

## Civilization of the Middle Ages I

**History 21:510:327:85**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Conklin 352**  
**Sunday 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

**Instructor: Dr. Martha Brozyna**  
**Office: Conklin 326**  
**Office Hours: Sunday after class**  
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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	25%
Writing Assignments (2 Total)	40% (20% x 2)
Final Exam	25%
Participation and Classwork	10%

### 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. Keeping up with the readings will also help you participate in class discussions, which make up part of your overall grade.

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.

### Midterm and Final Exams

There will be two exams in this course – a midterm and final (non-cumulative). You will be given important terms and questions prior to each exam to help you prepare. Makeup exams will **NOT** be given unless there is a good reason for missing the exam.

### 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.

If you would like extra assistance on these assignments, I encourage you to visit the Writing Center in Conklin 126. For more information on the Writing Center, check out this link:

<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

### **Participation and Classwork**

Class participation makes up an important part of your overall grade. I will be devoting a certain portion of every class period to discussion. I will be grading your participation during that time. Moreover, you will have various in-class informal writing assignments to complete, such as reflections and response papers, that will be collected during class.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is required. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed classes.

*Excused vs. Unexcused absences:* The Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate catalog states: “The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” If you plan to claim a religious holiday as an excused absence, you must inform me of this fact within the first two weeks of class.

I will take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you arrive late, after I have taken attendance, I will give you half credit for being in class. This means that two late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence. Leaving early without prior permission will count as an unexcused absence.

Please keep in mind that this course meets once a week, so each class meeting is actually the equivalent of two classes. After two unexcused absences, your overall course grade will be lowered by a partial grade (from B+ to B, for example) for every further unexcused absence. With four absences, the stakes change: Any student who misses **four** or more sessions through any **combination** of **excused** and **unexcused** absences will have missed more than a quarter of the class time and will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an F.

### **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.”

### **Students with Disabilities**

“Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this

process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or contact [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu)

### **Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance**

Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have this reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)-353-1918, or at [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu). Learn more about the office here: <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/vpva>

### **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**September 8** Introduction to the class  
Pax Romana  
Third Century Crisis

**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>

**September 15** The First Three Centuries of Christianity  
The Collapse of the Western Half of the Roman Empire  
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>

**September 22** 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>

### September 29

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>

### October 6

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-greg1a.asp>

*Excerpts from Corpus Iuris Civilis:* <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/corpus1.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>

### October 13

**First Writing Assignment is Due**

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>

### October 20

**Midterm**

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>

### October 27

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>

*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)

### **November 3** 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)

### **November 10** 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>

### **November 17** Intellectual Life

**Readings:** 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>

### **November 24** Second Writing Assignment Due

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>

### **December 1** Thanksgiving Break

### **December 8** 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=7BgIAAAIAAJ&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>

**December 22**

**Final Exam**