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

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. 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:
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:
Wickham: Crisis and Continuity, 400-550
The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas:
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:
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*


St. Augustine, excerpt from the *City of God*: [https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/aug-city1.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/aug-city1.asp)

Rule of St. Benedict: [https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/rul-benedict-excerp.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/rul-benedict-excerp.asp)

**September 29**

Merovingians

**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](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/salic-law.asp)


**October 6**

Byzantium

**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-gregela.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/pauldeacon-gregela.asp)

Excerpts from *Corpus Iuris Civilis*: [https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/corpus1.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/corpus1.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/muhammad-sira.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/muhammad-sira.asp)

*The Qu’ran, Surahs 1,47*: [https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/koran-sel.asp](https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/koran-sel.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)


*Agobard of Lyon: On Injustices to Mathfrid*: [https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/agobard2.asp](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://classesv2.yale.edu/access/content/user/haw6/Vikings/Theoderic.html

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

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:

November 17  Intellectual Life
Readings: Richer of Rheims, Journey to Chartres: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/richei.asp
The Debate between the princely and noble youth Pippin and Alcuin the Scholar:
http://www.gillianpraggs.com/translations/alcuin.html
Hucbald, In Praise of Bald Men https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1v6296zy
Agobard of Lyons (9th Century): On Hail and Thunder:
https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/Agobard-OnHailandThunder.asp

November 24  Second Writing Assignment Due
Readings: Wickham Outer Europe

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=7BgIAAAAJAAJ&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