

## Civilization of the Middle Ages I

**History 21:510:327:01**

**Instructor: Dr. Martha Brozyna**

**Fall 2020**

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**Availability: Sunday 10:00 AM-11:30 AM and by appointment via WebEx at all other times.**

Welcome to the class! This course covers early medieval European history from the decline of the Roman Empire to the year 1000. The topics that will be covered include the collapse of the western half of the Roman Empire, the creation of barbarian successor states, the dawn of feudalism, the foundations of Islam and the rise of the Islamic Caliphate, the survival of the eastern half of the Roman Empire (Byzantium), the rise and fall of the Carolingian Empire and the establishment of new European states in the 10th century.

### Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students will be able to:

- read critically and interpret primary sources
- interpret history using both primary sources and modern authors
- communicate historical knowledge and interpretation in written form
- demonstrate an understanding of historical methods (i.e. students will be able to think like a historian)

### Breakdown of Grades

Midterm	20%
Writing Assignments (2 Total)	30% (15% x 2)
Final Exam	35%
Journals	15%

### Grade Scale

90-100 A  
87-89 B+  
80 - 86 B  
77 - 79 C+  
70 - 76 C  
60 - 69 D  
59 or less F

### Readings

We will be covering hundreds of years of history over the course of the semester, so it is necessary that you keep up with the readings. The readings are also essential for you to be able to complete your journal entries.

There is one required textbook for the course: Chris Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome: Illuminating the Dark Ages, 400-1000*

You are also required to read both primary and secondary source documents found online. The exact title of each document and its web link is listed below. These readings are also posted on Blackboard. Each student is responsible for obtaining the documents off the internet or Blackboard.

### **Class meeting**

Because this an asynchronous class, there will be no regular class meetings. However, this course was originally scheduled to meet Sunday mornings; therefore, I will be available via Webex every Sunday between 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM to discuss the material, answer any questions you may have or just chat! If this day and time is inconvenient for you, we can schedule another meeting at a different time.

### **Midterm and Final Exams**

There will be two exams in this course – a midterm and final. These exams will be essay-based and accessible to you one week prior to the exam's due date. Exams must be uploaded into Blackboard once they are completed. I cannot accept exams via email.

### **Short Writing Assignments**

You will be writing two short assignment during the course of the semester containing at least 900 words (at least 4 pages). The instructions for these assignments are found in Blackboard. The assignments must be uploaded into Blackboard once they are completed. I cannot accept assignments via email.

### **Journals**

Every Sunday morning I will be posting questions in the “Journals” section of Blackboard based on the readings and videos for the week. After you have read, watched and reviewed the materials for the week you will write an entry into your journal responding to my questions. Please have your journal entry complete by Saturday at 12:00 PM.

Journal entries should be reflections on the readings, videos and the course. In your journal entry, you should respond to my questions as thoroughly as possible.

All journal entries are personal and private; I will be the only person who will read them. Your classmates will not have any access to them. Your journal entries should be at least 300 words. I may ask you follow-up questions on your journal entries, so please make sure you check for my comments/questions and respond to them.

### **Academic Integrity/Behavior**

Rutgers expects and requires all its students to act with honesty and integrity and respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. Plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense and will not be tolerated. Cases of plagiarism will immediately be sent to the appropriate college dean for review. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with Rutgers policy on plagiarism at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/> for more information.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.”

### **Accommodation and Support Statement**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals with Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once

a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For Individuals who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For Absence Verification:** The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing [deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

**For English as a Second Language (ESL):** The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing [PALS@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:PALS@newark.rutgers.edu) to discuss potential supports.

**For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](https://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

**For support related to interpersonal violence:** The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu). There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

**For Crisis and Concerns:** The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNCARE](https://tinyurl.com/RUNCARE) or emailing [careteam@rutgers.edu](mailto:careteam@rutgers.edu).

