

Medieval Europe
HIST 205 – AS01
Fall 2016

Instructor: Sean Hannan, PhD

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Office Hours: W 1:00-4:00

Lecture Time: TR 11:00-12:20

Lecture Room: 7-184

Course Credits: 3

Course Pre-requisite: None

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to the important events, developments, and themes in medieval European history from Charlemagne to the Black Death. Discussion of social and political topics such as feudalism and manorialism, growth of legal systems, political theory and the rise of medieval states, the Crusades, medieval warfare, and the Holy Roman Empire are connected to cultural and intellectual themes related to Muslims in Iberia, urbanization, reform of the Catholic Church, and the rise of universities. This rendition of HIST 205 will pay particular attention to the interplay between religion and philosophy in medieval history, most especially in the case of the shared histories of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be to able to:

Analyze and discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that shaped European societies during the Middle Ages.

Identify and comment upon significant events, ideas, and concepts associated with medieval Europe.

Conduct research, read critically, and use evidence effectively to formulate arguments. Speak intelligently about the intertwined intellectual and cultural traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Engage critically with narratives about the past and their reliance upon available sources.

Textbooks and Other Learning Resources:

Backman, Clifford R. *The Worlds of Medieval Europe*. 3rd Ed. Oxford UP, 2015.
Storey, William Kelleher and Towser Jones. *Writing History: A Guide for Canadian Students*.
4th edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Grade Evaluation:

Critical Reading Assignments	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%
	100%

Assignment and Exam Dates:

Critical Reading Assignments (1 page each): Sept. 22; Oct. 6; Oct. 20; Nov. 3

Mid-Term Exam: Oct. 13

Research Paper (1500-2000 words): Nov. 17

Final Exam: (see below)

Final Exam Schedule:

The date, time and location will be available online at MacEwan.ca/Exams later in the term.

Assignment Descriptions:

Critical Reading Assignments: Four times over the course of the semester, students will submit pieces that critically reflect upon the issues and themes discussed in our textbook and in class. These pieces will be short (one page, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font), but they should also be substantive. Prompts for these assignments will be posted on Blackboard in advance of the due dates. Completed assignments should in turn be submitted via Blackboard.

Mid-Term Exam: About halfway through the semester, there will be a mid-term exam covering the first ten chapters of Backman's text. This exam will be conducted in class and will be closed book. Students will be responsible for responding to questions based on material found both in the textbook and in lectures, encompassing a period from the late Roman Empire to the dawn of the twelfth century CE.

Research Paper: Later in the semester, students will submit a research paper of 1500-2000 words. (That usually means about 6-8 double-spaced pages.) While students will be able to choose their own topic from within the sphere of medieval European history, they will also be required to submit their potential topic to the instructor by Oct. 27, well in advance of the paper's due date. Research papers should be submitted online via Blackboard.

Final Exam: Our course will culminate with a final in-class examination. This exam will be cumulative, which means it will cover all of Backman's text, as well as any extra material explored during the lectures.

Final Grade:

The official grading system at MacEwan University is the 12-point letter grade system. While instructors may use percentages to aid in their grade development, percentages are not part of MacEwan University's official grading system. Policy [C2020: Grading](#).

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point	Descriptor
A+	96-100	4.0	Outstanding
A	88-95	4.0	Excellent
A-	82-87	3.7	
B+	78-81	3.3	Good
B	74-77	3.0	
B-	71-73	2.7	
C+	66-70	2.3	Satisfactory
C	63-65	2.0	
C-	58-62	1.7	
D+	53-57	1.3	Poor
D	48-52	1.0	
F	0-47	0.0	Fail

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students are expected to be aware of their academic responsibilities as outlined in Policy [E3101: Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). Policies are available online at [MacEwan.ca/policymanual](#).

