

**Harvest of the Middle Ages**  
**Medieval Civilization**  
Department of History  
Rutgers University  
510:211:01/ 667:282:01  
Frelinghuysen A2: Tuesday: 9:50-12:50

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00  
Thursday: 1:00-2:00

**Course Description –**

*Harvest of the Middle Ages* hopes to provide students with an understanding of the key aspects of the history of Europe from the time of the First Crusade to the beginnings of the Renaissance. The High Middle Ages saw the development of such institutions as the medieval university and the construction of the great Gothic cathedrals. The rise of market economies the development of the centralized nation-states were threatened by the spread of the Black Death and a series of peasant revolts. The term “Harvest” of the Middle Ages suggests that special attention will be paid to the late medieval crises that signaled the shift to the Renaissance.

**Required Texts –**

Maurice Keen, *The Pelican Medieval History of Europe* (Penguin)  
Judith Bennet, C. Warren Hollister, *Medieval Europe: A Short History* (McGraw Hill)  
Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth Century Miller* (Penguin)  
Jean Froissart, *Chronicles* (Penguin)

All texts have been ordered through the Rutgers University BookStore.

**Assignments –**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of one mid-term examination (25%), one final examination (35%), one analytic book review (30%), and participation/preparation (10%). The midterm and final examinations will test your knowledge of both lecture material and assigned readings from the texts. They will be divided into two sections. The first section (Identifications) will require you to identify and describe the historical

significance of a selection of people, places, or concepts. This section is designed to test the level of detailed knowledge you have acquired in the course. The second part of the examination (Essay) will require you to answer essay questions that deal with a general theme in the course. In answering such a question, you should be able to display independent, analytic thought about broad historical developments in the period covered by the course. You should also be able to integrate material from lectures and assigned readings and develop a consistent argument that addresses the issues raised in the essay question.

The analytic book review is designed to allow you to analyze historical arguments in a systematic fashion. This will require a critical perspective of the book you are reading that focuses both on the strengths and weaknesses of the text, Carlo Ginzburg's, *The Cheese and Worms* and various historiographical interpretations of the book. More detailed descriptions of the analytic book review assignment will be provided.

### **Class Meetings-**

I will provide a class outline for each of our meetings that contains a variety of information to help you assimilate the lecture and readings for that day. These outlines as well as the power points and primary source documents will also be posted to the class Sakai site. Class discussion is an essential part of the course, and will focus on broadening and clarifying your understanding of the various themes of medieval history that we will discuss. In the listing of readings below, I have provided chapter names rather than page numbers because there are numerous editions of the texts that we are using available both on-line and through various booksellers. If the title of the chapter doesn't seem to match your text, please let me know and I will clarify the reading assignment.

### **Attendance-**

Because of the unique nature of the course schedule, regular and punctual attendance is required. Missing more than one class will result in the loss of credit towards your final grade. Exceptions will be made only for extended medical or personal problems that can be satisfactorily documented. Therefore, students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes please use the University absence reporting website: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email will automatically be sent to me.

## Schedule of Lectures and Required Reading

- January 17                    An Introduction to Medieval society.
- January 24-                    The Rise of the new Religious Orders & the Crisis of the Church  
    Reading: Hollister and Bennett (Chapter 9) *New Paths to God*;  
    Keen(Chapter 7) *New Movements in Thought and Letters*.  
    Froissart, “Papal Affairs and the Great Schism,” “The Great Schism.”
- January 31-                    The Growth of Towns and Trade in the High Middle Ages  
    Reading: Hollister and Bennett (Chapter 7), *Economic Takeoff and Social Change*;  
    Keen (Chapter 6), *The Expansion of Europe* .
- February 7-                    The Rise of the Gothic  
    Reading: Hollister and Bennett (Chapter 12), *Literature, Art and Thought*.
- February 14-                    High and Low Culture: Palio and Carnival in Medieval Europe  
    Reading: Peter Burke, “The World of Carnival” (on Sakai)  
    Dundes and Falessi, “*La Terra in Piazza*” (on Sakai)
- February 21-                    Medieval Love and Medieval Marriage  
    Reading: Marauder, “The Enduring Popularity of Courtly Love” (on Sakai)  
    Ackerman, “The Heart’s Rebellion” (on Sakai)
- February 28-                    Midterm Examination
- March 7 -                        The Black Death and Medieval Conceptions of Disease.  
    Reading: Hollister (Chapter 14) *Famine, Plague, and Recovery*.  
    Froissart, “Black Death, Flagellants and Jews.”
- March 14-                        Spring Break
- March 21-                        Popular Rebellions and Peasant Revolts  
    Reading: Keen (Chapter 18) *Politics and Political Society in an Age of Wars*;  
    Froissart, “The Jacquerie,” “The Peasant Revolt in England.”

- March 28- Heresy and the Medieval Inquisition  
– Analytical Book Review due: Carlos Ginzburg’s *The Cheese and the Worms*.
- April 4- Film: *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1982) dir. Daniel Vigne
- April 11- The Political Development of England and France  
Reading: Hollister (Chapter 12) *States in the Making*;  
(Chapter 14) *Towards the Sovereign State*  
Froissart, “Preliminaries of the Hundred Years War,”
- April 18- The Hundred Years’ War and the Transformation of Medieval Warfare  
Reading: Keen (Chapter 17) *The Hundred Years’ War*;  
Froissart, “The Campaign of Crecy,” “Brigandy, Warfare and Predictions.”
- April 25 - Intimations of the Renaissance  
  
Reading: Hollister (Chapter 16) Diversity and Dynamism in Late Medieval Culture; Keen (Chapter 21) *The Break with Traditional Attitudes*.

### **Final Examination**