

University of TX at Austin
Dept. of History
Fall 2013

His 309k - Plan II Honors (39600)
Western Civilization in Medieval Times
T/Th 12.30-2pm in PAR 304

Course description. This introductory, writing-intensive course surveys the cultural history of the Mediterranean basin and European archipelago from about 400-1400. In lecture, discussion, reading, and writing, we examine the formation of western traditions still influential today. Course organization and optional textbook provide a basic chronological narrative, but historical thinking through critical work with major primary sources is our focus. This course has no prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of the subject. Students are presumed to be capable of critical reflection upon both lectures and readings.

Objectives. By the end of this course you should be able 1.) to describe four key historical developments in medieval Europe; 2.) to identify major figures associated with those developments, and to assess their contributions; 3.) to analyze selected medieval texts with awareness of authorial intention, audience expectation, institutional context, scribal culture, and manuscript circulation; 4.) to indicate how these things helped to shape our contemporary world.

<p>Instructor: Professor Alison Frazier GAR 2.148 (512 475 6375) Email: akfrazier@austin.utexas.edu</p>

This course bears a Writing Flag. Writing flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, to complete a variety of writing projects, and to receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise your assignments, and to read and discuss your peers' work.

This course bears a Global Cultures Flag. Global cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of several non-U.S. cultural groups in the past.

A. Required reading. These books are for sale at the Coop. They are also available on reserve at PCL. Buy these editions, please:

Augustine, *Confessions* (tr. Sheed) (Hackett: 978-0872208162)*
Dutton, *Einhard's Courtier* (Toronto: 978-1442601123)
Letters of Heloise and Abelard (tr. Levitan) (Hackett: 978-0872208759)*
Thomas Aquinas, *Selected Writings* (tr. McInerney) (Penguin: 978014043327)

*Also available through PCL as an ebook, to read online. Please don't check it out, however, as Hackett ebooks are limited to three checkouts at a time. If that limit is reached, no one else will be able to access the text.

Blackboard. A few short readings will be available on Blackboard (bb).

Optional purchase. Not at the Coop bookstore, but on reserve at PCL. You may wish to purchase these books for ready reference.

Rosenwein, *Short History of the Middle Ages* (Toronto: 978-1442601734)
Jotischky & Hull, *Penguin Historical Atlas of the Medieval World* (Penguin: 9780141014494)

B. Evaluation and grading.

1.) In-class writing. Quizzes, worksheets, and short writing exercises help you integrate readings, lectures, and discussions. Expect about five of these, but the professor's estimate of the class's changing needs will determine quantity.

Worksheets = 20%.

2.) Class participation. Good discussion makes for good writing. Your contributions to our conversation are warmly welcomed, and can take many forms: questions, observations, objections, clarifications, expressions of delight or frustration, and so on. Occasionally, I'll ask you to reflect in writing on the collegiality, quality, and frequency of your class participation (see below C2). Your Essay III project presentation (see below B3) is included in this score.

Participation = 20%

3.) Three essays. Quality is always preferred to quantity. The golden rule of writers says: Don't write anything that you wouldn't want to read.

Essay I: first draft 2% / peer reviews 3% / final draft 5% = 10%

2-4 pages on assigned source and topic.

First draft due 24 Sept.; Final draft 3 Oct.

Essay II: first draft 4% / peer reviews 6% / final draft 10% = 20%
4-5 pages with assigned source, open topic.
First draft due 17 Oct.; Final draft 29 Oct.

Essay III: first draft 6% / peer reviews 9 % / final draft 15% = 30%
5-10 pages with open source & topic based on your research. Topic, source, and research trajectory must be ok'd beforehand in a meeting with prof.
First draft due 21 Nov.; Presentations 3-5 Dec.;
Final draft due 13 Dec. by 5pm (email attach in .doc or .docx format)

Note that extra office hours occur over 22-27 Nov. to help you move from first draft to final draft of Essay III.

C. Policy on attendance, participation, and coursework.

1.) Attend all class meetings and sign the daily sign-in sheet. After 2 absences, each subsequent absence subtracts 5 points from your grade. Document asap any absence due to illness.

2.) Participate wholeheartedly in all class sessions. It's hard to get an A in this class without *regular and thoughtful* contributions to discussion.

3.) Complete all assignments on time and in a way that demonstrates respect for the university, your professor, and yourself. *No late assignments are accepted.*

4.) Keep in touch with your prof about illnesses, work issues, or personal matters that may interfere with your work for this class. I will do my best to accommodate.

5.) Keep up to date. It is your responsibility to keep your email and Blackboard accounts current. I use Blackboard to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, and to post grades. For help with BB, call the ITS Help Desk (475-9400) M-F 8am-6pm.

6.) Practice academic integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Read details at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>

Your writing must be your own work. If you plagiarize egregiously on an assignment, you will fail the course. Simple rule of thumb: If you use words or ideas that are not your own, you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism.

Learn more at:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>

The General Information Catalog at the University of TX Austin states, "After a grade has been reported to the registrar, it may not be changed unless an error was made by the instructor."

UT AUSTIN OFFERS YOU LOTS OF WRITING SUPPORT!!!

Sanger Learning Center & Undergraduate Writing Center: Your student fees pay for both these services, so make the most of them to improve the quality of your class performance and education:

The Sanger Learning Center (<http://www.lifelearning.utexas.edu/>) provides free individualized assistance with such topics as time management, in-class notetaking, reading efficiency, etc.

