

# Ancient and Medieval Europe

510:101:08-09 Fall 2018  
Monday and Thursday 9:50-11:10 am  
Murray Hall 210

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## Course Summary

What does it mean to talk about “European culture?” Where did this culture come from and how did it develop into its present-day form? This course explores these questions and more as we explore the history of Europe from the first to the eighteenth century. Themes include: the hegemony of the Roman Empire and how its breakdown impacted the Mediterranean world; how Christianity developed from a small Middle Eastern cult to the dominant religion of Europe, integrated into the fabric of its political, social, and cultural landscapes; the establishment and growth of the kingdoms built by nomadic tribes in the wake of Rome’s fall; the clash between Greco-Roman and Christian intellectual culture and their eventual fusion by Thomas Aquinas. Finally, we will discuss how the questioning of existing authorities – especially Rome and Christianity – and contact with new regions of the world led to the transformation of Europe’s political, religious, and intellectual traditions during the early modern period.

This course meets the SAS Core Learning Goal for Historical Analysis (HST): you will learn to employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors, using appropriate assumptions, methods, evidence, and arguments

## Texts

The textbook for the course is: Michael Burger, *The Shaping of Western Civilization, Volume I: From Antiquity to the Mid-Eighteenth Century* (University of Toronto Press, 2013). The ISBN number is 9781442607569. This book is available from the campus bookstore. Reading from the textbook will be assigned for each class session. Supplemental readings can be found on the Sakai course site or linked from the syllabus.

## Course Assignments and Grading

Students will be graded on the following:

Short Essays	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Essay	25%
Participation	20%
Attendance	10%

## Course Policies

**Conduct:** Please refrain from disruptive behavior, such as eating, carrying on conversations, excessive comings and goings, texting, or inappropriate internet usage. Silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices during class. Any student whose conduct is rude and disrespectful will be asked to leave and will not be given credit for attendance or participation on that day. Rude and disrespectful behavior includes sleeping, wearing headphones during class, answering phone calls in the classroom, texting, doing other homework, or being occupied in any other activity that is unrelated to the class.

### Extra Credit and Rewrites:

There are no extra credit assignments in this course. Any essay receiving a grade of C+ or lower, however, is eligible to be rewritten. **If you would like to rewrite your assignment to improve your grade, you must meet with me or your TA in person first to discuss your essay and the changes that need to be made.** All rewrites must be turned in by the last day of class. The two grades will be averaged together to establish the final grade for the assignment. Because final grades need to be submitted promptly at the end of the semester, the final essay assignment may not be rewritten.

### Academic Integrity:

*Cell Phone Use:* There will be a zero tolerance policy for cell phone use during exams. If a student is found with their cell phone out during an exam, the exam will be taken from them and will automatically receive a grade of zero, with no opportunity for redoing the assignment. If a student has a legitimate reason for consulting their phone during that exam time (ex. family emergency), that reason must be brought to my attention before the exam begins.

*Plagiarism:* Instances of plagiarism on written work will be dealt with according to university policy. Plagiarism means presenting anyone else's words or ideas as if they were your own. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism or how to prevent it, ask *before* beginning your assignment.

**Syllabus:** All students are expected to have read the syllabus in its entirety and agree to abide by its policies. Likewise, I agree to abide by the syllabus throughout the semester, only adapting or updating it when absolutely necessary (for example, if the university cancels classes because of inclement weather). In such cases, a revised syllabus will be made available as soon as possible.

## Schedule

Textbook pages should be read *before* class on the date they are listed. Primary sources will be discussed at the next discussion section after they are listed on the syllabus.