- 1. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Policy [C1000: Academic Integrity](#). All incidents of academic dishonesty, as outlined in the policy, are reported and recorded by the [Academic Integrity Office](#).
- 2. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** Policy [E3400: Student with Disabilities](#). Students who require special accommodation in this course due to a disability are advised to discuss their needs with [Services to Students with Disabilities \(SSD\)](#).
- 3. PREREQUISITES:** Students who do not have the appropriate prerequisite may be removed from the course and may be responsible for any tuition costs up to the date of removal.
- 4. FINAL EXAMS:** Policy [C2005: Final Assessment](#) and Policy [C2020: Grading](#). Students are responsible for confirming the date, time, duration and location of the final exam. Students may apply for a deferred final exam to the [Faculty of Arts and Science Program Services Office](#). **Applications must be received within two business days of the final exam** (\$50 per exam to a maximum of \$100 per scheduled exam period).
- 5. APPEALS:** Policy [E3103: Student Appeals](#). Students may contact [Student Affairs](#) for assistance.

INSTRUCTOR COURSE POLICIES:

Students must communicate with their instructors using their myMacEwan email accounts.

- 1. Late penalties/policy:** Students must submit all assignments by the stated deadlines in order to for their grade to receive full consideration. Late submissions will have their grades docked at a rate of 5% per day. No assignments will be accepted more than one week after their stated deadline. Exceptions may be made in the case of compelling medical circumstances. In that case, it will be necessary to provide documentation in the form of a doctor's note.
- 2. Attendance:** Attendance at and attention during class are expected of all students in this course. Failure to attend will put students at a disadvantage when it comes to understanding the material and succeeding with their assignments.

DISCLAIMER:

The information in this course outline is subject to change and any changes will be announced in class or in writing.

COURSE TOPICS AND SCHEDULE

Week One: In The Middle Of What?

Thursday, Sept. 8: Backman, Introduction & Ch. 1.

Week Two: Late Antiquity

Tuesday, Sept. 13: Backman, Ch. 2.

Thursday, Sept. 15: Backman, Ch. 3-4.

Week Three: The Early Middle Ages

Tuesday, Sept. 20: Backman, Ch. 5.

Thursday, Sept. 22: Backman, Ch. 6. **Critical Reading Assignment due.**

Week Four: Millennium & Revolution

Tuesday, Sept. 27: Backman, Ch. 7.

Thursday, Sept. 29: Backman, Ch. 8.

Week Five: Shifting Boundaries

Tuesday, Oct. 4: Backman, Ch. 9.

Thursday, Oct. 6: Backman, Ch. 10. **Critical Reading Assignment due.**

Week Six: The Twelfth-Century Renaissance

Tuesday, Oct. 11: Backman, Ch. 11.
Thursday, Oct. 13: **Mid-Term Exam.**

Week Seven: Popes & Politics

Tuesday, Oct. 18: Backman, Ch. 12.
Thursday, Oct. 20: Backman, Ch. 13. **Critical Reading Assignment due.**

Week Eight: Thirteenth-Century Towns & Gowns

Tuesday, Oct. 25: Backman, Ch. 14.
Thursday, Oct. 27: Backman, Ch. 15. **Paper Topic Submissions due.**

Week Nine: The Religious Life

Tuesday, Nov. 1: Backman, Ch. 16.
Thursday, Nov. 3: Backman, Ch. 16 (cont.). **Critical Reading Assignment due.**

Week Ten: Plague, Death, Pestilence

Tuesday, Nov. 8: Backman, Ch. 17.
Thursday, Nov. 10: **No Class – Reading Break.**

Week Eleven: Art & Intellect

Tuesday, Nov. 15: Backman, Ch. 18.
Thursday, Nov. 17: Backman, Ch. 18 (cont.). **Research Paper due.**

Week Twelve: Religion & Violence

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Backman, Ch. 19.
Thursday, Nov. 24: Backman, Ch. 19 (cont.).

Week Thirteen: After the Middle

Tuesday, Nov. 29: Backman, Ch. 20.
Thursday, Dec. 1: Final Review.