

University of Wisconsin – Madison  
Department of History  
Fall Semester, 2016-2017

History 309  
The Crusades

Humanities 1621  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
8:00AM - 9:15AM



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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30AM – 10:30 AM and by appointment

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The crusades were a new type of war believed by participants and contemporaries to be not only just, but also holy. The rallying cry of the First Crusade was “God wills it!” In this class we will study the political and military history of crusades, analyze the ideas that made crusades possible and discuss experiences of those involved in or affected by them. About four weeks of class will be dedicated to a game during which students will recreate the war council of Acre of 1148 (for more information on Reacting to the Past (RTTP) games see <https://reacting.barnard.edu/> )

#### READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Please bring all of the primary sources assigned for that week to your discussion sections. The following primary sources are available at the University of Wisconsin bookstore and on reserve at the College Library (Helen C. White Hall, 600 North Park Street). If you wish, you can use different editions as long as you are aware of and accept the inconveniences this might cause you.

(1) Jay Rubenstein, *The First Crusade. A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford)

- (2) Usama ibn Munqidh, *The Book of Contemplation* (Penguin)
- (3) *The Chronicle of the Third Crusade. The Itinerarium Peregrinorum et Gesta Regis Ricardi* (Ashgate)
- (4) Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (Penguin)

TEXTBOOK

There is no textbook for this class. However, if you want a general review on the subject, you might want to consult one of the following:

- Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades. A History*
- Christopher Tyerman, *God's War: A New History of the Crusades*

GRADING:

4 Short papers on assigned readings:	8% each (32% total)
3 Short papers on RTTP:	8% each (24% total)
One-page summary of Ronnie Ellenblum's Talk:	4%
Final	20%
<u>Participation:</u>	20%

SHORT PAPERS ON ASSIGNED READINGS:

You have to write FOUR short responses to questions based on the assigned readings. The essays should focus on the readings. Each response should be about 1000 words. It is entirely up to you to choose the questions that you want to answer. The papers are due in sections where the assigned readings are to be discussed. No later papers will be accepted. No electronic submissions will be accepted. You cannot write an extra paper to compensate for a poor grade. You can answer only one question per week. You do not have to do any outside research for any of the short responses. While grading, we will be asking the following questions:

- (a) Are spelling and grammar adequate?
- (b) Are there both an introduction and a conclusion?
- (c) Is the essay well-structured? Does each paragraph develop one theme / idea? Are there effective transitions between paragraphs?
- (d) Are there at least two brief (about sentence-length) quotations from the assigned text(s)?
- (e) Are these quotations well integrated into the essay? Are they relevant? Do they come from different parts of the assigned text(s)?
- (f) Does the essay reflect a careful reading of the assigned text(s) or does it discuss the topic very generally?
- (g) Does the essay answer the question asked?

When quoting the assigned text(s) or referring to specific passages, you should identify the page numbers either in parenthesis or in a footnote.

SHORT PAPERS ON RTTP AND PROF. ELLENBLUM'S TALK:

Papers submitted late will receive a grade reduction of 30%. No late papers will be accepted after December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### THE FINAL EXAM

The final exam might contain:

- [1] Explanation of a passage or passages from primary sources.
- [2] An essay

### HISTORY LAB AND WRITING CENTER:

Both are very useful if you want help with your papers.

Information about the History Lab can be found here: <https://history.wisc.edu/thehistorylab.htm>

Information about the Writing Center can be found here: <http://www.writing.wisc.edu/>

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University of Wisconsin considers academic honesty to be a very serious issue. I will **always** enforce the university policies on academic honesty. I suggest that you read carefully the following website dealing with the rules about plagiarism: [http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA\\_plagiarism.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html) If you have questions about plagiarism, please contact me or your TA. Further information about student codes of conduct is found here: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html#points>

### DISABILITY

Disability guidelines for course accommodations are found at the UW McBurney Disability Resource Center site: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu>

#### Week 1

Sept 6 (T): Introduction

Sept 8 (R): Just and Holy War in Christianity

Sections will not meet this week.

#### Week 2

Sept 13 (T): The Middle East on the Eve of the First Crusade

Sept 15 (R): *Field Trip to the Islamic Center*

**READ:** Rubenstein, *The First Crusade*, 27-35.

**ESSAY 1:** How different are the Old Testament ideas of holy war from those of the Qur'an?

#### Week 3

Sept 20 (T): Jerusalem  
Sept 22 (R): The First Crusade I

**READ:** Rubenstein, *The First Crusade*, 36-102.  
**ESSAY 2:** What made Jerusalem sacred to both Christians and Muslims?

Week 4

Sept 27 (T): The First Crusade II  
Sept 29 (R): Women and crusades

**READ:** Rubenstein, *The First Crusade*, 103-160.  
**ESSAY 3:** Compare the treatment of Jews in Document 23 with the treatment of Muslims in Document 50. How do you explain the similarities? **OR** Compare the outcomes of the battle for Nicaea and the battle for Jerusalem. What best explains the different results of these battles?

