

101 CC
PMS

40
History 322: Medieval Life and Thought
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Winter Session 2000

Kristy Wilson Bowers
945-3476
kbowers@hawaii.edu

Course description:

This course is a survey of Medieval Europe from 300-1500. We will focus on the main social, political and intellectual developments during this time. We will spend some time examining the two great religions of this era, Christianity and Islam, both of which played a significant role in determining the shape of medieval society. In addition, we will make use of books, videos, slides and other media to examine the myth of the Middle Ages versus the historical reality.

Class Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should be able to

- 1) Understand how the dissolution of the Roman Empire enabled the formation of a new society in Europe.
- 2) Describe the development and impact of feudalism in medieval society.
- 3) Understand the origins and development of conflicts between church and state.
- 4) Distinguish between myths of the middle ages and the historical reality.
- 5) Understand the medieval roots of the modern university educational system.
- 6) Differentiate between the different classes within medieval society.
- 7) Discuss developments in art and science made during the middle ages.
- 8) Identify major historical personalities of the middle ages, as well as their overall contributions to medieval society.
- 9) Describe the impact of Christianity and Islam on medieval society.

Texts: C. Warren Hollister, *Medieval Europe: A Short History* 8th ed.
Additional handouts to be given in class

Requirements:

- * Students are required to attend class consistently, and to participate in discussions or group work.
- * Reading assignments are to be completed prior to each class meeting.
- * You will have two main writing assignments, both of which are detailed on separate handouts:
 - 1) The book dissection exercise requires you to locate a monograph on medieval history and analyze the author's approach to and arguments about their topic.
 - 2) The biography requires you to select a medieval person to research, utilizing both internet and print resources. You will present your findings in a brief written paper, followed by an oral presentation to the class.

Grades are based on the following:

3 take-home exams	300 points
Book dissection exercise	100 points
Biography	50 points
Class presentation of research	25 points
<u>In-class writings or assignments</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total possible:	575 points

Grade Scale:

A (90 – 100 %)	D (60 – 69%)
B (80 – 89%)	F (below 60%)
C (70 – 79%)	

Learning Outcome Assessment:

You will be graded according to your ability to

- 1) Understand and use the information presented in the textbook and in lectures.
- 2) Analyze primary source documents and utilize their information in discussions and writing assignments.
- 3) Properly research a topic and present a well-organized, well-written paper that uses proper citation format (footnotes or endnotes ; bibliography).
- 4) Provide inciteful and relevant comments in class discussions

Grading Criterion

According to the student handbook, grades may be interpreted as follows:

- A: Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.
- B: Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner.
- C: Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter.
- D: Inferior work of the lowest possible grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work.
- F: Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given.

Class Schedule:

NB: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any changes will be announced in class.

1/14: Ch. 1,2

Course introduction; Roman Empire; Rise of Christianity; Germanic invasions

1/21: Ch. 3, 4

Split of Roman world, Byzantium, Post-Roman Europe

1/28: Ch. 5, 6

Rise and spread of Islam ; Carolingian Empire

2/4 **Exam 1 due in class** Ch. 7, 8

9th century invasions, Feudalism

2/11: Ch. 9, 10

Growth of towns and cities ; Crusades/Reconquista

2/18: Ch. 11, 12

Women in Middle Ages ; Church reforms

2/25: **Exam 2 due in class** Ch. 13, 14[pp.293-311]

12th century Renaissance, Medieval Universities; England and France

3/3: Ch. 14

Medieval knowledge and achievements: science, technology, medicine; art and architecture

3/10: Ch. 15, 16

Hundred Years' War ; Black Death

3/17: **Final exams due in class:** Class presentations