

HISTORY 1111

Medieval Europe 1050-1500

Dr. Monte Bohna
Office Hours: TH 12:00-1:00
Office: Posvar 3705
Course Website: courseweb.pitt.edu

Class Time: TH 1:00-2:15
Classroom: CL 342
E-mail: monteb@pitt.edu

This course is about the later Middle Ages in western Europe, focusing primarily on the interconnected political histories of England and France from the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 to the invasion of Italy by Charles VIII of France in 1494. Its principal theme is the origin of the modern western state in France and England in the five centuries after the year 1000 and the relationship of these emerging institutions of government to law-making, war-making and their own societies. Starting with the Norman Conquest, the course will trace the long rivalry between the rulers of England and France culminating in the Hundred Years War. It will also consider the expansion of English and French royal power within their kingdoms and against their neighbors. It will conclude by considering why, in the last hundred and fifty years of the period, both English and French monarchies suffered serious crises in the form of popular rebellions, such as the Jacquerie or Cade's Revolt, and aristocratic resistance such as the War of the League of Public Good and the Wars of the Roses.

COURSE READING

(see Course Requirements below for important information regarding the reading)

- Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages: Volume II: From c.900 to c.1500*, 2nd ed. (Broadview, 2004) ISBN: 1551116685. 240pp. \$34.95
- Joseph Strayer, *On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State*, 2nd ed. (PrincetonUP, 2005) ISBN 0691121850. 114pp. \$14.20
- David Crouch, *William Marshal: Court, Career and Chivalry in the Angevin Empire 1147-1219*, 2nd ed. (Longman, 2003) ISBN: 0582772222 264pp. \$18.45
- Constance Bouchard, *Strong of Body, Brave and Noble: Chivalry and Society in Medieval France* (CornellUP, 1998) ISBN: 0801485487 198pp. \$19.95

Other short readings may be assigned. Prices above are taken from Amazon.com for purposes of comparison – the Pitt Bookstore and other online bookshops may charge more or less. Some of these titles may be available through second-hand online merchants (e.g. Abebooks.com); any earlier edition will serve equally well.

SCHEDULE

Part I: High Middle Ages 1050-1300

I (Jan 6-8)	Intro/ <i>Lion in Winter</i>
II (Jan 13-15)	England under the Normans 1066-1154
III (Jan 20-22)	England under the Angevins 1154-1272
IV (Jan 27-29)	Capetians under the Angevins 1108-1180
V (Feb 3-5)	Capetian France 1180-1328
VI (Feb 10-12)	The Papacy & The Empire

VII (Feb 17-19) The Mediterranean & Crusades
Feb. 17 **Paper Due**

Midterm (Week VIII)

Feb. 24 Review
Feb. 26 **Midterm Exam**

Part II: Late Middle Ages 1300-1520

IX (Mar 3-5) England and France at war, 1320-1377
Spring Break (Mar. 8-15)
X (Mar 17-19) England and France at war, 1377-1453
XI (Mar 24-26) Valois France, 1422-1483
XII (Mar 31-Apr 2) The Wars of the Roses in England, 1422-85
Apr. 2 **Review due**
XIII (Apr 7-9) The Empire and the Duchy of Burgundy
XIV (Apr 14) Italy and the Papacy

Apr. 16 Review
Apr. 24 (Friday) **Final Exam, 12:00-1:50pm**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & INFORMATION

General Advice: This is a course for people who can set their own schedules and direct their own efforts: be advised that you are expected to read at your own pace, attend lectures regularly, and deliver papers when they are due, without direct supervision. If you are not very good at self-motivation, this is not a course for you. Moreover, the course presupposes that you are already familiar with the general outline of the medieval history of western and central Europe; it is strongly recommended that students take an introductory survey (i.e. AP European History and/or Western Civilization I) before taking this course.

The Reading: A general narrative survey text is recommended for this course. While not entirely satisfactory, one option is Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages: Volume II*. If this is your choice, you should review Ch. 4 immediately to refresh your memory regarding the situation in Europe prior to 1050. Chs. 5 & 6 coincide with the first part of this course and should be read as soon as possible. Chs. 7 & 8 pertain to the second part of the course and should be read after the midterm exam. If you are using a different survey text, you will need to identify the chapters or sections corresponding to the topics given on the Schedule above.

Strayer, *On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State* is an extended essay on the evolution of state and political institutions in our period, and presupposes you understand the general narrative of events. Therefore, you should read it to accompany your survey text: pp. 1-56 correspond to the first part of the course approximately to 1300, and pp. 57-111 after 1300.

See below regarding Crouch, *William Marshal* and Bouchard, *Strong of Body*.

