

**Medieval Europe**  
Christian Raffensperger  
History 111H  
Spring Semester 2019  
MWF 8:00–9:05 A.M.  
Hollenbeck 318

The origins of medieval Europe are grounded in the world of Late Antiquity. This class will take a different approach to understanding medieval Europe – beginning with the lives of people and then moving into the context into which their lives are placed. In this way, we will cover the entirety of medieval Europe, from Scandinavia in the north to Iberia in the South; from France in the West to Rus’ and Byzantium in the east. The lives of these women and men encompass the variety of medieval Europe, though are often focused upon elites due to source base concerns. We will see as well, the changes that happen in medieval Europe during this period, as well as the growth of kingdoms, the rise of a powerful papacy, the birth of the crusades, as well as the division within Christianity in east and west.

*No Prerequisites*

*Counts toward the PAST program*

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Supplemental Instructor: Anna Crichton  
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**Assignments and Deadlines**

The format for this class is largely lecture, and thus attendance is a main requirement of the course (see Attendance Policy below), as is participation when we have discussion. Discussion will often be centered around the portraits and it is vital that you keep up with them.

There will be three exams which will divide up the material of the course. These exams will not be cumulative, with the exception of one overarching essay question on the final exam. That question will expect you to demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of what has been covered over the course of the semester.

There will be a quiz each week (usually on Friday), that will cover the material of the week, as well as the portrait for that week. These quizzes will require you to keep up with the reading and lecture. There will also be a map component to many of the quizzes, so be sure to study your maps regularly.

In addition to the exams and quizzes, you will have to complete a group presentation during the semester. I will assign you groups and weeks early in the semester. For the group presentation, you will need to find a primary source relevant to

the week of your presentation (there is a list of places to find sources on the syllabus, and you may of course consult with Anna or with me). Once you have the primary source, you will need to have it cleared by me (if I did not help you find it in the first place). And then you will need to prepare a 7-10 minute presentation on the primary source, focusing in particular on who wrote it, why did they write it, what does it say, and how it integrates into what we are discussing that week in class. I encourage you to use the Oral Communication Center in the library, as well as Anna and I as resources for this presentation. Following your presentation, you should be prepared for at least 5 minutes of questions from your classmates. Handouts and/or powerpoints are acceptable, but not required. These presentations will typically take place on Friday, following the quiz.

If you have any questions about any of these assignments, please come see me during my office hours or make an appointment. Finally, this syllabus is subject to change by the instructor, if changed, the students will be informed with sufficient notice to complete assignments.

The grades will be weighted as follows:

Attendance: 5%

Participation: 5%

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Exam 3: 20%

Cumulative Question: 5%

Quizzes: 15%

Group Presentation: 10%

### **Required Books**

Miri Rubin. *Medieval Europe: A Very Short Introduction*. (hereafter *Medieval Europe*)

Donald Ostrowski and Christian Raffensperger, eds. *Portraits of Medieval Eastern Europe* (hereafter *Portraits*)

(All additional readings will be on Moodle or in the reader)

### **Schedule of Meetings and Assignments**

*Week 1 (January 7, 9, 11): What is / was Medieval Europe 1*

(*Medieval Europe* chs. 1, 3, 7)

Introduction to the class; Medievalism in the modern world; Christianity; Constantine; Conversion

*Week 2 (January 14, 16, 18): What is / was Medieval Europe 2*

(*Medieval Europe* chs. 2, 4, 5)

Gender Roles; Serfs and Slaves; Families; Government and Authority

*Week 3 (January 21, 23, 25): Charlemagne and the Carolingians*

(“Bodo: A Frankish Peasant in the Time of Charlemagne”)

Discussion of Bodo and his life; Rise of the Carolingians; Charlemagne and his rule; Louis the Pious and disintegration

*Week 4 (January 28, 30, February 1): Byzantium and South-Eastern Europe*  
(“Clement of Ohrid”)

Discussion of Clement of Ohrid and his life; Conversion of Bulgaria and Moravia;  
Relations between papacy, Byzantium, and Franks

*Week 5 (February 4, 6, 8): Vikings as Traders and Raiders*  
(*Portraits* ch. 16)

Discussion of Gorm and his life; Vikings in Scandinavia; Vikings as raiders throughout  
Europe

*Week 6 (February 11, 13, 15): Dynastic Marriage and Conversion of Rus’ (Exam 1 on  
2/11)*

(*Portraits* ch. 17)

Discussion of Anna *Porphyrogenita* and her life; Dynastic Marriage in Medieval Europe;  
Conversion of the kingdom of Rus’

*Week 7 (February 18, 20, 22): The Normans and England*  
(*William I and the Norman Conquest*)

Discussion of William and his life; The Normans in Normandy; 1066 and the invasion of  
England; Norman England

*Week 8 (February 25, 27, March 1): Investiture Controversy and the German Empire*  
(*Portraits* ch. 19)

Discussion of Evpraksia and her life; German Empire – Ottonians and Salians; Investiture  
Controversy

### **Spring Break – March 4-8**

*Week 9 (March 11, 13, 15): Byzantium and the Crusades*  
(*Portraits* ch. 8)

Discussion of Anna Komnena and her life; Byzantium in the eleventh century; Crusades  
and the changing medieval world

*Week 10 (March 18, 20, 22): Angevin Europe*  
(“The Glory of it All: Eleanor of Aquitaine”)

