Transformation of Medieval Europe, 1000-1500

Spring 2010
Prof. Robert Berkhofer
History 3606-100 (#15460)
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Hours: M 11-2, W 11-12:30

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Considers the rise of Europe as a result of the transformative events of the high middle ages, stressing social, economic, political, and cultural history. Designed to introduce topics in medieval history to history majors, the course begins by asking what ideas and institutions were inherited from the Carolingians, and then the transformations of the eleventh to thirteenth centuries (including the "feudal revolution," reform in the Church, the rise of new political structures, and expansion of the intellectual and physical frontiers of Europe). The course concludes by considering the challenges medieval Europe faced during the fourteenth century, and how they helped shape a distinct world culture.

COURSE FORMAT: This course will be conducted through a combination of lectures and discussions. Lectures will review the readings in historical perspective and provide background for student-led discussion of primary source materials. Students will bring a wide variety of assumptions and theoretical starting-points and are encouraged to bring thoughtful comments to class and listen to those of others. Students are required to attend all class meetings and come to discussions having already read and thought about the sources. This course will fulfill the History Department’s “writing intensive” course requirement through two linked source analysis papers based on primary source materials and a short paper critically evaluating those sources in light of current historical literature, in addition to essay exams.

REQUIRED BOOKS:
Note: You will have to purchase two blue books for the exams.

OPTIONAL BOOKS:
HONOR CODE: Students are expected to uphold the Western Michigan University standards of Academic Conduct. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalog (pp. 274-276) that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. Students are required to maintain and electronic copy of all written assignments and must be able to produce it if asked by the instructor. Suspect papers will be submitted electronically to plagiarism.org, a clearinghouse that works to prevent fraud in paper composition.

EXAMS: There will be one midterm exam on Feb 10 and a final exam on April 27, 12:30-2:30 in the classroom. Each exam will cover all the readings, discussions, and lectures to date. Both exams will be essay format, with some short identification questions and a source-based question. The midterm exam will count 20% of the course grade; the final 30% of the grade.

SOURCE ANALYSIS: Students will prepare two brief source analysis papers (3-4 pages; 750-1000 words) on source readings assigned for particular days. They will write the first during unit 1 (due no later than Feb 3), and the second during unit 2 (due no later than Mar 1), with each counting for 10% of the total course grade (total 20%). These papers will be due at the start of class on the day the sources are assigned, when the students will lead class discussion.

SHORT PAPER: Students will write a short (6-8 pages, 1500-2000 words) paper combining source analysis with an evaluation of a modern historian's interpretation related to these sources due April 14. I will suggest paper topics, assign students to groups, and hand out instructions later. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of your paper after submitting it originally. This paper will count for 20% of the total course grade.

ATTENDANCE: DISCUSSION: Attendance is a required part of the course; students consistently failing to attend class without a valid, university-approved written excuse may receive an "F" for the course at the instructor's option. Discussions will focus on the assigned source readings for each day. Vigorous participation (as contrasted with attendance) in discussion will count for 10% of a student’s total course grade.

GRADE COMPONENTS: Midterm exam, 20%; two source analyses, 20%; short paper, 20%; discussion, 10%; final exam, 30%. You must complete all elements of the course to receive a passing grade. All late submissions will be penalized, in fairness to students who complete the assignments in a timely fashion. The grade scale is as follows: 100-93 = A, 92-87 = BA, 86-83 = B, 82-77 = CB, 76-73 = C, 72-67 = DC, 67-60 = D, and less than 60 = F.

Students with Disabilities: You should register your disability with Disability Services (Faunce Student Services 2107, 387-2116). You should discuss any accommodation you need with them and they will give you a form listing the approved accommodations to give to me to sign. This process should be completed by the end of the second week of class.
Make-Up Exams and Late Papers: Make-up exams will be given only for valid, university-approved written excuses, at the instructor's discretion. Make-up exams must be taken as soon as possible after the original test, preferably the day the student returns to class, at a time chosen by the instructor (usually my office hours). Unexcused late papers will be penalized two full letter grades per day they are late (e.g., a "B" paper will become a "D" paper).