Paper: You are required to write a paper in response to the question below and deliver it in hardcopy in class on Feb 17. The paper should be typed, approximately 4000 words long, and written in accordance with academic convention and the standard rules of English. The paper should be based on a close reading of Crouch, *William Marshal* and Bouchard, *Strong of Body*, and in addition should make use of at least four other modern scholarly works (i.e. journal articles, published essays, and monographs published since c. 1975) and/or primary documents (written works contemporary to the period) related to the subject.

Apart from its coherence and persuasiveness, the paper will be graded on the scholarly quality of the additional works and the thoroughness and sophistication of their use – in other words, merely listing something in a bibliography or citing in a footnote is not adequate if the body of your essay does not reflect a thorough understanding and use of the work cited. You must research and identify important writing on the topic and skillfully incorporate it in your essay.

In all cases works or sources consulted (even if not quoted directly) should be properly cited in foot- or endnotes and listed in a bibliography. Please see Dr. Bohna if you have not written a paper like this before or are unfamiliar with standard essay form and the conventions of academic historical writing. Use additional sources according to the following guidelines:

Print sources should be academically sound: a primary consideration is whether the author has based his own work on primary historical documentary evidence and whether the author cites his sources in notes and a bibliography. Academic journals (e.g. *English Historical Review*, *Historical Research*, *Journal of Medieval History*, *Speculum* etc.) qualify as “print sources” even though most are now available online through J-STOR or similar websites.

Online sources may be primary documents only, and please cite them (see below). The definition of “primary document” is something which was written during or shortly after the period in question (i.e. approx. 11th-14th centuries). Please do not use online secondary sources (i.e. anything written by someone in the modern age) - a paper which relies on online material other than primary documents will be penalized at least one letter grade.

Citation and Style: Please consult Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th edition) or the *Chicago Manual of Style* for any and all questions of citation or style, including the proper formatting of foot/endnotes and bibliography.

Paper Question: It is a commonplace observation that Medieval Europe was a hierarchical society dominated by a hereditary elite or nobility. The physical evidence of this dominance is still to be seen across Europe, in the form of the castles, houses and churches the nobility built for themselves. Even in the New World the mansions built by 19th century industrialist millionaires, with their faux turrets and stained-glass coats of arms, preserve an echo of noble power. Less apparent but with more profound effect, the medieval nobility’s ideas about themselves and their world have left an indelible mark on the literature, art and religion of modern Western civilization. Even in the minds of ordinary people living five centuries after the end of the Middle Ages, deeply rooted ideas about what freedom and liberty mean, or how masculinity should be defined, or the very words we use to describe our food, reflect the

profound impact of the medieval nobility on our civilization. For at least half a millennium (and in some ways as recently as the middle of the 20th century), the ruling class which coalesced in the 11th and 12th centuries maintained its grip on political, legal, social and intellectual power.

But why were they powerful to begin with? Describe the nature of noble power in the period between the Norman Conquest and the Hundred Years War. Discuss the elements of tangible and intangible resources which made the nobility powerful, such as ownership of property and legal jurisdiction, military power, ideologies of chivalric or ancestral superiority, familial and service-based networking, educational background and “cultural capital”, and nobles’ usefulness (or potential threat) to emerging royal governments. Discuss also the limitations or restrictions on noble power, for example from the growing assertiveness of royal government, or economic and social change, or divisions within the nobility itself (certainly not a monolithic or unified group).

Review: You are required to write a review of a monograph (book-length specialized study) published in the last decade (or so) on any aspect of Medieval Europe in our period. The review should be approx. 1000 words long, and should evaluate the strength of the argument or thesis presented by the author. The review should be handed in (in hardcopy) in class on Apr. 2. You may consult other reviews published in specialist journals both for guides to what has been recently published and for “second opinions” on the book you choose to review, but please ensure you acknowledge other reviewers’ works with the usual citation.

Exams: Two non-cumulative exams will be given at midterm and final. Both exams will consist of a list of ten terms, from which you will choose five, and write a brief essay (approx. one bluebook page) defining and explaining the significance of each.

Caveat: Please note that the due dates for all assignments are given below. Late assignments will not be accepted unless Dr. Bohner has agreed to an extension prior to the day the assignment is due. Plagiarism is both contemptible and against University regulations: this course is taught in accordance with the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity, which state in part that “students have the responsibility to be honest and to conduct themselves in an ethical manner while pursuing academic studies”. If you have any doubt whether you have cited sources properly, please ask. (See the university undergraduate bulletin for further details of university policy)

Grading Scheme:	Paper	February 17	40%
	Midterm Exam	February 26	25%
	Review	April 2	10%
	Final Exam	April 24	25%