

History 112 The World of Late Antiquity, 200-900 C.E.

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Course Description:

This course charts the dissolution of the ancient Mediterranean world's relative cultural and political unity under the Roman Empire and the development of distinct European, Byzantine and Islamic civilizations. Particular attention will be given to the development and spread of Christianity and Islam. Students will acquire a firm foundation for further study in the history of Islamic societies and medieval European and Byzantine history.

Learning Objectives and Assessment:

Students will learn significant political narratives of the dissolution of the Roman Empire and establishment of barbarian kingdoms in the west, the development of a medieval Eastern Roman Empire and the establishment of the Abbasid Caliphate. Students will be introduced to the processes by which historians derive narratives of events from primary source material. Quizzes will assess acquisition of basic factual information. Brief writing assignments and participation in discussion sections will practice analysis of primary documents.

6 quizzes: 6.5% each (39% of total)
3 250-word writing assignments: 10% each (30% of total)
1 Article Review Paper: 12.5%
1 Library excersize: 0.5%
Discussion Participation: 18%

Quizzes are multiple-choice. This does not mean that they are simple.

Books:

The Rise of Western Christendom , Peter Brown

The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600-1800, Jonathan Berkey, Cambridge UP, 2003 ISBN: 0521588138

A Short History of the Middle Ages, Barbara Rosenwein, UTP Higher Education, 2002 ISBN: 1442601043 (Abbreviated *SHMA*)

Lecture Schedule:

| Week | Lectures and Sections | Readings | Assignments & Quizzes |
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| | NO SECTION WEEK ONE | | |
| Week 1 | 9/6 Introduction to the Dark Ages | Brown 1-34 | |
| | 9/8 Roman Empire ca. 150 | Brown Ch. 1 | |
| Week 2 | Section 9/12 or 9/13 | Edward Gibbon : on line resource | |
| | 9/13 Reforms of Diocletian, Roman Frontiers | SHMA 21-25 | |
| | 9/15 Roman Religion | | |
| Week 3 | Section 9/19 or 9/20 | Readings on Roman Religion | |
| | 9/20 Persecution, Martyrs and Christianity | SHMA25-40 | Quiz One |
| | 9/22 Constantine | Brown Ch. 2 | |
| Week 4 | Section 9/26 or 9/27 | Readings on Conversion of Constantine | Paper One DUE |
| | 9/27 Nicaea and its discontents | | |
| | 9/29 Asceticism | Brown Ch.3 | |
| Week 5 | Sections 10/3 or 10/4 | Martyrdom of Perpetua | |
| | 10/4 Alaric, Goths & Arians | SHMA 40-58 | |
| | 10/6 Imperial Capitals | | |
| Week 6 | Sections 10/10 or 10/11 | Readings from Augustine | |
| | 10/11 Huns | | Quiz Two |
| | 10/13 Clovis & the Franks | Brown Ch. 4-5 | |
| Week 7 | Sections 10/17 or 10/18 | Readings from Gregory of Tours | Paper Two Due |
| | 10/18 Theodoric & Ostrogothic Italy | Brown Ch.6 | |
| | 10/20 Justinian & Theodora | Brown Ch. 7 | |
| Week 8 | Sections 10/24 or 10/25 | Readings from Procopius | |
| | 10/25 Religious Intolerance & Diversity | Berkey 11-38; Brown Ch.8 | |
| | 10/27 Christianity in Asia | SHMA 61-70; Brown Ch. 12 | Quiz Three |
| Week 9 | Sections 10/31 or 11/1 | Readings on Eastern Asceticism | |
| | 11/1 Persia Resurget | Berkey 39-53; Brown Ch. 9 | |
| | 11/3 New Religion | Berkey 57-75; Brown Ch. 13 | |
| Week 10 | Sections 11/7 or 11/8 | Readings from the Quran | |
| | 11/8 Library Excerise--Meet at Memorial library | | |
| | 11/10 Iconoclasm | SHMA 101-108; Brown Ch.17 | Quiz Four |
| Week 11 | Sections 11/14 or 11/15 | Readings from Theophanes | Article Paper Due |
| | 11/15 Arab conquests & | SHMA 70-75; Berkey 76-101 | |

