



History 4B: Self & Society in Medieval Europe

Spring 2013, TTh 3:30-5 pm, 3 LeConte (CCN 39039)



Instructor: Prof. Maureen C. Miller, 2219 Dwinelle, mcmiller@berkeley.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30 am - noon and by appointment

Graduate Student Instructors: Joshua O'Brien (jmobrien@berkeley.edu) , John Olmsted (john.olmsted@berkeley.edu)

Description: This course offers a broad introduction to the European Middle Ages through both textual and material sources. Change – as an individual experience and as a social phenomenon – is a central theme. Why did medieval people make radical changes in their lives? Why did European political systems, cultural expressions, and religious ideals change so dramatically over the course of the Middle Ages? The course charts the emergence of a distinctively “medieval” civilization after the demise in the west of the late Roman state and then the transformation of this early medieval civilization after the millennium. The roles of demographic and economic expansion are explored as motors for the political, religious, and cultural transformation of medieval society from 1000 to 1500.

Course Requirements and Grades: Requirements include attendance at weekly discussion section, short writing exercises designed by your section instructor (totaling 8-10 pp.), a *midterm examination in class on March 7, 2013* and a *final examination on Friday May 17, 2013, 7:00 to 10:00 pm*. Your final grade, determined by your GSI, is based on the following percentages: section attendance and participation (30%), short writing assignments (20%), midterm examination (20%), final examination (30%). Examinations will draw heavily on lecture materials, so students should plan on attending lectures regularly. More than two unexcused absences from section are grounds for failing the participation requirement.

Students seeking accommodation for disabilities in the fulfillment of these requirements must acquire from DSP services, and convey to the instructor, a “Letter of Accommodation.” This should be accomplished by February 4th.

Student athletes who foresee any conflict between their competition schedules and course requirements must inform the instructor in writing (email is fine) by February 4th. Any alternate arrangements are at the discretion of the instructor.

In fulfilling course requirements, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. The work you turn in must be your own. Dishonesty will be severely punished.

Class Etichette: To create an environment conducive to everyone's learning, please respect the following conventions. Use of laptops for note taking is welcomed, but please refrain from other computer activities during class. Laptop users please sit on the left side of the room (when facing the podium) so that those who find screens and/or keyboard noise distracting may sit undisturbed on the right side. Be silent when the lecturer is speaking and when a classmate has been acknowledged to ask a question. The lecturer will stop once or twice for questions during each class. Please hold your questions until those junctures.

Required Texts: All, save the Course Reader, are on reserve at Moffitt. The translations of primary sources below (3-6) have been ordered for your convenience, but you may use other translations.

1. History 4b Course Reader (available at Copy Central, 2560 Bancroft). Readings in the Course Reader are indicated with an asterisk (*) on the schedule below.

2. Barbara H. Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, any edition.

3. *The Táin*. The Thomas Kinsella translation has been ordered, and I encourage you to use this edition: used copies can be found inexpensively online. It includes translations of a series of stories that give important background to the action of the epic, and the translation itself is much more comprehensible than the 1914 Dunn translation available online (the latter also edits out most of the frank sexuality of the Old Irish).

4. *Einhard and Notker the Stammer: Two Lives of Charlemagne*, trans. Lewis Thorpe.

5. *The Poem of the Cid*, trans. Lesley Byrd Simpson.

6. *Renard the Fox*, trans. Patricia Terry.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Asterisked assignments are in the Course Reader; Rosenwein assignments are given by chapter and sections since pagination varies among editions.

I. From Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages (c. 300 – c. 900)

instruction begins 1/22; break March 25-29; classes end May 3

Week 1: Tuesday 1/22, Thursday 1/24 - Introduction

Reading: none – but sections do meet

Week 2: Tuesday 1/29, Thursday 1/31 – The heritage of antiquity
*Reading: *Sextus Aurelius Victor, The Book of the Caesars, chapters 38-39; *Lactantius, On the Deaths of the Persecutors, chapters 44, 48; *Eusebius of Caesarea, The Life of Constantine, chapters 10-12, 21-42. *Augustine, The Confessions, Books I, chapters 1-5; II, chapters 1-16; III, chapters 1-10, and book VIII in its entirety.*

[2/1 deadline to drop without a fee; 2/8 deadline to add without a fee]

[2/4 DSP accommodation letters due; athletes with schedule conflicts must contact instructor about them by 2/4]

Week 3: Tuesday 2/5, Thursday 2/7 – Christianization

*Reading: *Brown, "The Rise and Function of the Holy Man"; *Life of Saint Martin; Rosenwein chaps. 1 & 2*

Week 4: Tuesday 2/12, Thursday 2/14 – Non-Roman Europeans

Reading: The Táin, intro-125 [Visits to Bancroft Library during section for introduction to medieval manuscripts]

Week 5: Tuesday 2/19, Thursday 2/21 – Non-Roman Europeans, cont.

Reading: The Táin, 125-253

[Final deadline to drop or add classes; Dean's exception required after this date]

Week 6: Tuesday 2/26, Thursday 2/28 – The Carolingian Empire

Reading: Einhard, The Life of Charlemagne; Rosenwein chap. 3

Week 7: Tuesday 3/5 review, **Thursday 3/7 -- MIDTERM**

No assigned reading; prepare for midterm

II. Transition (c. 900 – c. 1050)

Week 8: Tuesday 3/12, Thursday 3/14 – The (Long) Tenth Century

*Reading: Notker the Stammerer, Charlemagne, I.1-11, 16-17, 27-34; II.1-7, 12-14, 17-19 (pp. 93-105, 108-10, 125-43, 153-9, 162-72); *selections from the Annals of Fulda; *Peace Oath and Acts of a Peace Council; Rosenwein, chap. 4*

III. The Central Middle Ages (c. 1050 – c. 1350)

Week 9: Tuesday 3/19, Thursday 3/21 – Reform & Religious Quests

*Reading: *Robert of Arbrissel (1st life, letter to Ermengarde, & Marbode of Renne's letter); Rosenwein, chap. 5, up to "Rulers with Clout"*

Spring recess, March 25-29

Week 10: Tuesday 4/2, Thursday 4/4 – Conquest & Colonisation
*Reading: *Accounts of the Norman Conquest: Texts & Textiles; Rosenwein, chap. 5, "Rulers with Clout"*

[4/5 deadline to change grading option]

Week 11: Tuesday 4/9, Thursday 4/11 – Conquest & Colonisation, cont.
Reading: The Cid

Week 12: Tuesday 4/16, Thursday 4/18 – Bodies and Minds
*Readings: *Abelard, Historia Calamitatum; Letters 2-4 of Abelard & Heloise; Rosenwein, chap. 5, "New Forms of Learning"*

Week 13: Tuesday 4/23, Thursday 4/25 – Love and Lordship
*Readings: *Marie de France, Equitan & Bisclavret; Renard the Fox 25-140; Rosenwein, chap. 6*

Week 14: Tuesday 4/30, Thursday 5/2 – New Horizons
*Reading: *Journey of William of Rubruck; Rosenwein, chap. 7*

Week 15: Tuesday 5/7: review session, Thursday 5/9: no meeting
No assigned reading; prepare for final

*****FINAL EXAMINATION FRIDAY MAY 17TH, 7-10 PM*****