



Europe in the Middle Ages

European History from 500 – 1500 CE

HIST 3312

Spring 2024

MW 3:30—4:45

Classroom Hall 307

Dr. Elizabeth Hasseler

ehasseler@tamusa.edu

CAB 313-C

Office Hours:

Mon. 2:30—3:30

And by appointment

HIST 3312 offers a broad perspective on medieval European history from the end of antiquity to early modernity. We will explore the major ideas, events, and conflicts that shaped the premodern period, focusing in particular on the parallel development of secular powers and the Latin Church.

Learning Outcomes

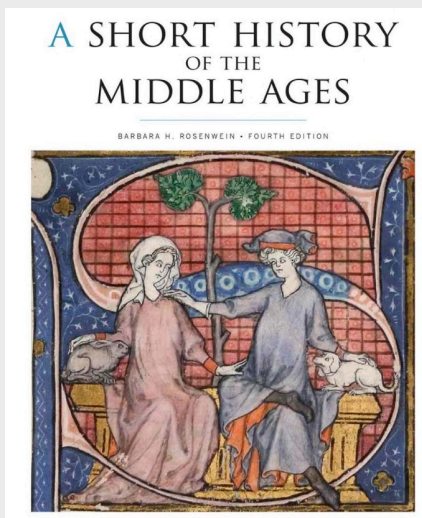
Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Articulate a broad narrative of European history from c. 500-1500 CE;
2. Understand the dynamics of premodern European social hierarchies as organized by class, gender, race, and religion;
3. Analyze a wide range of medieval primary sources;
4. Historically contextualize contemporary issues, including pandemics, climate, and the environment;
5. Communicate effectively through historical writing.

Course Texts

You are **not** required to purchase the textbook assigned for this course. You may purchase a copy if you like, but all assigned textbook readings will be made available on Blackboard.

If you do purchase a textbook, be sure to get the correct edition and volume: **Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Fourth Edition (2014)**



All additional readings will be made available on the course site.

Grade Breakdown

20%	Participation Points
25%	Quizzes
10%	Paper 1
10%	Paper 2
15%	Midterm Exam
20%	Final Exam

Participation Points

You will receive the participation point for each module when you complete all of the participation elements for that week (see below). Most weeks, this will mean participating in the in-class discussion and completing a Journal entry (if assigned). There are thirteen participation points in total.



Participation Elements

Journal Entries

Your Journal is a private space for you to share your thoughts and questions about the course. Only you and Dr. Hasseler can view your Journal entries. There won't be a Journal entry assigned every week—once the semester is going, we'll touch base in your Journal occasionally. All Journal entries will be graded complete/incomplete. **Journal entries are always due on Sunday by 11:59 pm.**

In-Class Discussion

The core of your weekly participation will take place during the in-class discussions held each Monday and Wednesday. In the classroom, we will take time to review course material and discuss the assigned readings. You should use the module guides to direct your preparation for the weekly discussions.

Course Assignments

Quizzes

Module quizzes will test you on learning goals and mastery content. You may retake each quiz once, and your final quiz grade will be the higher of your two efforts. **First quiz attempts are always due on Sunday by 11:59 pm. Second quiz attempts are always due Tuesday by 11:59 pm.** Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped when your final course grade is calculated.

Midterm and Final Exams

You will take two exams in this course. Both exams will be take-home, open-book essays. The prompt for the exam will be provided two weeks in advance of the due date. Exam essays may be revised and resubmitted, though a higher grade is not guaranteed.

Papers

You will complete two 2-3 pg. papers in this course. You will be given four opportunities to complete a paper over the course of the semester, and will choose two to complete.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in class is crucial for keeping up with course material. It is also a central component of your participation grade (see above). However, I know that things occasionally come up that may cause you to miss a class session. **You should contact me as soon as possible if this happens so that we can discuss your situation and potential accommodations.** If you contact me ahead of your absence, I will assign you an assignment to make up for the missed participation point. However, you *may not* use these make-up assignments to substitute for regular course attendance. If you are regularly absent, I will get in contact to discuss your future progress in the course and potential withdrawal.

Late Work

I work to be understanding and flexible about your responsibilities outside the classroom. I know that you likely have jobs, family obligations, etc. that you have to prioritize alongside your schoolwork, and I also understand that the combination of schoolwork and personal and professional responsibilities can cause stress and anxiety. I will work with you to accommodate circumstances that may affect your coursework or ability to participate in the course. **Please contact me as soon as possible if something comes up so that we can discuss your situation and potential accommodations.** I will not accept late work in the absence of any communication, but if you reach out to me as soon as you become aware of complicating factors, we can work to try to accommodate your situation.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not an innocent form of cheating — it is a serious act of academic misconduct. I will be rigorously checking all work for signs of plagiarism. **If you are caught having committed plagiarism at any point, you will receive a failing grade in the course and I will submit an academic misconduct report to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.** It is ultimately your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it at. Resources are readily available through me, the library, and the internet if you are ever unsure.

