

HIST*2200 (01) – The Middle Ages

Winter 2025

0.5 credits

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: GUELPH

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines many of the major events and developments in medieval Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to 1500 CE. Important themes include the spread of Christianity, interactions with Islam and Judaism, the emergence of important medieval institutions and relations with the Byzantine Empire and the Eastern Mediterranean.

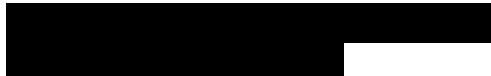
Prerequisite(s): 2.00 credits

Department(s): Department of History

LECTURE SCHEDULE



INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION



COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of influential events and people, along with social, cultural and economic developments of the medieval period, and their significance.
- Examine and analyze historical arguments, identifying central arguments and evidence, and relate their importance to the broader historiography.
- Evaluate medieval texts and other sources critically, analyzing them for authorial motives, influences, biases, and other factors that might affect the presented information.
- Communicate critical reading and thinking skills by constructing and expressing arguments in formal writing.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Clifford R. Backman, *The Worlds of Medieval Europe*, 4th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2022)
4th edition is required: e-book 180-day rental \$52.25; e-book purchase: \$85.99
- Barbara H. Rosenwein, *Reading the Middle Ages*, 3rd ed. (University of Toronto Press, 2018)
3rd edition is required: paperback: \$84.95; e-book purchase: \$74.95
(<https://utorontopress.com/9781442636750/reading-the-middle-ages/>)

Prices are approximations and subject to change

SCHEDULE

Week 1 Jan. 8	Introduction & Roman Legacy Backman, pp. 3-90 Rosenwein, docs. 1.1, 1.2, 1.13, 1.15
Week 2 Jan. 15	Byzantines & Franks Backman, pp. 116-37, 149-80, 422-29 Rosenwein, docs. 1.14, 1.16, 2.3, 3.4, 3.11
Week 3 Jan. 22	Anglo-Saxons & Vikings Backman, pp. 185-203 Rosenwein, docs. 2.12, 3.8, 4.18, 4.20
Week 4 Jan. 29	England & France Backman, pp. 261-75, 399-409, 543-52 Rosenwein, docs. 5.15, 5.16, 5.17, 5.18, 6.14, 7.18
Week 5 Feb. 5	Germany & Italy Backman, pp. 253-61, 284-89, 291-304, 364-79, 409-17 Rosenwein, docs. 1.13, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 6.13, 6.22, 7.11
Week 6 Feb. 12	Islam & al-Andalus Backman, pp. 137-46, 203-11, 276-84, 599-603 Rosenwein, docs. 2.5, 2.6, 4.12
<i>Break</i> Feb. 17-21	
Week 7 Feb. 26	Crusades Backman, pp. 304-16 Rosenwein, docs. 5.11, 5.13, 6.2, 7.4, 7.5
Week 8 Mar. 5	Social Order Backman, pp. 219-44, 246-53, 395-99, 467-83 Rosenwein, docs. 6.17, 6.18, 6.19, 6.21, 8.10, 8.18
Week 9 Mar. 12	Monasticism Backman, pp. 92-114, 317-22, 496-507, 603-5 Rosenwein, docs. 1.8, 1.10, 4.4, 5.21, 6.23, 6.25
Week 10 Mar. 19	Economics & Belief Backman, pp. 379-90, 459-67, 507-18, 524-29, 552-61 Rosenwein, docs. 5.3, 5.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.26, 7.13, 7.14, 8.15
Week 11 Mar. 26	Health Backman, pp. 486-93, 530-43 Rosenwein, docs. 1.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4
Week 12 Apr. 2	Learning Backman, pp. 324-62, 431-57, 484-86 Rosenwein, docs. 5.19, 7.20

ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN

Weekly quizzes	40%	due weekly, in class
Historiography essay	30%	due 13 February, before 11:55pm
Primary source essay	30%	due 20 March, before 11:55pm

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Weekly Quizzes

There will be a short in-class quiz each lecture relating to the weekly class material and accompanying readings. Each student's best ten (10) quizzes will count towards their final grade. Students will complete these quizzes using their own device (via CourseLink). If a quiz is missed, it will receive a mark of 0%. There will be no extensions or re-writes for missed quizzes (for any reason), but as there will be a quiz each week, a missed quiz should not hurt a student's final grade. To complete a quiz (for it to be counted), a student must be physically present in the lecture hall and attempt the quiz synchronously with the rest of the class (i.e. in the same place and at the same time as everyone else).

