

Paul Stephenson  
John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Associate Professor of Byzantine History

## **History 115: MEDIEVAL EUROPE, 410-1500**

Spring 2006: Monday, Wednesday: 2.30-3.45pm, 1651 Humanities

TA: Denise Kawasaki

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### **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/syllabus\\_2006.html](http://homepage.mac.com/paulstephenson/madison/medieval/syllabus_2006.html)

### **ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS**

4 Credits: Attendance at all 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 set on Monday of week 5 (February 13th), and due on Wednesday of week 6 (February 22nd).

The final exam for all students will be set on Monday, April 3rd. It will be due on Wednesday, April 26th, unless a specific request is made and an extension granted.

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.

Rosenwein, B. H., 2002, A Short History of the Middle Ages . Peterborough, ON: Broadview. 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 the first edition. Both sets of pages are given below. Be sure you are reading the right chapters.

### Suggested Reading

Bartlett, R., 1993, The Making of Europe. Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change 950-1350 , Princeton.  
Barber, M., 1992, The Two Cities. Medieval Europe 1050-1320 , London & New York.  
Collins, R., 1999, Early Medieval Europe 300-1000 , 2nd edn, London & New York; [1st edn, 1991].  
Fletcher, R., 1997, The Barbarian Conversion. From Paganism to Christianity 371-1386 , New York.

### 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

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 1-22

### WEEK 2: The End of Antiquity

2.1. Constantine the Great and the Christianization of the Roman Empire

2.2. "Holy Men "

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. Late Roman and Early Medieval Spain: Guest Lecture, Prof. M. Kulikowski (University of Tennessee)

3.2. "The Barbarian Invasions" in the East and West

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 48-68; Rosenwein 2002, pp. 11-36 **or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.15-55

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: Backman, pp. 69-85, 86-108; Rosenwein 2002, pp. 37-61 **or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.59-94

Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 135-72; J. Herrin 1987 (repr. 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 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: Backman, 109-34; Rosenwein 2002, pp. 62-82 **or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.95-130  
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. Byzantium and its neighbors in the tenth century
- 8.2. Pilgrimage and the Year 1000

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 155-74; Rosenwein 2002, pp.83-101**or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.131-64  
Suggested Reading: Collins 1999, pp. 390-422

## **SPRING BREAK**

## WEEK 9: Latin Christendom in the Eleventh Century

- 9.1. The Reform Papacy and the German Empire
- 9.2. No Class (Wednesday, March 22nd)

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 175-207, 208-30; Rosenwein 2002, pp. 102-36 **or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.167-206  
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: Choose a chapter from [this book](#)

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: Confronting Others

12.1. Cistercians, "Monks of War," and the German *Drang nach Osten*

12.2. Iceland and Greenland: Sagas and Travels

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 231-61, 352-68; Rosenwein 2002, pp. 137-60 **or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.207-49

## WEEK 13: High Medieval Religion

13.1. Christianity in the 13th and 14th Centuries: Heresy, Holy War and Black Death (Video)

13.2. Universities: Guest Lecture, Denise Kawasaki

Required Reading: Backman, pp. 283-303; Rosenwein 2002, pp. 161-81 **or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.250-86

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

## WEEK 14: The Origins of the Renaissance

14.1 Venice and Marco Polo

14.2 The Origins of the Renaissance in Italy

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

Suggested Reading: Bartlett 1993, pp. 197-268

## WEEK 15: TBA

Required Reading: Backman, 369-94, 395-409, 427-37; Rosenwein 2002, pp. 182-204 **or** Rosenwein 2004, pp.287-323

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

Final paper is due Wednesday, April 26th, 2006, at 2.30pm.