Computer and Intellectual Property Policy: All students must be able to navigate the course website. Students will use their WMU email address for all correspondence related to this course. Students will not reproduce any portion of course materials (including notes on lecture) without the instructor’s express written permission.

Lecture, Discussion and Reading Assignments
Read sources thoroughly before class for which they are assigned to be prepared for discussion. Students with no background in premodern Europe should read Bennett and Hollister before each unit.

Jan 11  Introduction: Legacy of the Carolingian Empire
Background Reading: Bennett and Hollister, chs. 5-6 (skim)
“Study Aids” on class website: Taking Notes, Primary Sources, Secondary Sources. Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing History, ch. 1 "Why Study History"

Unit I: Transitions of the Eleventh Century
Background Reading: Bennett and Hollister, Part II, Introduction and chs. 7-9
Jan 13  Lecture 01: Models of Change and Continuity
Sources, Introduction: The Three Orders and how read a source
Bring TWO Unmarked Blue Books to class (do not write on them)
Recommended: Rampolla, ch. 2, "Working with Sources,"
Jan 18  MLK Day (No Class). Optional: Read Duby’s Early Growth
Jan 20  Lecture 02: Crisis of Lordship?
Sources #1: Tierney, The Middle Ages, ch. 11 (nos. 32-35)
Web: Paper Writing, Style Sheet, and Citing Sources
Recommended: Rampolla, ch. 5 "Following Conventions," ch. 6, "Plagiarism"
Jan 25  Lecture 03: Reform in the Church
Jan 27  Sources #2: Tierney, The Middle Ages, ch. 12 (nos. 36-39) and ch. 13, no. 40.
Feb  1  Lecture 04: Economic Expansion
Feb  3  Sources #3: Tierney, The Middle Ages, ch. 15 (nos. 47-51)

Last opportunity for source analysis 1

Unit II: The High Middle Ages, 1100-1300
Background Reading: Bennett and Hollister, chs. 10-12
Feb  8  Lecture 05: Lord-Kingship and new polities
Feb 10  Midterm Exam
Feb 16  Lecture 06: New Paths to God
Feb 18  Sources #4: Peters, Heresy and Authority, pp. 57-101
Feb 22  Lecture 07: Two Families, One Madness
Feb 24  Sources #5: Greenaway and Sayers, The Chronicle of Bury St. Edmunds (entire)
SPRING BREAK
Mar 8    Lecture 08: The New Spirituality
Mar 10   Sources #7: Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, pp. 103-163 and nos. 28 and 29
Mar 15   Lecture 09: Secular Culture in Life and Literature
Mar 17   Sources #8: Tierney, *The Middle Ages*, chs. 16 and 17
Mar 22   Lecture 12: Kings and Counsellors, 1215-1295
Mar 24   Sources #9: Tierney, *The Middle Ages*, chs. 20 and 24 and no. 71 *(corrected)*
Mar 29   Lecture 13: A Crisis of Church and State?
Mar 31   Sources #10: Tierney, *The Middle Ages*, ch. 23 and 27 *(corrected)*

*Last opportunity for source analysis 2*

**Unit III: The Later Middle Ages, 1300-1500**

Background Reading: Bennett and Tierney, chs. 13-15

Apr 5     Lecture 14: Crises of the 14th Century
          Note: Read *Introduction* of Hatcher
Apr 7     Sources #11: Hatcher, *The Black Death: A Personal History* (entire)
Apr 12    Lecture 15: A Church Divided?
Apr 14    Sources #12: Peters, *Heresy and Authority*, pp. 189-215 and 235-64 *(corrected)*
Apr 19    Lecture 16: Community and Popular Beliefs
          *Short Papers due today in class*
          Exam Review
Apr 27    **FINAL EXAM, 12:30-2:30** *(Note: This is a Tuesday)*