Historiography Essay

This essay of about 1,500 words is an opportunity for students to investigate how scholarly interpretations on a topic have developed over time. This will require students to critically examine and compare arguments put forward by different scholars. Students will also have the opportunity to contribute their own ideas to this ongoing academic discourse. The assigned topic, which will cover a broad theme, the readings to be considered, and further instructions can be found on CourseLink.

Primary Source Essay

This essay of about 1,500 words will allow students to demonstrate their ability to critically examine primary sources and use such to advance a scholarly argument. Using the documents in the Rosenwein sourcebook (and no other materials), students will compose an essay that addresses one of the assigned topics. Essays should focus on the primary source documents, making use of at least three (3), and address one of the topic options in a direct and focused manner. Topic choices and further instructions can be found on CourseLink.

Submitting Work: All evaluations must be submitted using CourseLink. Any work submitted by email, as a hardcopy, or in any other manner will not be accepted. If a grace period applies, any work submitted after this expires (even a second after) will not be accepted.

Technical Issues: Technical issues will not be considered grounds for any extra accommodation (such as an extension, exemption, or re-write). Please plan ahead, do not leave things to the last minute/day, and ensure you have access to a stable and reliable internet connection when submitting assignments and completing quizzes.

LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE

The last day to drop this course is 4 April 2025.

COURSE GRADING POLICIES

Students are expected to submit all work on time. All work must be submitted using CourseLink (no work submitted by email, as a hard copy, or in any other form will be accepted).

Quizzes: No extensions or exemptions will be granted for quizzes. These cannot be rescheduled or retaken (for any reason). Taking into consideration potential illness, personal crisis, and all other barriers that students might encounter, only a student's best 10 quizzes will count towards their final grade.

Essays: Extensions will not be granted (for any reason). There will, however, be a one-week grace period (168 hours) following the due date in which students can submit late work without a grading penalty; however, late essays will not receive feedback comments. The cut off point following this grace period will be enforced strictly (to the second) without exceptions. The grace period is effectively a blanket extension granted to everyone in acknowledgement that things come up (people get sick, accidents happen, technical issues arise, schedules get busy, etc.), but further extensions will not be granted on top of this. Requests for further accommodation issued by academic counselling will not be considered unless the student is judged to have been incapacitated for the entire grace period and the two weeks leading up to the due date. More than enough time has been provided to complete each essay, to which an additional week has been added for good measure – no essays will be accepted beyond the end of the grace period.

Students are encouraged to submit work early in order to avoid potential problems. Updates can be uploaded until the end of the grace period. Only a student's latest submission (the most recent) will be graded.

COURSE STANDARD STATEMENTS

Email Policy: Email is usually the best way to contact me. Emails requiring a response will typically receive one within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) unless I have established that I will be unable to reply promptly. If your question is about course or assignment requirements, ensure that you check for the answer to your question on the syllabus, CourseLink and other course documents before sending me an email. I also reserve the right to ask you to attend office hours if your question is too complex or detailed to be answered over email (but email is often the best place to start for a quick answer). Please use only your Guelph email to contact me and include your name, student number and the course code (HIST 2200) in the body of the email.

Collaboration: All work produced by students for evaluation in this class needs to be the product of their own individual efforts. Although discussion of topics is to be expected, work submitted for grading needs to reflect original individual ideas and be written independently.

Turnitin: In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Academic Integrity and AI: The University of Guelph's statement on the use of AI, ChatGPT, and academic integrity can be found at <https://news.uoguelph.ca/2023/03/university-of-guelph-statement-on-artificial-intelligence-systems-chatgpt-academic-integrity/>.

The use of ChatGPT and/or any other AI systems to conduct research, mimic independent analysis, and generate text related to any evaluation in this course is strictly prohibited. The use of ChatGPT (or other similar AI systems) will be considered a violation of the university's academic misconduct policies. Students are required to keep and provide research notes, essay drafts, and other documentation as might be considered evidence of original research and writing should this become suspect. Likewise, students may be asked to attend an interview and demonstrate their knowledge of a topic, their research process, and any other information that might be of use in determining their authorship of work submitted for grading.

Privacy: Students' names may be divulged in the classroom/CourseLink, both orally and in written form, to other members of the class. Students who are concerned about such disclosures should contact the course instructor to identify whether there are any possible alternatives to such disclosures.

Use of Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices for the purposes of taking notes is allowed; however, the use of any device to record audio or video during lectures and/or tutorials is forbidden.

Copyright and Intellectual Property: The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, videos, lecture notes, slides, PowerPoint files and displays, handout materials, assignments, evaluations, and any original materials posted to CourseLink, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content, or any other materials developed for this course, to any third-party violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's code of student conduct and/or academic integrity policies, and will result in appropriate penalties. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant university policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Western University.

STANDARD STATEMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it.

Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester.

Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>).

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)