

## Civilization of the Middle Ages I

**History 21:510:327:85**  
**Fall 2021**  
**Conklin 342**  
**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%

### 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. 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 Canvas. Each student is responsible for obtaining the documents off the internet or Canvas.

### **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 Canvas.

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.”

### **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](http://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

**September 5** 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>

**September 12** 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>

**September 19**

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 26**

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 3**

**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-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 10**

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 17**

**Midterm**

**October 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>

**October 31**

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/Vikings/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 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)

#### **November 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>

#### **November 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>

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

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

#### **November 28** Thanksgiving Break

#### **December 5** 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 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>

**December 19**

**Final Exam**

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