

FD 01

**Course syllabus  
HIST 322  
Medieval History**

**Course Day/Time/Place** Th 2-4.50 Henry 221  
**Instructor:** Dr.Lilia Castle  
**Office hours:** Wednesday 11-12  
**Phone:** 739-4628

**Course description:**

An introductory exploration of society, religious ideas, philosophy, economy, culture, literature and other characteristic features of Medieval Europe perhaps will help students to change their mind about the "dark ages" of world history.

Classes will be supplied with video clips, music, slides, and pictures where appropriate.

**Course requirements:**

1) Readings: students are expected to read carefully all assigned materials; being well prepared for class discussions is important

2) Examinations: 2 exams will be administered during the term; mid-term exam will be written at home.

3) Term paper: students will prepare a 3-4-pages term paper on a topic, discussed with the instructor by the middle of the semester.

4) Students will write short pop-quizzes, creative essays and tests in the class.

**Study objectives:** Students will have to know:

1. What was the major religion in Medieval Europe; what beliefs were held in this religion; what alternative religions were there; what beliefs were held in these religions.

2. How did Plato's ideas affect Medieval thought; how did Aristotle's idea affect Medieval thought; what other classical influences were there on Medieval thought.

3. What were major political institutions in Medieval Europe? What was the relation of religion and politics? What part did the guilds play?

4. In Medieval thought what was the relation of faith and reason? How did reason play a part on theology? How would a medieval person define theology?

5. What sciences occurred in medieval times? What was the relation of alchemy to science?

6. Who were the Saints and missionaries in Medieval Time; what was the life and deeds of St.Peter and St.Pole, St.Andrews, Saint Martin of Tours, Saint Patrick, St.Bernard of Clairvaux, St.Thomas Aquinas, St.Thomas Anselm of Canterbury and others.

7. What was the role of Emperors Constantine and Theodosius in establishing of Christianity?

8. Give the definition of heresy; describe Arianism, Manicheanism, Monophysitic doctrine.

9. Discuss the life and creativity of major figures of medieval culture (Dante Alighieri, Chaucer, Francois Villon, etc.)
10. Describe the Crusades
11. Describe the images of medieval life: the knight, the monk; the peasant.
12. What was the life of women in the middle ages (a queen, a great lady, a city-working woman, a peasant)

<b>Grading:</b> 90-100	A	Mid-term exam-15%
80-89	B	Final exam-15%
70-79	C	Term paper- 15%
60-69	D	Quizzes, tests - 20%
		Essays-15%
		In class participation-10%
		Presentation – 10%

**Course text:** C. Warren Hollister, *Medieval Europe*, McGraw Hill, 1998  
(Additional reading will be provided)

### Course schedule

**Aug. 30** Introduction to the course assignments, choosing the topics for presentations;  
pretest.

**Sept.6** Roman Empire; The beginning of Christianity (ch.1)  
(Video)  
Student's presentation on *Roman entertainments*; (R.Auguet, "Cruelty and Civilization: the Roman Games, 1972; H.A.Harris, "Sport in Greece and Rome")-

**Sept.13** The Split of East and West. Fall of the West.  
The migration of the Germanic peoples; their life; class, kinship, law. (Ch.2)  
Student's presentation on *Attila the Hun*

**Sept. 20** Christian monasticism. The main ideas of Christianity.  
Growth of the Christian Church. Christian attitude toward classical culture. Freedom and Christianity; How much freedom do we need? Discussion.  
(Handouts: *Freedom and Ideal State* by L.Castle will be provided)  
Student's presentations on:  
1)*St.Patrick*  
2)*St.Augustine of Hippo*  
3)*The Rule of Saint Francis*

**Sept.27** The Byzantine Empire (400-788) (Ch.3)  
Video on Byzantine Empire

Student's presentation on *Islam*

Oct.4 Medieval Kievan State; Beliefs of Slavs (Ch.3)

Video: *Night of Ivana Kupala*

Baptism of Kievan Russia

*Monasteries of Russia*

Essay 1

Oct.11. Medieval Russian Literature; Legends

Students' presentations

1) *St.Sergius of Radonezh*

2)The Lay of Igor's Campaign

Oct.18 Russian icons: evolution, theology and symbols;  
The expression of the religious idea in architecture

Prince Trubetsky:  
'Theology in color'

Oct.25 Mongolo-tatar invasion;

*Andrei Rublev*– video, discussion

Essay 2

Quiz on medieval Kievan State

Student's presentation on

Tale of the *Destruction of Riazan*

Nov.1 Carolingian Europe. (Ch.6)

Student;s presentation on:

1)*Walafrid Strabo* (Ch.7)

2)*The Vikings: Society and Economy*

3)*The Rule of St.Benedict-*

4)Penitential, *Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury.*

Nov.8 Women and the family ;

The Merchant (Ch.9)

Students' presentation on:

1) Two Germanic Christian Queens: Bertha of Kent and  
Ethelberga of Northumbria

2) *Joan of Arc* -

3) *Blanche of Castile*

4) *Common Folk* in the XIV –XV centuries

Nov.15 The Warrior and the Knight (Ch.10)

Video( from 'The First Knight')

Students' presentations on *Sorcery, magic*

Nov.22 Medieval art; Slides, music (Ch.14)

Students' Presentations on:

1)*Dante* (3 students) –

- 2) Chaucer-
- 3) Villon -
- 4) Tapestry – making

**Nov.29** The Medieval Universities; the Scholar.

(Ch.14),

The Black Death

Students' presentation on:

1) *The Black Death* (W.H.McNeill, Plagues and Peoples, 1976;  
R.S.Gottfried, The Black Death)

2) Health Care in Medieval Society -  
Video, slides

**Essay 3**

**Dec.6** Students' presentations

**Final Exam**

## Students presentations

1. Roman entertainments; (R.Auguet,"Cruelty and Civilization: the Roman Games,1972; H.A.Harris,"Sport in Greece and Rome")
2. St.Patrick
3. St.Augustine of Hippo
4. Attila the Hun
5. Islam
6. The Rule of St.Benedict
7. Penitential, Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury.
8. The Lay of Igor's campaign
9. Tale of the Life of the Pious Prince Alexander Nevsky
10. The Life, Acts and Miracles of Holy Father Sergius of Radonezh
11. Life in the city of Novgorod
12. Tale of the Destruction of Riazan
13. Two Germanic Christian Queens:Bertha of Kent and Ethelberga of Northumbria
14. Walafrid Strabo
15. Roswitha of Gandersheim
16. Joan of Arc
17. Blanche of Castile Saint Francis.
18. The Rule of Saint Francis (1223)
19. The Black Death (W.H.McNeill,Plagues and Peoples ,1976; R.S.Gottfried,The Black Death)
20. Common Folk in the XIV –XV centuries (J.Keegan, The Face of Battle ,1977)
21. Dante (5 students)
22. Chaucer
23. Villon
24. Tapestry – making
25. Health Care in Medieval Society