

Paul Stephenson

John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Assistant Professor of Byzantine History

History 115: MEDIEVAL EUROPE, 410-1500

Fall 2004: Tuesday, Thursday: 11.00am-12.15pm, Ingraham 120

TA: Denise Kawasaki

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the history and culture of Medieval Europe, both West and East, in the period 410-1500. We will make use of the full range of historical and archeological sources to explore the various lands and peoples of Medieval Europe, ranging from the Mediterranean to the Caspian and Baltic Seas; from North Africa to Northern Russia; from Ireland and Iceland as far as North America. Many students will have enrolled knowing only a few details about Medieval Europe, for example a little about St. Patrick, King Arthur, the Vikings or the Crusades. We shall consider all of these, focusing on the gaps between myth and history. Other themes will include cultural encounters (for example, between Christians and Muslims), and medieval travelers (including St. Brendan, and Marco Polo).

This course will not take the form of a chronological narrative, and does not pretend to completeness. It is designed to provide an informed understanding of certain topics and themes, and to provide the foundations for further studies in pre-modern and/or European history and culture. It also fulfils a general education breadth requirement.

<http://homepage.mac.com/paulstephenson/madison/medieval/syllabus2004.html>

ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS

3 Credits: Attendance at lectures and discussion sections is mandatory, and participation will count for 20% of a final grade. The course will be examined by one midterm assignment and one final examination (30% and 50% respectively). The midterm assignment will be due on Monday of week 6.

4 Credits: As above, but with a second midterm assignment to be submitted on Monday of week 10.

For explicit grading criteria, [see this document](#) (online).

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly reading assignments are compulsory and should be completed prior to the subject being covered in class. I highly recommend that you read the whole of Rosenwein's short history at the start, and then re-read the set chapters as we cover the subjects. In this way you will have a better sense of the parameters of the course, that is an understanding of the geographical and chronological limits.

A [full class bibliography](#) can be seen here. This will be useful for writing papers.

Required Reading (Secondary Literature)

Backman, C. R., 2003, The Worlds of Medieval Europe . New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, \$34.95.

Rosenwein, B. H., 2002, A Short History of the Middle Ages . Peterborough, ON: Broadview, \$34.95. There is a second edition (2004), published principally to undercut the secondhand textbook market. You may buy this, but note that the pagination is different from that given below.

Suggested Reading

Bartlett, R., 1993, The Making of Europe. Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change 950-1350 , Princeton. \$23.95.

Barber, M., 1992, The Two Cities. Medieval Europe 1050-1320 , London & New York. \$29.99.

Collins, R., 1999, Early Medieval Europe 300-1000 , 2nd edn, London & New York; [1st edn, 1991]. \$20.95.

Fletcher, R., 1997, The Barbarian Conversion. From Paganism to Christianity 371-1386 , New York. \$19.95.

Primary Sources

Links have been provided below to numerous readings at the Internet Medieval Sourcebook, compiled by Paul Halsall (online)

Also, see Paul Stephenson's translations page, to which links have been provided (online) .

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introductions

- 1.1. Introduction: syllabus review, geographical survey
- 1.2. Constantine the Great and the Christianization of the Roman Empire

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 1-22

WEEK 2: The End of Antiquity

- 2.1. "Pagans" and "Heretics"
- 2.2. Theodosians

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 23-47

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 1-99; Fletcher 1997, pp. 1-65

WEEK 3: Successors to the Roman Empire

- 3.1. "The Barbarian Invasions" in the West
- 3.2. Persians and Arabs in the East

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 11-36; Backman, pp. 48-68

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 100-34; Fletcher 1997, pp. 66-129

WEEK 4: Franks and Popes

- 4.1. The Early Medieval Papacy and the Franks
- 4.2. Monasticism

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 37-61; Backman, pp. 69-85, 86-108

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 135-72; J. Herrin 1989, online

WEEK 5: Ireland and England

- 5.1. St. Patrick's Ireland
- 5.2. England in the "Dark Ages"

Required Reading: Nothing this week, as your first paper is due next week

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 173-217; Fletcher 1997, pp. 130-92

WEEK 6: The Ninth Century

- 6.1. King Alfred's England
- 6.2. Charlemagne and his heirs

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 62-82; Backman, 109-34

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 262-308, 333-63; Fletcher 1997, pp. 285-326

WEEK 7: The Viking Age

- 7.1. Approaches to Viking Age Europe
- 7.2. Viking expansion to the East

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 139-54

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 364-89; Fletcher 1997, pp. 369-416

WEEK 8 : The Tenth Century

- 8.1. Emperors in Conflict
- 8.2. The Hungarians

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 83-101; Backman, pp. 155-74

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 390-422

WEEK 9: Latin Christendom in the Eleventh Century

- 9.1. Pilgrimage and the Year 1000
- 9.2. The Reform Papacy and the German Empire

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 102-36; Backman, pp. 175-207, 208-30

Suggested Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 5-59, 305-40; Bartlett 1993, pp. 1-59

WEEK 10: The Mediterranean World in the Eleventh Century

- 10.1. The Normans in Sicily
- 10.2. Schism and the Background to the First Crusade

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 262-79

Suggested Reading: Barber 1993, pp. 168-92, pp. 225-50

WEEK 11: The Crusades

11.1. The First Crusade: Notions of Holy War in West and East

11.2. The Crusades, 1100-1204

Required Reading: to be announced

Suggested Web Sources: Ekkehard of Aura, Slaughter of Rhineland Jews ; Nicetas Chonates, Capture of Constantinople in 1204 (online)

Suggested Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 119-40, 395-417; Bartlett 1993, pp. 60-133

WEEK 12: High Medieval Culture and Society

12.1. Court Culture, Cathedrals and the Twelfth Century Renaissance

12.2. Changes in Religious Life: New Monastic Orders, the Friars

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 137-60; Backman, pp. 231-61, 352-68

WEEK 13: Christendom Confronts Others

13.1. The German Empire and the Drang nach Osten

13.2. The Mongols

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 161-81; Backman, pp. 283-303

Suggested Reading: Barber 1992, pp. 195-224, 365-94; Bartlett 1993, pp. 133-96; Fletcher 1997, pp. 451-524

WEEK 14: Feudalism, Chivalry and Romance

14.1 Feudalism

14.2 Chivalry and Romance

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 304-26, 327-51

Suggested Reading: Bartlett 1993, pp. 197-268

WEEK 15: Death of the Middle Ages and the Origins of the Renaissance

15.1. The Black Death

15.2. The origins of the Renaissance in Italy

Required Reading: Rosenwein, pp. 182-204; Backman, 369-94, 395-409, 427-37

Suggested Reading: Backman, pp. 413-26; Barber 1992, pp. 60-82, 251-70