**For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being:** The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: [counseling@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:counseling@newark.rutgers.edu) or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

**For emergencies**, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

**Technology Resources for Students** <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>

**Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk:** <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

## Schedule of Topics and Readings

**Sep 6- Sep 12** Introduction to the class  
Pax Romana  
Third Century Crisis  
The Collapse of the Western Half of the Roman Empire

**Readings:** *Crises of the Roman Empire, Diocletian and the Tetrarchy, Constantine:*  
<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-worldhistory/chapter/christianity-and-the-late-roman-empire/>

Wickham: *Weight of Empire*

*Sozomen, Constantine Founds Constantinople, 324 CE:*

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/sozomen-constantinople1.asp>

**Sep 13- Sep 19** The First Three Centuries of Christianity  
The Barbarian Invasions

**Readings:** Rise of Christianity, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire:

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-worldhistory/chapter/christianity-and-the-late-roman-empire/>

Wickham: *Crisis and Continuity, 400-550*

*The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas:*

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/primary/perpetua.html>

*Deeds of Zenophilus, How the Romans Tried to Seize Christian Books, c. 395 CE:*

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/zenophilus1.asp>

*Ammianus Marcellinus (c.330-395 CE), History, XIV.16: The Luxury of the Rich in Rome, c. 400 CE:*

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/ammianus-history14.asp>

*Sidonius Apollinaris, A Civilized Barbarian and a Barbarous Roman:*

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/sidonius2.asp>

**Sep 20- Sep 26** The Early Church  
Church Fathers

**Readings:** Wickham: *Culture and Belief in the Christian Roman World*

*Tertullian: On Pagan Learning, c. 220 CE:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/200Tertullian-pagan.asp>

*St. Augustine, excerpt from the City of God:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/aug-city1.asp>

*Rule of St. Benedict:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/rul-benedict-excerpt.asp>

**Sep 27-Oct 3** Merovingians  
Britain and Ireland

**Readings:** Wickham: *Merovingian Gaul and Germany, 500-751* and *Kings without States: Britain and Ireland, 400-800*

*Law of the Salian Franks:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/salic-law.asp>

Bede, *Conversion of England:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/bede1.asp>

**Oct 4-10**                      **First Writing Assignment Due**

Byzantium  
Spain and Italy

**Readings:** Wickham: *The West Mediterranean Kingdoms: Spain and Italy, 550-750, Byzantine Survival, 550-850 and Wealth, Exchange and Peasant Society*

Pope Gregory the Great and the Lombards: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/pauldeacon-gregIa.asp>

Excerpts from Corpus Iuris Civilis: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/corpusI.asp>

John of Damascus, *In Defense of Icons*, c. 730: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/johndam-icons.asp>

Gregory of Tours, *Harsh Treatment of Serfs and Slaves*, c. 575:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/575Rauching.asp>

**Oct 11-17**                      **First Writing Assignment is Due – October 11**

Post Roman Europe  
Islam

**Readings:** Wickham: *Post-Roman Attitudes, The Crystallization of Arab Political Power, 630-750, From 'Abbaside Baghdad to Umayyad Cordoba, 750-1000*

*Ibn Ishaq, Selections from the Life of Muhammad*: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/muhammadi-sira.asp>

*The Qu'ran, Surahs 1,47*: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/koran-sel.asp>

Arabs, Franks, and the Battle of Tours, 732: Three Accounts:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/732tours.asp>

**Oct 18-24**                      Carolingians and Charlemagne  
Byzantium, continued

**Readings:** *The Carolingian Century, 751-887 and Byzantine Revival, 850-1000*

*Four Accounts of Charlemagne's Coronation*:

[http://pirate.shu.edu/~wisterro/cdi/0800a\\_coronation\\_of\\_charlemagne.htm](http://pirate.shu.edu/~wisterro/cdi/0800a_coronation_of_charlemagne.htm)

*Charlemagne: General Capitulary of the Missi (802)*: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/carol-missi1.asp>

