

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II Year 85

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
321	Economic Life in Medieval Europe	M. Mazzaoui

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ten centuries from 500 to 1500 present a picture of extreme variations, structurally, chronologically and regionally, in the conditions of material life and culture. If, on the one hand, the Middle Ages witnessed the rise of early capitalism, other forms of economic and social organization were unique to the period. This course surveys the evolution of European economic and social structures ranging from the primitive agricultural economy of the Germanic tribes to the sophisticated commercial, banking and industrial systems of the urban societies of the later medieval period. In addition to analyzing general trends in demography, trade, production and technology, the course will also examine the impact of economic change on the micro-level of the village, the neighborhood and the family.

LECTURES

11:00-12:15 TR Lecture/Discussion

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Two examinations (Midterm and Final)
3-4 credit option. 3 credit students: one short paper (5 pp.)
4 credit students: one long paper (10-12 pp.)

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades represent an average of examination and paper grades.

REQUIRED READINGS

Required texts plus reserve reading.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II, 1985-86

History 321

Economic Life in Medieval Europe

M. F. Mazzaoui

Required Texts:

- N. J. G. Pounds, An Economic History of Medieval Europe (Longman)
David Herlihy, Medieval Households (Harvard)
M. M. Postan, The Medieval Economy and Society (Penguin-Pelican)
Georges Duby, The Early Growth of the European Economy: Warriors and Peasants (Cornell)
H. A. Miskimin, The Economy of Early Renaissance Europe

Reserve Reading (on Helen White UGL reserve or Graduate Reading Room
[G.R.R.])

- The Cambridge Economic History of Europe vols. I-IV (cited as CEH)
(G.R.R.)
Robert S. Lopez and Irving W. Raymond, Medieval Trade in the Mediterranean World
Henri Pirenne, Medieval Cities

Lecture Schedule

- 1/21-23 Introduction: Sources and Methodology
The Historical Geography of Ancient and Medieval Europe
The Late Roman Economy

Pounds, pp. 1-40
Herlihy, ch. 1
Recommended: CEH vol. I, ch. 2; vol. II, ch. 2
- 1/28-30 Early Germanic Society
The Economic Institutions of the Germanic States
Tribal and Household Structures

Herlihy, ch. 2
Pounds, pp. 41-46, 67-71
Postan, ch. 1
Recommended: CEH vol. I, ch. 1 (pp. 1-62); ch. IV
- 2/4-2/6 Mediterranean Trade in the Early Middle Ages
The Pirenne Thesis and its Critics
Byzantium, Islam and Carolingian Europe

Pounds, pp. 71-89
Pirenne, Medieval Cities, chs. 1 and 2
Recommended: CEH, vol. I, ch. 5; vol. II, ch. 3

- 2/11-13 The Rise of Dependent Cultivation: Lordship and Peasant
The Manorial Economy in the Ninth Century
The Crisis of the Tenth Century
- Herlihy, ch. 3
Duby, pp. 1-111
Postan, ch. 5
Pounds, pp. 46-67
Recommended: CEH vol. I, ch. 6
- 2/18-20 Trends in Medieval Demography
The Agricultural Frontier 1050-1250
The Expansion of Technology
- Pounds, pp. 90-222
Duby, pp. 112-156, 181-210
Postan, chs. 2, 6, 7, 8 (pts. 1-5), 9 (pts. 1 and 2)
- 2/25-27 Rural Society in the High Middle Ages
Feudal Structures
Social Mobility, Class Values and Family Structure
- Duby, pp. 157-180
Postan, ch. 10 (pt. 1 and 2)
Herlihy, ch. 4
- Tues. 3/4 MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- 3/6-13 The Revival of Trade
Routes and Commodities
Money, Credit and Business Institutions
- Pounds, pp. 338-430
Duby, pp. 211-270
Lopez and Raymond, pt. 3; pt. 4, chs. XIV-XVI
Postan, chs. 11 and 13
Recommended: CEH, vol. II, ch. 4, pts. 1 and 2; vol. III,
chs. 2 and 3, pts. 1 and 2
- 3/18-20 Revitalization of Town Life
Municipal Institutions
Urban Social Classes
- Pounds, pp. 223-278
Postan, ch. 12 (pt. 1 and 2)
Recommended: CEH, vol. II, pt. 1, ch. 1; pt. II, ch. 4,
sects. 1 and 2
- 3/22-31 SPRING RECESS
- 4/1-3 Medieval Industry
Guild and Entrepreneurial Structures
Wealth and Poverty

4/1-3 (continued)

Pounds, pp. 279-337

Recommended: CEH vol. II, ch. VI; vol. III, ch. VIII

4/8-10 The Black Death
Demographic Decline: The Late Medieval Household
Economic Recession

Pounds, pp. 440-448, 483-487

Miskimin, ch. 1

Postan, ch. 3

Herlihy, chs. 5 and 6

4/15-17 Social Unrest and Reconstruction
The Late Medieval Village
Changes in Land Tenure

Pounds, pp. 476-483

Miskimin, ch. 2

Postan, ch. 8 pt. 6; ch. 9 pts. 3 and 4; ch. 10, pt. 3

Recommended: CEH vol. II, ch. 4, pt. 3; vol. III, ch. 3
(sects. 3-5) and ch. 4 (sect. 3)

4/22-24 Town and Industry in the 14th and 15th Centuries
Changing Business Institutions
Patterns of International Trade

Pounds, pp. 448-476

Postan, ch. 12 pt. 3

Miskimin, chs. 3 and 4

Lopez and Raymond, pt. V, chs. XXI-XXII

Recommended: CEH vol. II, ch. 4, pt. 3; vol. III, ch. 3
(sects. 3-5) and ch. 4 (sect. 3)

4/29-5/1 Growth of the State
Enlargement of the Sphere of Government Policies
Public Finance

Pounds, pp. 430-439

Miskimin, ch. 5

Recommended: CEH, vol. III, chs. VI and VII

5/6-8 Toward the Modern Economy: The theses of Braudel and
Wallerstein

No Assignment

Thurs. 2:45 P.M. FINAL EXAMINATION
May 15