Discussion of Eleanor of Aquitaine and her life; Henry II and the creation and growth of  
Angevin Europe

*Week 11 (March 25, 27, 29): Medieval Central Europe and Pilgrimage (Exam 2 – 3/29)*  
(*Portraits* ch. 12)

Discussion of Henry Zdik and his life; Pilgrimage and its importance; Central Europe in  
the high middle ages

*Week 12 (April 1, 3, 5): Iberian Politics and the Reconquista*  
(*Pilgrimage*)

Discussion of Gerbiga and her life; Pilgrimage within Europe; Kingdoms of Iberia; Reconquista

*Week 13 (April 8, 10, 12): Crusading Orders and the Fall of Jerusalem (The Templar Knight)*

Discussion of Arn and his life; Crusading Orders; Saladin; Fall of Jerusalem

*Week 14 (April 15, 17, No Class April 19): Baltic Crusades (Portraits ch. 3)*

Discussion of Vladimir Mstislavich and his life; Baltic Crusades

*Week 15 (April 22, 24, 26): Mongols (Portraits ch. 7)*

Discussion of Sübedei Ba'atar and his life; Mongols on the steppe; Mongols in Europe

*Week 16 (April 29, May 1): Wrap-up and Review*

Wrap up of Material and Review

**Final Exam—Monday, May 6 – 12:00–3:00 P.M.**

#### **For More Information:**

Because of the enormous amount of materials available on medieval European history on the Internet, the bibliography provided here is a nontraditional one that lists a variety of Web sites you can visit. Each Web site has links to hundreds of specialty sources and even full online books.

Eurodocs:

[https://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/History\\_of\\_Medieval\\_and\\_Renaissance\\_Europe: Primary Documents](https://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/History_of_Medieval_and_Renaissance_Europe:Primary_Documents)

Internet Medieval Sourcebook

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/sbook.asp>

ORB: The Online Reference Site for Medieval Studies

<https://the-orb.arlima.net/>

The Labyrinth: Resources for Medieval Studies

<https://blogs.commonsgorgetown.edu/labyrinth/>

#### **Communication with Faculty**

If you have questions about class, would like to know your grade, would like to set up a time to meet, or need to let me know that you will not be in class, please email me. When you email me, please put the topic in the subject line so I know what you would like to discuss. Your email should begin with a salutation such as “Dear Professor Raffensperger”. It should not begin with “hey” or “I need”. Your email should close with

something polite as well. “Best wishes” “have a good day,” or something similar is just fine, followed by your name. I would emphasize that they are not fussy, outdated conventions, but things that you will need to know to live in the world. Employers will not appreciate the casual informality with which you might be most comfortable.

### **Missed Examinations, Papers, and Class Sessions**

A good rule of thumb is do not miss anything. However, if you are ill or have a conflict and cannot make a class, notify me in advance or as soon after the class as is possible. *Do not miss examinations!* If you have a conflict, notify me a minimum of one week in advance and we can schedule an exam as close to the normal time as possible. If you miss an examination for reasons that are not discussed with me ahead of time or are not catastrophic you will receive a zero, which is much worse than an F in your overall grade.

### **Attendance Policy**

As part of your grade for this class, and to get the most out of the class, you are required to attend on a regular basis. Attendance in this class is worth 5% of your grade, and attendance will be taken on a regular basis. If you are going to miss class, let me know in advance. If you accumulate 3 unexcused absences over the course of the semester, you will receive a grade of F for your attendance. If you miss 7 or more classes over the course of the semester you will receive a grade of zero for your attendance, much worse than an F when calculating your final grade. You are solely responsible for signing the attendance sheet, or notifying me of your absence, as proof of your presence in class.

### **Supplemental Instruction**

For this class, we will have supplemental instructions provided by Anna Crichton. She will hold regular study and review sessions which will help you keep current with your course work, as well as advising you on study strategies for the class. These sessions are voluntary, but are designed to help you succeed in the course.

### **Office of Accessibility Services**

Wittenberg University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, learning, chronic health, physical, hearing and vision neurological, or temporary medical conditions, etc.) please contact Accessibility Services immediately at 937-327-7870 so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, you must register with Accessibility Services. Please note that services are confidential and may take time to put into place and are not retroactive. The Accessibility Services office is located in the Office of Academic Services COMPASS Sweet Success Center, Thomas Library on the first floor. Walk-in appointments are welcome 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

### **Weather-Related Concerns**

Whenever weather becomes a problem, I shall do my best to adhere to the university guidelines. If the university cancels classes, there will be no class. If the university has not cancelled class, but I am unable or unwilling to risk traveling, I will do my best to

post a notice to this effect on Moodle as early as possible. I will do my best not to cancel class if at all possible.

If there is an exam scheduled or a deadline for a written assignment on a day when class is cancelled, you may assume that the exam or assignment will be due on the following class session.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students in this course are expected to uphold the standards of Wittenberg's Code of Academic Integrity. At its most basic level, this means that you will not turn in someone else's writing as your own, quote from a source without proper acknowledgment, or provide a classmate with inappropriate help. You will be asked to submit papers and exams with the following statement followed by your signature: "I affirm that my work upholds the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity at Wittenberg, and that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance." Sanctions for violating these rules range from receiving no credit for a particular assignment to failing the course for a significant act of academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about any of these rules, please talk to me before submitting your work.