Power and Society in Medieval Europe

Spring 2015
History 4495-101 (#13699)
Time: TR 11:00-12:15
Room: Dunbar 3212
Website: see GoWMU E-learning page

Prof. Robert Berkhofer
Office: 4424 Friedmann Hall
Phone: 387-5352 (use email!)
Hours: TR 2-3 and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Considers the conflicts and tensions surrounding power in Medieval Europe, including transformations of rule and governance fundamental to the rise of European states. Course will emphasize the experience of power—for those who exercised it and for people who suffered its abuses. Topics include lordship, kingship, knighthood, the use of castles, and how power was negotiated among and between families, ecclesiastics, and various secular groups claiming rights and forming political associations.

COURSE FORMAT: This course will be a lecture and discussion course. Lectures provide historical perspective for student 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: This course seeks to provide students with an understanding of how the power, social order, and institutions are studied by scholars in historical context. Students analyze and compare different models of historical development for the medieval period, and gain an understanding of how Europe was different from or similar to other premodern cultures. Cumulatively, the source analysis writing assignment, the research paper (with revisions), and the essay exams are designed to fulfill the WMU baccalaureate writing requirements.

REQUIRED BOOKS (in bookstore and on reserve):

Note: You will have to purchase two examination “green” books for the exams.

REQUIRED READING (electronic)

Electronic primary sources (E-Sources) available on the e-learning site for the course.
RECOMMENDED BOOKS (available for purchase in bookstore):

SUGGESTED READINGS (on reserve):

STUDY AIDS: See [http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rberkhof/studyaids/index.html](http://homepages.wmich.edu/~rberkhof/studyaids/index.html) for aid with all aspects of the course including: taking notes, studying, taking exams, and writing papers.

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. Even after written assignments are submitted, students are required to maintain an electronic copy and must produce it if asked Prof. Berkhofer. Student drafts and final papers may be submitted electronically to turnitin.com or other anti-plagiarism clearinghouses.

EXAMS: There will be a midterm exam on Mar 5 and a final exam on Thursday Apr 30, 10:15am-12:15pm, covering the lectures, primary sources, and secondary works. Each exam will cover all readings and lectures to date. Both exams will be essay format, with some short identification and source analysis questions. The midterm exam will count 20% of the grade, the final 20% of the grade.

SOURCE ANALYSIS PAPER: Students will prepare a brief analysis (2-3 pages; 500 words minimum) on an assigned question about one of the primary sources we read for Jan 26 (*Rule of St. Benedict* or Peace and Truce of God), which counts for 10% of the total course grade.

RESEARCH PAPER: This paper will be completed in stages and culminates in a final version of the paper, 15-18 pages of text (excluding cover sheet, bibliography). The stages are:
1) Identifying suitable sources and topic (to be completed in first three weeks of class)
   a. Selecting primary sources in translation in meeting with Prof. Berkhofer
   b. Submission of written research question(s) with citation of primary sources formatted according to *Chicago Manual of Style* (see library research guide for Medieval Studies for style guides and useful research resources).
2) Framing the paper (5%)
a. Submission of thesis statement and explanation of approach (max 1 page) with bibliography of all primary and secondary sources to be used in Chicago Manual of Style.
b. Return of statement with instructor’s comments for improvement.

3) Drafting the paper (5%)
   a. Students submit a first draft of the entire paper (not a “rough” draft), including full apparatus (footnotes, bibliography).
   b. Return of draft with instructor’s comments for improvement.

4) Submission of final draft (20%)
   a. Full length text, including full apparatus (footnotes, bibliography).
   b. Return of final paper with instructor’s comments and grade.

DISCUSSION: Attendance is a required part of the course; students consistently failing to attend class without a valid, university-approved written excuse may receive an "E" for the course at the instructor's option. Special source discussions (numbered in the schedule below) will focus on the assigned source readings for that day, and students will help lead one of these discussions. Vigorous participation (as contrasted with attendance) on the assigned source discussion days will count for 20% of a student’s total course grade.

GRADE COMPONENTS: Midterm exam 20%; Source analysis 10%; research paper 30%; 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 = E.

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 a card listing the approved accommodation, which you should show to Prof. Berkhofer. This process should be completed by the second week of class.

Late Work: 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. 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).

Email/IP Policy: Western Michigan requires that all email correspondence between instructors and students be conducted using wmich.edu accounts. Students may not reproduce any portion of course materials (including notes on lecture) without the instructor’s express written permission.

Lecture, Discussion and Reading Assignments
Always bring source readings to class for listed discussions.

Introduction
Background Reading: Bennett, Medieval Europe, ch. 1-8.

