

HISTORY 210

Medieval Europe

Instructor: Edwin B. DeWindt, LMS, PhD, FRHistS
Office: B320
Phone: (313) 993-1098
Hours: M,W: 10:00-3:00
 T: 1:00-3:00
 6:00-6:30
 R: 1:00-3:00

Texts:

Cook and Herzman, *Medieval World View*
Hollister and Bennett, *Medieval Europe: A Short History*
R. I. Moore, *The First European Revolution*

Other readings to be supplied by the Instructor.

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

THIS COURSE is designed as an introduction to the development of Western institutions and ideas from the transformation of the Western Roman Empire in the 3rd century, C.E., to the end of the 15th century and the reorientation of Western ways of thinking about the Classical antiquity, commonly called “the Renaissance”. Class sessions will consist of lectures by the Instructor on topics that are of interest to him, and discussions of primary texts (to be supplied). Students will be responsible for *all* assigned readings, whether or not they are specifically dealt with in class.

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING

The major assignment in the course is relatively simple: Buy the required books and read them.

Grading will be based on:

Participation/contributions to class discussions of selected texts (on those rare occasions when anyone has ANYTHING of interest to say);

The successful completion and submission of an *extended essay* (i.e. MINIMUM of 10 pages, typed, double-spaced), addressing the following:

*The history of the West from ca. the late 3rd century, C.E., to the end of the 15th century can be seen as a story of the blending into distinctive cultural, institutional and value systems of the political and intellectual achievements of the Greeks and Romans, the religious ideas of the Jews and Christians, and the energy and experiences of the Celtic and Germanic warrior peoples of northern Europe. The world created by this blending process, which we call “medieval”, has been seen by some historians as one which was dominated by religion and clergy, or by war and warriors, or by kings and aristocrats. Although these perspectives have arguments in their favor, none is especially satisfying as a way of approaching a civilization of more than a thousands years’ duration. **THEREFORE**, drawing upon your reading of both survey texts for the course, as well as the book by R. I. Moore **AND** the primary source readings distributed in class: **WHAT IS MISSING** in the three perspectives or points of view suggested above? What, indeed, do Moore’s book and the source materials suggest to you as possibilities for further exploration of this sprawling world we label “the Middle Ages”? In your discussion, be specific. **BE VERY SPECIFIC** in your observations and suggestions.*

NOW, GO BACK AND READ THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH AGAIN.

IT IS YOUR FINAL EXAMINATION, and is due on the day assigned for the “Final Examination” in the course.

NOTE: There is no “formal” Final Examination for the course. The essay (above) is it.

CALENDAR

- January 6:** Introduction. Start reading: Hollister and Bennett, Chapters 1-3
- January 13:** The Changing Roman World
Readings: Tacitus, Jordanes, Perpetua and Felicity (supplied)
- January 20:** The Christian West
Readings: Cook and Herzman, Chapters 1-6
Benedict : Rule (supplied)
- January 27:** The First Medieval World
Readings: Cook and Herzman, Chapter 7
Hollister and Bennett, Chapters 4-6
Law Codes of Aethelberht, Alfred,
Penitential of Thodore, Saxon Capitularies (supplied)
- February 3:** The Warrior Age
Readings: Hollister and Bennett, Chapter 7
- February 10:** The Redefining of the West: Religion
Readings: Cook and Herzman, Chapter 8
Hollister and Bennett, Chapter 11
Gregory VII and Henry IV,
Crusade accounts, Decrees of Lateran IV (supplied)
- February 17:** The Redefining of the West: Material/Secular Culture
Readings: Hollister and Bennett, Chapters 8, 12
Domesday Book, Dialogue of the Exchequer,
Magna Carta, Huntingdon Eyre (supplied)
- February 24:** The Redefining of the West: Intellectual Life
Readings: Hollister and Bennett, Chapter 13
Cook and Herzman, Chapter 9

- March 9: The Ordered Society**
Readings: Cook and Herzman, Chapter 10
Moore, ALL
Inquisition records (supplied)
- March 16: Trauma**
Readings: Cook and Herzman, Chapter 11
Hollister and Bennett, Chapter 14
- March 23: War and the Changing Monarchies**
Readings: Hollister and Bennett, Chapter 15
- March 30: A Change in Perspective**
Readings: Hollister and Bennett, Chapter 16
- April 6: TBA**
- April 13: TBA**
- April 20: Essay due**