

**01:510:213:90 & 01:685:213:90 THE CRUSADES**  
**Spring Semester 2018**  
**Professor Stephen Reinert, History Department**

*COURSE FORMAT*

The course content and assessment components (discussion forums, examinations) are fully delivered online.

*COURSE OVERVIEW & GOALS*

Crusade specialists these days characterize “the crusades” as papally authorized penitential wars, deployed not only in the “Holy Land” to recover and preserve sacred territory there, but to any theater deemed appropriate and crucial by the pope convening a crusade. Proceeding from this definition, our work in this course will focus on two key expressions of crusading ranging chronologically from the late eleventh through late thirteenth centuries. First are the crusades which were targeted to recover and maintain “the Holy Land,” seven of which are particularly memorable and are enumerated “First” through “Seventh” Crusades. Equally fascinating, however, is the application of crusading targeted to confront and deal with “Christian heretics,” specifically the eastern Greek orthodox and French neo-Manichaeans (Albigensians) in the thirteenth century. In exploring these phenomena, we will utilize a range of primary and secondary readings, using the Sakai Forum Discussions to collectively analyze some key primary sources in greater depth. Bringing crusades into the modern period, students will engage in a project assessing the historical accuracy of Sir Ridley Scott's 2005 epic historical drama *Kingdom of Heaven*.

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand the phenomenon of “crusades” in current historical thought, and comprehend what motivated medieval Europeans to engage so repeatedly in these episodes of sacralized war, and what it actually meant to them for religious as well as non-religious reasons.

*BOOKS & MATERIALS*

All readings for this course are delivered online in the course Sakai site, or are accessible elsewhere on the internet.

Students preferring to buy hard copies of the core textbooks may do so at the Rutgers New Brunswick Barnes & Noble Bookstore. These are:

- > Thomas Madden, *The Concise History of the Crusades* (2013). ISBN 978-1442215757.
- > Jonathan Riley-Smith, *What Were the Crusades?*, 4th. ed. (2009). ISBN 978-1586173609.

We will also study Sir Ridley Scott's film *Kingdom of Heaven*, using the Director's cut edition, released by 20th Century Fox in 2009. Students may access this as they wish, but Amazon.com sells the film on its Instant Video for less than \$10, and new DVDs are similarly priced.

Additional readings and materials (e.g., essays, maps, chronologies) will be provided online in the course Sakai site.

### *WEEKLY AGENDA*

“Weekly Agenda” refers to the learning and assessment activities that make up the course, over the normal spring semester of fifteen weeks. The specific agenda for each week (including all readings, assignments, advisories, etc.) is outlined within the Sakai tool “Lessons,” and is made available to students the week in which this agenda is explored. Students will be prompted, on a weekly basis, where they should be focusing via an announcement from the instructor.

For each working week, students are provided PowerPoint Lessons with Instructor’s Audio Overlay, meant to approximate the experience of in-class lectures. In addition students are provided with an array of carefully chosen readings (primary, secondary) and visuals pertinent to the theme of the week.

The “Weekly Agenda” is currently envisioned as follows. Please note Exam weeks are highlighted in red bold face, and Forum Discussion weeks are highlighted in blue bold face.

- > Week 1: Navigating the Course Online & Introduction, & **Non-graded "Icebreaker Forum Discussion"**
- > Week 2: The 11th Century Crisis in the East & Reactions in the West
- > Week 3: The First Crusade (1096-1099): Part 1
- > Week 4: The First Crusade (1096-1099): Part 2, & **First Graded Forum Discussion**
- > Week 5: From the First Crusade through the Second Crusade (1099-1149)
- > Week 6: Conquerors & Conquered in Outremer, & **Second Graded Forum Discussion**
- > Week 7: From the Second Crusade through the Surrender of Jerusalem (1149-1187)
- > Week 8: The Third Crusade (1189-1192), & **Exam #1**
- > Spring Break
- > Week 9: Scott's Kingdom of Heaven, & **Third Graded Forum Discussion**
- > Week 10: The Fourth Crusade (1202-1204)
- > Week 11: Crusading against “Heretics” -- The Albigensian Crusade (1209-1229), & **Fourth Graded Forum Discussion**
- > Week 12: From the “Children's Crusade” through the Fifth Crusade (1204-1221)
- > Week 13: The Sixth Crusade & Hohenstauffen Jerusalem (1228-1244), & **Fifth Graded Forum Discussion**
- > Week 14: The End of Outremer (1244-1291) & the Latin Custody of the Holy Land
- > Week 15: **Exam #2 [Final Exam Week]**