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| | Umayyads | | |
| | 11/17 Franks, Lombards & Popes | SHMA 75-100; Brown Ch. 10 & 11 | |
| Week 12 | Sections 11/21 or 11/22 | Lombard Law, Burgundian Law | |
| | 11/22 Emperor Irene | Brown 14, 15 & 16 | |
| | 11/24 THANKSGIVING VACATION | | |
| Week 13 | Sections 11/28 or 11/29 | St. Philaratos the Merciful | |
| | 11/29 Abbasid Revolution | Berkey 102-129; SHMA 108-117 | |
| | 12/1 Charlemagne & Carolingian Empire | SHMA 118-137; Brown Ch. 18 & 19 | Quiz 5 |
| Week 14 | Sections 12/5 or 12/6 | Einhard's Life of Charlemagne | Paper Three Due |
| | 12/6 House of Wisdom & Abbasid Caliphate | Berkey 130-175 | |
| | 12/8 Boris and competitive conversion | SHMA 152-174 | |
| Week 15 | Sections 12/12 or 12/13 | Photios' Letter to Boris | |
| | 12/13 Western Fragmentation | SHMA 177-218; Brown Ch.20 | |
| | 12/15 Continuities and Divergences | | Quiz 6 |

Grading Criteria

Participation Grading Criteria:

- A These students always have read and understood all of the reading assignment. They always make interesting comments about the readings that help the class understand the material better. Their comments are clearly presented, to the point, and based on careful reading of the material.
- A- These students have always read all of the assignment; except for very occasional lapses due to midterms or other life-trauma. Even then they have read part of the assignment. They make comments that are to the point and move the discussion forward.
- B+ These students have always read the assignment, although they may have had difficulty understanding it. They occasionally make comments that are to the point and move the discussion forward.
- B These students have usually read most of the assignment. They say things in class, from time to time, that are pertinent to the discussion.
- B- These students have usually read at least some of the assignment. They rarely volunteer comments in class but can speak sensibly about the reading when called upon.
- C There is no evidence that these students have read the assignment. Either they cannot participate in the discussion, or their comments are not based on the assigned readings. These students can participate when they have been given the opportunity to read in class and think about a specific question.
- D: These students will not say anything in class and cannot answer simple questions about the readings.
- F: These students do not come to class regularly. They do not bring the book or say anything when they do show up.

Short Writing Assignment Grading Criteria

Characteristics of an **A** paper:

- It has a clear, well-articulated answer to the question in the assignment
- It amply fulfills the instructions of the paper assignment.
- It displays careful reading of the source material.
- It displays considered thought about the material.
- All claims are supported by citations of the textual evidence.
- It has excellent English grammar and usage
- It has no proofreading errors.

Characteristics of a **B** paper:

- It answers the question in the assignment
- It follows the instructions of the paper assignment.
- It indicates reading of the source material.
- It displays thought about the material.
- Claims are supported by textual evidence.
- It uses correct English grammar and usage.
- It may have some errors in proof-reading.

Characteristics of a **C** paper:

- The answer to the question is unclear.
- The writing is unclear.
- It does not follow the instructions.
- It displays cursory reading or misunderstanding of the material.
- It does not display significant thought about the material.
- It contains unnecessary digressions or vacuous generalizations.
- Claims are not supported by the textual evidence cited.
- It has not been proofread.
- It contains errors in grammar or usage.

Characteristics of a **D** paper:

- It does not fulfill the assignment.
- It does not answer the question.
- It lacks thought.
- It shows that the source material has not been read.
- It contains errors in grammar or usage or inadequate proofreading.
- Claims are unsubstantiated.

Characteristics of an **F** paper:

- It has worse examples of the D paper problems.
- It is gobbledygook.

Class Policies

Act Honorably

(Don't Cheat)

When you lie or cheat for any reason you turn yourself into a liar and a cheater. Cheaters are bad and dishonorable people. They are placed in the tenth ditch of the eighth circle of hell in Dante's Inferno. There they are afflicted with loathsome and disgusting diseases. If you hand in someone else's work or copy someone else's work you are cheating and turning yourself into a lousy person. No grade in any class is worth becoming a bad person.

Those who are not dissuaded by moral exhortation but are caught cheating in any way **will fail this class.**

Dr. Neville's Patent-Pending Draconian Late Paper Policy

Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class. No extensions will be given. Taking extra time with your papers is unfair. As with all tasks in life, do the best job you can with the time you have. Do not hand in your assignments late. Do not even think about handing in your assignments late.

As the flesh is weak, the following procedures are in place in order to deal with the unlikely event of a late paper. No assignment handed in late will receive a grade higher than C. The following scale applies:

1 Day late: A becomes C, A- = C-, B+ = D+, B = D, B- = D-, C = F

2 Days Late: A becomes C-, A- = D+, B+ = D, B = D-, B- = F

3 Days Late: A becomes D+, A- = D, B+ = D-, B = F

4 Days Late: A becomes D, A- = D-, B+ = F

5 Days Late: A becomes D-, A- = F

No papers more than five days late will be read.