The Writing Center website (<http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/>): "The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis." See UWC handouts: <http://projects.uwc.utexas.edu/handouts/>

Dates to remember

13 Sept.	Last day to DROP/ADD
1 Oct.	Essay I final draft due
29 Oct.	Essay II final draft due
5 Nov.	Last day to change CREDIT/NO CREDIT
28-30 Nov.	Thanksgiving Holiday
3-5 Dec.	Essay III presentations
13 Dec.	Essay III final draft due (email attchmt 5pm)

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

This schedule represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may change to enhance your opportunity for learning. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected

Week 1. Th 29 Aug. Introduction to the course

Prelude, 300-600: The Roman World Transformed (Read Rosenwein 13-38)

Week 2. T 3 Sept. From Cicero's Rome to Constantine's
Prepare: *Perpetua & Felicity* (bb)

Th 5 Sept. Why do we read Augustine?
Prepare: Read *Confessions* bk 1-2
Pick a passage or event that you would like to discuss in class. Write down a question to initiate the discussion. Be prepared to try it out.

Week 3. T 10 Sept. Orthodoxy & Heresy
Prepare: *Confessions* bks 3-4.

Th 12 Sept. Philosophy & Friendship
Prepare: *Confessions* bks 5-6

Week 4. T 17 Sept. Exemplarity & Mysticism
Prepare: *Confessions* bks 7-9

Th 19 Sept. Patristics & the Episcopate
Prepare: *Confessions* (catch-up; bks 10-13)

Week 5. T 24 Sept. Essay I first drafts due. Bring hard copies to distribute to your working group and the professor.

Th 26 Sept. Essay I peer reviews due. Small group discussion.

Part I, 600-1060: Three Cultures from One (read Rosenwein, 39-112)

- Week 6.** T 1 Oct. Why do we read Einhard?
Essay I final drafts due.
Prepare: Poems on Einhard by Alcuin, Walahfrid Strabo, and Ermold (Dutton 2, 5, & 6); Walahfrid Strabo's Prologue to the *Life of Charlemagne* (Dutton 7-8) & Hrabanus Maurus' epitaph on Einhard (Dutton 10)
- Th 3 Oct. Charlemagne's new empire
Prepare: Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne* (Dutton, 15-39)
Pick a passage or event that you would like to discuss in class. Write down a question to initiate the discussion. Be prepared to try it out.
- Week 7.** T 8 Oct. Empire Management
Prepare: Carolingian documents (Dutton 43-45, 49-55 and <http://www.le.ac.uk/hi/polyptyques/>)
- Th 10 Oct. Church and Empire
Prepare: Einhard on the miracles of Marcellinus & Peter (Dutton 92-130)
- Week 8.** T 15 Oct. Carolingian Renaissance
Prepare: Carolingian documents (bb)
- Th 17 Oct. Byzantium & Islam
Essay II first drafts due. Bring copies for your group and prof.
- Week 9.** T 22 Oct. Essay II peer reviews due. Small group discussion.

Part II, 1050-1500: The European Take-Off (read Rosenwein 113-203)

- Th 24 Oct. Twelfth-Century Renaissance—guest lecture
- Week 10.** T 29 Oct. Abelard's Calamities
Essay II final drafts due.
Prepare: Prepare Levitan, 1-46

- Th 31 Oct. Visit to PCL for research instruction with History Bibliographer Shiela Winchester. Please meet in the foyer of PCL *promptly at 12.30*. Distribution of Essay III assignment.
- Week 11.** T 5 Nov. The lovers' letters
Prepare: Levitan, 49-126
 Pick a passage or event that you would like to discuss in class. Write down a question to initiate the discussion. Be prepared to try it out.
- Th 7 Nov. Abelard's theology
Prepare: Review *Calamities* on theology; read Abelard docs (bb)
- Week 12.** T 12 Nov. Theology after Abelard: scholasticism
Prepare: Aquinas tba.
- Th 14 Nov. Why do we read Petrarch?
Prepare: Petrarch, *Letter to Posterity* (bb)
- Week 13.** T 19 Nov. Petrarch & Augustine
Prepare: Petrarch, *Ascent of Mt Ventoux* (bb)
 Essay III first draft due. Bring copies for your group and the prof.
- Th 21 Nov. Essay III peer reviews due. Small group discussion.
- Week 14.** T 26 Nov. Petrarch & the Scholastics
Prepare: Petrarch, *On His Own Ignorance*
- Th 28 Nov. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- Week 15.** T 3 Dec. Presentations of Essay III projects
- Th 5 Dec. Presentations of Essay III projects

EXAM DAY 13 DECEMBER

ESSAY III FINAL DRAFT DUE BY 5PM

NOTIFICATIONS

1. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities: 512 471 6259. Learn more at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

2. Absences for religious holidays are respected as per UT Austin policy. You must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

3. The Office of Campus Safety and Security (512 471 5767) wants you to know about emergency evacuation procedures. When a fire alarm is activated, we must exit the building and assemble outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. If you need assistance to leave the building, inform me in writing during the first week of class. Learn more at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety> and www.utexas.edu/emergency

4.) Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL). If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512 232 5050 or visit

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>