

Harvest of the Middle Ages

Department of History
Rutgers University
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Tuesday: 10:20-1:20

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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 Canvas 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 18- An Introduction to Medieval society.

- January 25- 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.”
- February 1- 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 8- The Rise of the Gothic
 Reading: Hollister and Bennett (Chapter 12), *Literature, Art and Thought*.
- February 15- High and Low Culture: Palio and Carnival in Medieval Europe
 Reading: Peter Burke, “The World of Carnival” (Canvas)
 Dundes and Falessi, “*La Terra in Piazza*” (on Canvas)
- February 22- Medieval Love and Medieval Marriage
 Reading: Marauder, “The Enduring Popularity of Courtly Love” (on Canvas)
 Ackerman, “The Heart’s Rebellion” (on Canvas)
- March 1- ***Midterm Examination***
- March 8 - The Black Death and Medieval Conceptions of Disease.
 Reading: Hollister (Chapter 14) *Famine, Plague, and Recovery*.
 Froissart, “Black Death, Flagellants and Jews.”
- March 15- ***Spring Break***
- March 22- 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 29- Heresy and the Medieval Inquisition
 – Analytical Book Review due: Carlos Ginzburg’s *The Cheese and the Worms*.

- April 5- Film: *The Return of Martin Guerre* (1982) dir. Daniel Vigne
- April 12- 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 19- 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 26 - 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 held on university assigned date and date

Student Wellness Resources

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 /

<https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>