Generative AI Policy

The use of automated writing tools, including language-learning model AIs such as **ChatGPT**, is **strictly prohibited** in this course. The use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism and will be handled in accordance with the above policy.

Course Schedule

January 16 — 21

Module 1: The Roman World Transformed

Textbook Reading: Rosenwein, *Short History (SH)*, Chapter 1: “The Provincialization of the Empire,” pp. 4-11; “The Barbarians,” pp. 21-24; “The New Order,” pp. 25-34; Chapter 2: “The Making of Western Europe,” pp. 58-64

Assignments: Journal Entry; Quiz

January 22 — 28

Module 2: Forms of Religious Life

Discussion Reading: Excerpt from *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*; Excerpt from Athanasius, *Life of St. Antony of Egypt*; Excerpts from *The Benedictine Rule*

Assignments: Quiz; Paper Option 1

January 29 — February 4

Module 3: The Carolingian World

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 3: “An Empire in Spite of Itself,” pp. 96-112; Chapter 4: “The West: Fragmentation and Resilience,” pp. 127-30;

Discussion Reading: Chapters from Neil Price, *The Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings*

Assignments: Journal Entry; Quiz

February 5 — 11

Module 4: The Norman Conquest

Discussion Reading: Excerpts from William of Jumièges, *The Deeds of the Dukes of the Normans*; excerpts from “Florence of Worcester,” *Chronicle of Chronicles*; The Bayeux Tapestry

Assignments: Quiz; Paper Option 2

February 12 — 18

Module 5: Early Medieval Society

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 4: “Public Power and Private Relationships,” pp. 131-5

Discussion Reading: Excerpt from Gregory of Tours, *The History of the Franks*; “The Agreements of Count William and Hugh of Lusignan”

Assignments: Journal Entry; Quiz

February 19 — 25

Module 6: Reforming the Church

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter Five: “Church Reform and its Aftermath,” pp. 164-70

Discussion Reading: Henry IV, *Letter to Gregory VII*; Gregory VII, *Letter to Herman of Metz*

Assignments: Quiz

February 26 — March 3

Midterms

Midterm Exam due **Sunday, March 3 by 11:59 pm**

March 4 — 10

Module 7: The Crusades

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 5: “The First Crusade,” pp. 170-3

Discussion Reading: Excerpts from Fulcher of Chartres, *History of the Expedition to Jerusalem*; Rabbi Eliezer b. Nathan, *O God, Insolent Men*; Excerpts from Ali ibn al-Athir, *The Complete History*

Assignments: Quiz

March 11 — 17

Spring Break

March 18 — 24

Module 8: Europe’s Economic Miracle

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 5: “The Quickening of the European Economy,” pp. 160-4

Discussion Reading: Venantius Fortunatus, *The Life of St. Radegund*; Dhuoda, *Handbook for Her Son*; La Comtessa de Dia, *I have been in heavy grief*; “The Priest Who Peeked”

Assignments: Journal Entry; Quiz; Paper Option 3

March 25 — 31

Module 9: Institutionalizing Aspirations

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 6: “The Institutionalization of Government in the West,” pp. 201-13; “Worldly Concerns In and Out of the Church,” pp. 228-30

Discussion Reading: *The Assize of Clarendon*; *Magna Carta*; *Decrees of Lateran IV*

Assignments: Quiz

April 1 — 7

Module 10: Order and Exclusion

Readings: *SH*, Chapter 6: “The Embraced and the Rejected,” pp. 230-7; Chapter 7: “Xenophobia,” pp. 250-2

Discussion Reading: Excerpts from Jacques Fournier, *Episcopal Register*; *The Statute of the Jewry*; *Petition of the Commonality of the Jews*

Assignments: Quiz

April 8 — 14

Module 11: The Mongols

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 7: “The Mongol Hegemony,” pp. 241-4; “The Maturation of the European Economy,” pp. 244-8

Discussion Readings: *The Secret History of the Mongols*; Güyük Khan, *Letter to Innocent IV*; Béla IV, *Letter to Innocent IV*; Excerpt from *The Travels of Marco Polo*

Assignments: Quiz

April 15 — 21

Module 12: Plague, War, and Famine

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 7: “An Age of Scarcity?,” pp. 276-9; Chapter 8: “Crises and Consolidations,” pp. 283-301

Discussion Reading: John Aberth, *The Black Death: A New History of the Great Mortality*

Assignments: Journal Entry; Quiz

April 22 — 28

Module 13: The End of the Middle Ages?

Textbook Reading: *SH*, Chapter 8: “The Church Divided,” pp. 301-4; “Renaissance Italy,” pp. 305-13; “The Northern Renaissance,” pp. 316-20

Discussion Reading: Chapters from Amy Kaufman and Paul Sturtevant, *The Devil’s Historians: How Modern Extremists Abuse the Medieval Past*

Assignments: Quiz; Paper Option 4

May 1 — 7

Final Exams

Final exam due Friday, May 3, by 11:59 pm

Final grades will be posted to JagWire on Thursday, May 16