Th 9/6

### Course Introduction

*Recommended: begin textbook reading for next class*

- M 9/10 **Romanitas and Christianitas**  
 Burger, p. 120-128; p. 131-154 (3.6-3.7, 4.1-4.3)  
[Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity](#)  
 Eusebius, *Life of Constantine*  
 Eusebius, *Oration to Constantine*
- Th 9/13 **Rome meets the “Barbarians”**  
 Burger, p. 154-161 (4.4-4.5)  
 Augustine, *City of God* (Book XIX, Ch 17)  
[Laws of Salian Franks](#)  
[Gregory of Tours, History of the Franks](#)
- M 9/17 **DISCUSSION 1**
- Th 9/20 **The Eastern Roman and Islamic Empires**  
 Burger, p. 161-165 (4.6)  
[Procopius, Justinian Suppresses Nika Revolt](#)  
[Procopius, De Aedificis](#)  
[Procopius, Secret History](#)  
 Life of Muhammad
- M 9/24 **Mission and Monasticism**  
 Bennett, *Medieval Europe*, p. 40-50  
 Rule of St Benedict  
 Life of St Guthlac
- Th 9/27 **Charlemagne: The Invention of Europe?**  
 Burger, p. 165-172 (4.7)  
 Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*  
[Capitulary for Saxony](#)
- M 10/1 **DISCUSSION 2**  
 SHORT ESSAY 1 DUE
- Th 10/4 **The Northmen in History**  
 Burger, p. 173-178 (4.8-4.9)  
 Ibn Fadlan, Description of the Russian Vikings  
 Liudprand of Cremona, *Two Embassies to Constantinople*
- M 10/8 **11<sup>th</sup> Century Revolutions**  
 Burger, p. 181-95 (5.1-5.2)  
[Gregory VII, Dictatus Papae](#)  
 Fulcher of Chartres, *Account of the First Crusade*  
 Ibn Munqidh, *On the Franks in Palestine*

- Th 10/11 **12<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance**  
 Burger, p. 195-200; 205-220 (5.3, 5.5-5.6)  
 Abelard, *Sic et Non*  
[Abelard, \*Historia Calamitatum\*](#)
- M 10/15 **DISCUSSION 3**
- Th 10/18 **13<sup>th</sup> Century Expansions and Papal Power**  
 Burger, p. 200-205 (5.4)  
[Innocent III, Letters](#)  
 John of Paris, *On Royal and Papal Power*
- M 10/22 **14<sup>th</sup> Century Crisis**  
 Burger, p. 220-225 (5.7)  
 Boccaccio, *Decameron*  
[Anonimale Chronicle](#)
- Th 10/25 **Redefining the State**  
 Bennett, *Medieval Europe*, p. 322-43  
 Catherine of Siena, Letter to Gregory XI  
 Joan of Arc, Letter to the English
- M 10/29 **DISCUSSION 4**
- Th 11/1 **EXAM 2**
- M 11/5 **Italian Renaissance**  
 Burger, p. 226-232 (5.8)  
[Petrarch, Letters](#)  
 Vasari, *Life of Leonardo*
- Th 11/8 **European Expansion**  
 Burger, p. 261-268 (6.7)  
 Sepulveda, *On the Reasons for the Just War Among the Indians*  
 Las Casas, *In Defense of the Indians*
- M 11/12 **DISCUSSION 5**
- Th 11/15 **Reformation**  
 Burger, p. 235-245 (6.0-6.1)  
[Luther, Letter to the Archbishop of Mainz](#)  
[Luther, Address to Christian Nobility](#)
- M 11/19 **Counter-Reformation**  
 Burger, p. 245-248 (6.2)  
[Ignatius of Loyola, \*Spiritual Exercises\*](#)

## CHANGE OF DESIGNATION DAY

*T	11/20*	<b>Nations at War</b> Burger, p. 251-261 (6.4-6.6) <a href="#">De Thou, St Bartholomew's Day Massacre</a> Montaigne, <i>On Cannibals</i>
M	11/26	<b>DISCUSSION 6</b> SHORT ESSAY 2 DUE
Th	11/29	<b>Witch Hunts</b> Weisner-Hanks, <i>Early Modern Europe</i> , p. 386-93 Kraemer and Sprenger, <i>Malleus Maleficarum</i>
M	12/3	<b>Early Modern State-Building</b> Burger, p. 284-307 (7.3-7.4) <i>Recommended: revisit Burger, Ch 6, p. 260-268 (6.6-6.7)</i> <a href="#">Bossuet, Political Treatise</a> Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
Th	12/6	<b>Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment</b> Burger, p. 272-284; 307-320 (7.0-7.2, 7.5-7.7) Galileo, Letter to Don Benedetto Castelli Locke, <i>On Knowledge, Second Treatise on Government</i>
M	12/10	<b>DISCUSSION 7</b>
TBA		<b>FINAL ESSAY DUE</b>