

Medieval Civilization I: Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

Fall 2014

Instructor: Raymond J. Dansereau

Instructor Email: raymond.dansereau@gmail.com

Class Meetings: TTH, 11:30-12:50

Room: Eng-211

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:10- 2:10 or by appointment

Office: tba

Course Number: 510:327

Description: This course focuses heavily on the transformation from the World of Classical Antiquity to the World of the Middle Ages. Much of the story of the development of the Early Medieval World centers on the development of a new world and new culture that came to replace that of the classical world. The Early Medieval World developed especially out of three major influence: the Germanic tribes whose political rule replaced Rome's, Christianity, and the old Roman culture. Consequently this course focuses heavily on the rise and making of Christianity, the Germanic tribes, and late Roman influences and how these cultures came together to form the world of the Middle Ages. Themes in this course include the development of Christianity, the defining of doctrine and the canon of scripture, the conversion of the classical and then the Germanic worlds, forms of religious life, the search for certainty following the decline of Rome, and the beginnings of the hallmarks of medieval culture (religious, political, intellectual and social life) that would bear fruit in the High and Later Middle Ages.

Course Aims: By the end of this class, students should:

- Have a strong general understanding of major events in from the Rise of Christianity and Fall of Rome to the development of Early Medieval Culture.
- Be able to use historical sources to form and defend an original argument
- Be able to analyze and closely read historical sources and understand and explain their significance.
- Have an understanding of the historical method, how it works, and how to apply it.

Required Books:

Beowulf (Seamus Heaney edition)
Song of Roland
How the Irish Saved Civilization
Confessions of St. Augustine (Lelen translation preferred)
Einhard's Life of Charlemagne
The Consolation of Philosophy

Structure:

Every class will consist of some mixture of lecture and discussion of assigned readings. Students will consequently be expected to have read all the assigned readings before class.

Grading:

Participation: 10%
Midterm: 20%
Paper 1 (2pg): 10%
Paper 2: (5 pg): 15%
Paper 3 (5 pg): 15%
Final exam: 30%

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is passing someone else's work off as your own; this can be intentional (trying to take credit for someone else's work), or unintentional (forgetting to cite). In either case, it is a serious offence and may result in automatic failure from the course. To avoid this, carefully cite all ideas not your own in text according to the following formula (author, page number). It is not usually necessary to cite material from class lectures (since this is considered common knowledge).

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

Attendance and deadlines:

Students are permitted three unexcused absences. Further unexcused absences will cost a student 3 points off of his or her final grade for each additional class missed. Eight or more missed classes (whether excused or not) will result in automatic failure of the course. Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the class.

Papers will be due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized a full letter grade (10 points). All late work must be turned in by the last day of class of the semester for credit. Work turned in after that time will not be accepted.

Schedule of Classes

PART ONE: THE MAKING OF CHRISTIANITY

1. Tues. 9/2: The Origins of Christianity: Rise of Christianity and the Apostolic Age
 - selections from *Early Christian Writings*, Didache, Clement
 - Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians 15 (1 Cor. 15)

2. Thurs. 9/4: Growth and Persecution: Christianity in the Second and Third Centuries
 - Selected Letters from Ignatius, *Early Christian Writings*
 - Pliny and Trajan,
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/primary/pliny.html>
 - Tertullian, Apology, selections, <http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0301.htm>

3. Tues. 9/9: Women in Late Antiquity and Early Christianity
 - Passion of Perpetua and Felicity,
 - Juvenal, excerpts, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/juvenal6.asp>
<http://www.stoa.org/diotima/anthology/wlgr/wlgr-mensopinions69.shtml>
 - selections from "Life of Marcina" <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/basis/macrina.asp>

4. Thurs. 9/11: The Making of and Reading Scripture
 - Muratorian Canon
 - selections from *Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church*

5. Thurs. 9/16: Reading Scripture II
 - Origen on the Senses of Scripture
 - Selections from Augustine's *Confessions*
 - Gospel of John 3:1-22
 - selections from *Biblical Interpretation in the Early Church*

6. Tues. 9/18: Heresy and Orthodoxy: Defining Doctrine
 - Vincent of Lerins, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/434lerins-canon.asp>
 - Nicene Creed, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/nicene Creed.asp>
 - Athanasius, selections from: *The Christological Controversy*

PART II: THE CONVERSION OF THE CLASSICAL WORLD AND LATE ANTIQUITY

7. Tues. 9/23: Christianity Confronts Classical Culture I: Ancient Learning
- Augustine, *Confessions*
8. Thurs. 9/25: Christianity Confronts Classical Culture II: the Manichees
- Augustine, *Confessions*
9. Tues. 9/30: Christianity Confronts Classical Culture III: Augustine's Controversies
- Augustine, *Confessions*
10. Thurs. 10/2: Political Victory: Constantine to Theodosius
- Augustine, *Confessions*
Paper 1 Due
11. Tues. 10/7: Early Monasticism: St. Anthony and the Desert
- Athanasius, *Life of Anthony* selections

PART III: THE END OF ROME

12. Thurs. 10/9: German Invasions I
- *Beowulf* (first half)
13. Tues. 10/14: German Invasions II
- *Beowulf* (second half)
14. Thurs. 10/16: Byzantines I
- *Consolation of Philosophy*, selections
15. Tues. 10/21: **Mid-Term exam**
16. Thurs. 10/23: Byzantines II
- *Consolation of Philosophy*, selections
17. Tues. 10/28: Rise of Islam I
- *Consolation of Philosophy*, selections
18. Thurs. 10/30: Late Antiquity Under Islam
- Pact of Umar, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jews-umar.asp>

- Muslim Conquests, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/642Egypt-conq2.asp>
- A Muslim view of the Franks, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/usamah2.asp>

Part IV: SETTING UP GERMAN KINGDOMS IN THE POST ROMAN WORLD

19. Tues. 11/4: Establishing the Germanic Kingdoms
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, chapters 1+2
20. Thurs. 11/6: Converting the Germans
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Chapters 3+4
21. Tues. 11/11: Benedictine Monasticism: Prayer and Learning
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Chapters 5-6
22. Thurs. 11/13: Cluny
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, chapter 7
Paper 2 due
23. Tues. 11/18: The Cloister and the World
- "The Rule of St. Benedict" excerpts <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/rul-benedict-excerpt.asp>
- "Life of St. Benedict," selections, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/basis/g1-benedict1.asp>

RISE AND FALL OF THE CAROLINGIANS

24. Thurs. 11/20: Rise of the Carolingians
- Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*
 25. Tues. 12/2: Carolingian Renaissance
Song of Roland
- 11/27: **Thanksgiving Break**
26. Tues. 11/25: The Frankish Church
Song of Roland
Paper 3 Due
 27. Thurs. 12/4: Carolingian Collapse I
- Ibn Fadlan on the Vikings

- Viking Attacks, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/xanten1.asp>

28. Tues. 12/9: Carolingian Collapse II

- Feudal Oaths, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/feud-oath1.asp>

- A Charter of homage and fealty, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/atton1.asp>

- Peace of God, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/pc-of-god.asp>

- Truce of God, <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/t-of-god.asp>

Final Exam