## *REQUIREMENTS & GRADING WEIGHTS*

Students are expected to work through the assigned reading etc., in each weekly lesson, on a regular and disciplined basis. Students should recognize that successfully navigating an online course is academically challenging, since they will accomplish virtually all of their work on an independent basis. Thus, successfully completing the course will require a significant time commitment, involving digesting of assigned materials, becoming familiar with Sakai protocols and tools, engaging in two online forum discussions, and taking two online examinations.

The components of the course grade are as follows:

> 30% = Examination #1 (calculated on 50 points)

> 30% = Examination #2 (calculated on 50 points)

> 40% = Graded Discussion Forums #1-5 (calculated on 10 points each)

In the Sakai Gradebook Tool, letter grades are calculated by default on the following scale:

> A = 90-100%

> B+ = 85-89.99%

> B = 80-84.99%

> C+ = 75-79.99%

> C = 70-74.99%

> D = 60-69.99%

> F = 0-59.99%

The instructor reserves the right, however, to adjust the percentage breaks (and hence grades) according to a curve better reflecting overall class performance, in relationship to the complexity and difficulty of the assessment.

## *DISCUSSION FORUMS*

All students are expected to participate in a total of five Sakai Discussion Forums, four of which will be graded. Students will be assigned to participate in a numbered group, of approximately ten participants each. The exact discussion topics will be directly related to readings, online presentations, and resources or media assigned as part of the “Weekly Agenda.”

In participating in the forums, students are expected to enter at least three posts — one stating their position on the proposed discussion topic (around 500 words), and two more in response to what others in their Forum group are posting (around 100 words each). Work in the discussion forums is worth 40% of the overall course grade.

## *ONLINE EXAMINATIONS (ASSESSMENTS)*

Students will be required to take two online exams, via our Sakai course website. These assessments comprehensively test understanding of material covered throughout the lessons preceding the test date. An advisory on the content of these exams will be posted, highlighting factual information that will be important for you to review and master. During the assessment (exam) period, you may take the online exam at your convenience. For each exam you will be allowed eighty (80) minutes to answer the questions.

Students are expected to take each examination as scheduled. No “make up” opportunities will be offered, except under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., serious illness, accident, etc.). Students for whom these scheduled dates present a legitimate conflict must contact the instructor as early in the course as possible to work out alternative arrangements, if such are warranted.

### *ONLINE & ON TIME*

Some online courses offer substantial flexibility regarding completion dates for assignments, but "The Crusades" does not. The deadlines for participation in the discussion forums and online exams are not negotiable. If, for whatever reason, this policy does not suit your needs, you should not take this course.

### *SPECIAL NEEDS*

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and accessibility of online information. If any student has a disability and may require some type of instructional accommodation, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that he can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations needed. Students with disabilities will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Ave., Suite A145. For further information and contact numbers visit the website <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>.

### *PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY*

Cheating on tests or plagiarizing in assigned work deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is also personally dishonest and unfair because it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. Following the Rutgers History Department policy on these matters, cheating and plagiarism will be treated as the serious offenses they are. Suspected cases will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and will be punished with penalties that are appropriate to the gravity of the infraction.

For comprehending this policy, please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Student Conduct, in particular the pages under “Academic Integrity:”  
<http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu>.