*Agobard of Lyon: On Injustices to Mathfrid*: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/agobard2.asp>

**Oct 25 – 31**                      **Midterm is due – October 25**

Renewed Invasions and Settlement  
Mediterranean Economy

**Readings:** Wickham: *The State and the Economy: Eastern Mediterranean Exchange Networks, 600-1000*  
*Three Sources on the Ravages of the Northmen in Frankland, c. 843 – 912*:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/843bertin.asp>

*Theoderic the Monk, The Ancient History of the Norwegian Kings*:

[https://web.archive.org/web/20180619100059/https://classes.v2.yale.edu/access/content/user/haw6/Viking\\_s/Theoderic.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20180619100059/https://classes.v2.yale.edu/access/content/user/haw6/Viking_s/Theoderic.html)

*Otto I and the Hungarians*: [https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508\\_label\\_541](https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508_label_541)

**Nov 1-7**                              Post-Carolingian Europe

**Readings:** Wickham: *The Tenth-century Successor States and "Carolingian England, 800-100*

*Alfred and Guthrum's Peace*: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/guthrum.asp>

Richer: *The Election of Hugh Capet, 987*: <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/987capet.asp>

Election of Otto I: [https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508\\_label\\_465](https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508_label_465)

**Nov 8-14** Economy and Society

**Readings:** Wickham; *Aristocrats between the Carolingian and the "Feudal" Worlds* and *The Caging of the Peasantry, 800-1000*

*Otto III Forbids the Unfree Classes to Attempt to Free Themselves, ca 1000:*

[https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508\\_label\\_1575](https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508_label_1575)

*Henry I Frees a Serf:* [https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508\\_label\\_1576](https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents/simple#lf1508_label_1576)

*Odo of Cluny, Life of Gerald of Aurillac:* <http://hist341f13.umwblogs.org/files/2011/08/Odo-of-Cluny-Life-of-Gerald-of-Aurillac.pdf>

**Nov 15-21** Intellectual Life

**Readings:** Wickham: *Intellectuals and Politics*

*Richer of Rheims, Journey to Chartres:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/richer1.asp>

*The Debate between the princely and noble youth Pippin and Alcuin the Scholar:*

<http://www.gillianspraggs.com/translations/alcuin.html>

*Alcuin Letter to Charlemagne:* <http://media.bloomsbury.com/rep/files/primary-source-35-alcuin.pdf>

*Hucbald, In Praise of Bald Men* <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1v6296zv>

*Agobard of Lyons (9th Century): On Hail and Thunder:*

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/Agobard-OnHailandThunder.asp>

**Nov 22** Second Writing Assignment Due – November 22

**Nov 22-28** Thanksgiving Break

**Nov 29 -Dec 5** Rise of East-Central Europe: Bohemia, Hungary and Poland

**Readings:** Wickham *Outer Europe*

*Thietmar Chronicle:* <http://hist341f13.umwblogs.org/files/2011/08/Theitmar-Chronicle.pdf>

*Letter of Gregory VII to Solomon, King of Hungary* <https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/thatcher-a-source-book-for-mediaeval-history-selected-documents>

**Dec 6- Dec 12** Women and Gender

**Readings:** *Life of St. Matrona of Perge:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/matrona.asp>

*Gregory of Tours, Conversion of Clovis:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/gregory-clovisconv.asp>

*Ancrene Wisse, Collection of Rules and Advice for English Nuns (Just read On Keeping the Heart):*

<https://books.google.com/books?vid=OCLC17338894&id=7BgIAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=ancren+riwle#v=onepage&q=ancren%20riwle&f=false>

*Cartulary of Saint Trond: Richelinde: A Gift of Serfs to Abbey of St. Trond, 938:*

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/938Giftserf.asp>

**Dec 13- Dec 19** Reading Week

**December 22** Final Exam is due

\*\*\*Note: The schedule in the syllabus may change due to extenuating circumstances\*\*\*

