Emergence of Medieval Europe
Medieval Civilization
Department of History
Rutgers University
510:209/667:281 (01)

DRAFT

Dr. Anthony di Battista
Van Dyck Hall 001
adibattista@history.rutgers.edu
Office phone: (848) 932-8252
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00, Thursday 10:00-11:00, and by appointment.

Course Description –

The Middle Ages is one of the most misunderstood and fascinating periods in European history. It marks the emerging of the first distinctly European civilization in western history. *Emergence of Medieval Europe* hopes to provide students with an understanding of the key aspects of that history from the end of the Roman Empire to the Investiture Crisis. Special attention will be paid to the growth of feudal institutions, the crusades, and the development of the Church.

Required Texts –

R.H.C. Davis, *A History of Medieval Europe* (Pearson Longman 2006)
Judith M. Bennett & C. Warren Hollister, *Medieval Europe: A Short History* (McGraw Hill, 2006)
Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The First Crusade and the Idea of Crusading* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986)
Einhard, *Two Lives of Charlemagne* (Penguin, 1969)

All texts have been ordered through the Rutgers University Book Store.

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, Jonathan Riley-Smith's *The First Crusade and the Idea of Crusading* 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

September 5-   An introduction to medieval society.
                               -The Roman Empire at its height
                               -The early Christian Church

September 12-   The transformation of the Roman Empire.
                 - Hollister & Bennett, *Chapter 1, "Rome Becomes
                 Christian." Chapter 2, "Barbarian Settlement in the
                 West."*
                 -Davis, *The Barbarian Invasions.*

September 19-   Justinian and the growth of Islam
                 - Hollister & Bennett, *Chapter4, "Neighbors: Byzantium
                 and Islam."*
                 - Davis, *Islam*

September 26-   The Early Medieval Church
                 -Hollister & Bennett, *Early Western Christendom*
                 - Davis, *The Church and the Papacy*
                 - *The Rule of St. Benedict* on Sakai.

October 3-   Feudalism and the flowering of knighthood
                 - Hollister & Bennett, *Carolingian Europe.*
                 - Davis, *The Franks.*

October 10–   Interpretations of Charlemagne
                 - Einhard, *Two Lives of Charlemagne.*
                 - Notker, *Two Lives of Charlemagne.*

October 17-   Medieval People.
                 Eileen Power, "*The Peasant Bodo*" from *Medieval People* on Sakai
                 Maryanne Kowaleski, "Medieval People in Town and Country" on
                 Sakai

October 24--   Mid-Term Examination

October 31-   Pilgrimage and urbanism in medieval society.
                 -Davis, *Europe at the End of the Ninth Century.*
                 -Hollister & Bennett, Chapter 7, "*Economic Takeoff and
                 Social Change.*"

November 7-   Film, *The Name of the Rose* (1986) dir. Jean Jacques Annaud.

November 14-   Architecture and authority – the role of medieval castles
                 -Analytic book review due on Riley-Smith, *The First Crusade and
                 the Idea of Crusading.*

November 21-   *Deus Lo Volte* - the First Crusade.
                - Davis, *Jerusalem Regained and Lost.*
                -Hollister & Bennett, Chapter 9, "*Conquests, Crusades, and
                Persecutions.*"

December 3-   The Investiture Crisis
                - Hollister & Bennett, *Worlds in Collision: Papacy and the
                Holy Roman Empire.*
                Davis, *The Reform of the Papacy.*

December 10-   Universities and Universals
                -Hollister and Bennett, *Literature, Art and Thought*
                -Umberto Eco, "In Praise of Thomas Aquinas."

Final Examination to be held at regularly scheduled university date and time