Week 1: Crisis of Power and Society?
Jan 13 Introduction to course, How to Read a Medieval Source
Jan 15 Lecture 01: Old Ideals of Order
   Read: E-Source 1: The Three Orders, Explore the Study Aids on website.
Unit I: Crises in the 11th and 12th Centuries

Week 2: Kings and Princes
Jan 20 Lecture 02: Crisis of Lordship?
   Read: E-Source 1b: Homage and Fealty
Jan 22 Discussion: E-Source 2a-d: Genealogies of Flanders, Anjou, Barcelona; Georges Duby, “French Genealogical Literature” in Chivalrous Society ch. 10.
   Topics: dynasticism, aristocratic ideals, kinship, regional power
This week: Schedule meeting with instructor to select primary sources for research paper

Week 3: Church Authority and Ideals
Jan 27 Lecture 03: Power and the Holy
   Topics: Hierarchy celestial and terrestrial, church organization, monastic ideas of power
Source Analysis Paper due

Week 4: Church in Crisis?
Feb 3 Lecture 04: Reform and Crisis in the 11th century
   Research Question and Primary Source citation due
Feb 5 Discussion 2: Miller, Power and the Holy, 44-121 = ch. 1 (remainder) and ch. 2 (entire); Be sure to examine the maps and chronology (p. 171-3) carefully.
   Topics: Investiture Conflict, secular vs. religious authority, reform as force for change

Week 5: Economy and Society
Feb 10 Lecture 05: Town and Country in an age of Expansion
   Recommended: Duby, Early Growth of the European Economy
   Thesis Statement with bibliography of primary sources and secondary works due
Feb 12 Discussion 3: E-Source 3a-b: Town and Village Charters; Verhulst, Rise of Cities in Northwest Europe, 44-156 (optional 1-44).
   Topics: Forming community, merchants, manors, lordship and wealth

Week 6: Towns in Crisis?
Feb 17 Lecture 06: Flanders, a society in Crisis
Feb 19 Discussion: Galbert of Bruges, Murder of Charles the Good, 79-312, and Ross’ introduction, 3-51 (and ideally 51-75)
   Topics: communes, violence and vengeance, social groups, freedom and unfreedom

Week 7: Comparing Kings in the early 12th Century
Feb 24 Lecture 07: Lord-Kingship in England and France
   Topics: kingship, legitimation, law and rule, inheritance, competition for power

Week 8: Kings and Power
Mar 3 Discussion: Suger, Deeds of Louis the Fat (entire)
   Topics: dynastic strategy, realities of royal rule, castles, churchmen and kings
Mar 5 MIDTERM EXAM

SPRING BREAK
**Unit II: Order and Disorder in the 12th and 13th Centuries**

Background Reading: Bennett, *Medieval Europe*, chs. 9-14 (esp. 10 and 13)

**Week 9: Violence and Victims**
Mar 17 Lecture 09: Catalonia to the Early Twelfth Century
Mar 19 Discussion: E-Source 5: Memorials of Peasant Complaint; E-Source 6: Survey of 1151; and Bisson, *Tormented Voices* (entire)
Topics: Violence as form of rule, peasant suffering, bad lordship

**Week 10: Struggle for Mastery in Catalonia**
Mar 24 Lecture 10: Rule of the Early Count-Kings, Catalonia, 1162-1213
Mar 26 Discussion 7: E-Source 7: Crisis in Catalonia.
Topics: Writing and rule, regional vs. royal power, fidelity

**Week 11: Comparing Kings in the later 12th Century**
Mar 31 Lecture 11: France of Philip Augustus (1180-1223)

**Research Paper Draft due**
Apr 2 Discussion 8: E-Source 8: Fiscal Accounts of Catalonia.
Topics: accountability, agents, rule at a distance, notions of wealth
Recommended: Bisson, *Crisis of the Twelfth Century*

**Week 12: Comparing Kings in the later 12th Century II**
Apr 7 Lecture 12: Angevin England, 1154-1215
Apr 9 Discussion: E-Source 9a: Angevin legal sources; E-Source 9b: Glanvill;
Topics: representation, “feudal” ties, law and custom, noble vs. royal power

**Week 13: Power and the Holy II**
Apr 14 Lecture: New Models of Ecclesiastical Order
Apr 16 Discussion 10: Jocelin of Brakelond, *Chronicle of Bury St. Edmunds* (entire); Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 122-31 (nos. 31-33).
Topics: negotiating sacred and secular power, monastic reform in practice
Note: Course Evaluation becomes available in this week. Please fill one out. Log into GoWMU and choose the “ICES Online” link in the "My Self Service" channel.

**Week 14: Towards Government?**
Apr 21 Lecture: Kings, Counselors, and Community in the 13th Century

Discussion: E-Source 10: Magna Carta, Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 160-70 (section on “Sanctity and Just Rulership”)
Recommended: Holt, *Magna Carta* (esp. ch. 4-5)

Apr 23 Discussion: E-Source 11: Bishop Adalbert’s Deeds, Complaints from Languedoc’;
Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 139-41, no. 37 (Visitation of Eudes Rigaud).

**Research Paper due**
Topics: Experience of power revisited, governance and the state

**Final Exam: Thursday Apr 30, 10:15am-12:15pm** (in regular classroom)