will not reproduce any portion of course materials (including notes on lecture) without the instructor’s express written permission.

Lecture, Discussion and Reading Assignments
Read sources thoroughly before class for which they are assigned to be prepared for discussion. Students with no background in pre-modern Europe should read Bennett and Hollister carefully.

Jan 10  Introduction: What are the Middle Ages?

Jan 12  Lecture 01: Models of Change and Transformation
        Background Reading: Rosenwein, Introduction and review maps/charts
        Study Aids (website): Taking Notes, Primary Sources, Secondary Sources.
        Recommended: Rampolla, A Pocket Guide, ch. 1 "Why Study History"

Unit I: Structures of Life in the Eleventh Century
Background Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 4-5

Jan 17  Lecture 02: Lords and Lordship
        Bring TWO Unmarked Blue Books to class (do not write on them)
        Recommended: Rampolla, ch. 2, "Working with Sources"
        Study Aids: Paper Writing, Style Sheet, and Citing Sources

Jan 19  Discussion 1: E-Source 1: The Three Orders and Tierney, The Middle Ages, ch. 11 (nos. 32-35)

Jan 24  Lecture 03: The Clergy and the Church
        Recommended: Rampolla, ch. 5 "Following Conventions," ch. 6, "Plagiarism"

Jan 26  Discussion 2: Tierney, The Middle Ages, ch. 12 (nos. 36-39) and ch. 13, no. 40.

Jan 31  Lecture 04: Peasants and the Manor

Feb 2   Discussion 3: Tierney, The Middle Ages, ch. 25 (nos. 79-81). Optional: Duby, Early Growth of the European Economy (finish before exam)
        Last opportunity for source analysis 1

Feb 7   Lecture 05: Commerce and Crisis in the Eleventh Century?
Please read: E-Source 2 (Town Charters), Exam Review

Feb 9  
Midterm Exam

Unit II: Transformation I: Growth and Expansion in the High Middle Ages, 1100-1300
Background Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 6-7

Feb 14  Lecture 06: New Paths to God I
Feb 16  **Discussion 4:** Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, pp. 57-101
Feb 21  Lecture 07: New Paths to God II
Feb 23  **Discussion 5:** Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, pp. 103-163 and nos. 28 and 29
Feb 28  Lecture 08: Lord-Kingship

Mar 2  **Discussion 6:** Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for Anarchy (1120-1154), Tierney, ch. 18
     Spring Break
Mar 14  Lecture 09: Two Families, One Madness
Mar 16  **Discussion 7:** Greenaway and Sayers, *The Chronicle of Bury St. Edmunds* (entire)
Mar 21  Lecture 10: Secular Culture in Life and Literature
Mar 23  **Discussion 8:** Sources #8: Tierney, *The Middle Ages*, chs. 16 and 17
Mar 28  Lecture 11: Kings and Counsellors, 1215-1295
Mar 30  **Discussion 9:** Tierney, *The Middle Ages*, chs. 20 and 24 and no. 71 and E-Source 3
     Magna Carta

     *Last opportunity for source analysis 2*

Apr  4  Lecture 12: Dissent and Responses to Dissent
Apr  6  **Discussion 10:** Tierney, *The Middle Ages*, ch. 23 and 27 and Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, pp. 189-215 and 235-64.

Unit III: Disruption and Realignment in the Later Middle Ages, 1300-1500
Background Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 8 and conclusion

Apr 11  Lecture 13: A Crisis of church and state?
Apr 13  Lecture 14: Crises of the 14th Century
     Read *Introduction* of Hatcher
     **Short Papers due today in class**
Apr 18  **Discussion 11:** Hatcher, *The Black Death: A Personal History* (entire)

Apr 20  Lecture 15: A Church Divided and Popular Religion
     Exam Review
Apr 26  **FINAL EXAM:** 2:45-4:45 (Wednesday)