Week 5

Oct 4 (T): Military Orders  
Oct 6 (R): Castles and Siege Warfare

**READ:** St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *In Praise of the New Knighthood* (RTTP package, LEARN @UW); R. Ellenblum, "Development of Muslim siege tactics" and "The appearance of the concentric castles," *Crusader castles and modern histories* (Cambridge 2007) 217-257 (LEARN @UW).  
**ESSAY 4:** Why was joining the Templars such an attractive option to many knights?

Week 6

Oct 11 (T): Crusader States. RTTP: **Roles distributed at the end of class. Contact the instructor if you could not come to class.**  
Oct 13 (R): Introduction to RTTP.

**READ:**

[1] Usamah ibn Munqidh, *Book of Contemplation: Islam, The Crusades, and the East* (London, 2008). Read the following selections: from "Jum'a Accused of Cowardice" to "One Frankish Knight Routs Four Muslim Horsemen" (75-80); "Digression" (83); "Relief after Misfortune" and "Usama Ransoms Muslim Captives at Acre" (92-95); "Examples of God's Benevolence" (105-108); "Digression" (115-117); "A Marvel of Destiny" (125-126); from "A Frankish Woman Fights Back" to "Franks that are Acclimatized are Better" (141-154); "At the Tomb of St. Jon the Baptist near Nablus" (253-254).

[2] (RTTP package) Introduction to The Second Crusade Game (pages 1-15).

**ESSAY 5:** How much interfaith interaction was there in crusader states?

Week 7

Oct 18 (T): No regular class meeting. Instead, we will meet at 4:00 pm to attend the talk of Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) provisionally entitled “Multicultural Jerusalem – A New Biography.”

**YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT A ONE-PAGE SUMMARY OF PROF. ELLENBLUM’S TALK IN SECTIONS THIS WEEK**

Oct 20 (R): RTTP. Debate # 1: How can this crusade be justified?

Week 8

Oct 25 (T): RTTP. Debate # 1 (continued)

Oct 27 (R): RTTP. Debate # 2: Where will the crusade be directed? Edessa, Damascus or Ascalon?  
**RTTP ESSAY (YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT ONE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON TUESDAY, OCT 25):** Writing from the perspective of your character, write a three to four page paper answering one or more questions outlined on p. 36 of your RTTP package under “Debate 1.” Make sure to use the texts suggested in the same section and found in your RTTP package.

Week 9

Nov 1 (T): RTTP. Debate # 2 (continued)

Nov 3 (R): RTTP. Debate # 3: Who should lead the crusade in order to ensure its victory?

**RTTP ESSAY (YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT ONE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON TUESDAY, NOV 1):** Writing from the perspective of your character, write a three to four page paper answering one or more questions outlined on p. 37 of your RTTP package under “Debate 2.” Make sure to use the texts suggested in the same section and found in your RTTP package.

Week 10

Nov. 8 (T): RTTP. Debate # 3 (continued)

Nov. 10 (R): RTTP: Post-Mortem / Evaluation

**RTTP ESSAY (YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT ONE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON TUESDAY, NOV 8):** Writing from the perspective of your character, write a three to four page paper answering one or more questions outlined on p. 38 of your RTTP package under “Debate 3.” Make sure to use the texts suggested in the same section and found in your RTTP package.

Week 11

Nov. 15 (T): Fall of Jerusalem

Nov. 17 (R): “Kingdom of Heaven”

**READ:**

[1] Matthew Richard Schlimm, "The Necessity of Permanent Criticism: A Postcolonial Critique of Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven*." *Journal of Media and Religion*, 9 (2010): 129–149 (LEARN @UW)

[2] Thomas Madden, "Onward PC Soldiers," *National Review Online*, May 27, 2005.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/214554/onward-pc-soldiers-thomas-f-madden>

**ESSAY 6:** After reading the two assigned responses to "Kingdom of Heaven," write your own.

Week 12

Nov. 22 (T): The Third Crusade 1

Nov. 24 (R): THANKSGIVING

**READ:** start reading *The Chronicle of the Third Crusade* (pages 201-380)

Week 13

Nov. 29 (T): The Third Crusade 2

Dec. 1 (R): The Fourth Crusade 1

**READ:** finish reading *The Chronicle of the Third Crusade* (pages 201-380)

**ESSAY 7:** Come up with a list of fifteen significant themes found in the text. Keep in mind that "King Richard" is not a theme, while "King Richard's courage" is. Include at least one page number where the theme is found for each theme.

Week 14

Dec. 6 (T): The Fourth Crusade 2

Dec. 8 (R): Frederick II

**READ:** Geoffrey of Villehardouin, *The Conquest of Constantinople* (entire).

**ESSAY 8:** Based on the evidence provided by Geoffrey of Villehardouin, who (or what) was responsible for the sack of Constantinople that began on 12 April 1204?

Week 15

Dec. 13 (T): King Louis IX of France I

Dec. 15 (R): King Louis IX of France II

**READ:** John of Joinville, *The Life of Saint Louis* (entire)

**ESSAY 9:** Find between four and eight points of comparison between King Louis IX (according to John of Joinville) and King Richard I (according to Geoffrey of Villehardouin). What conclusions can you draw about the importance of crusades for medieval kings?