

History 542.01E

# Colloquium in Medieval European History

Spring 2013

Instructor: Dr. Judy Ann Ford  
Office Location: SS 113  
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## COURSE INFORMATION

### Materials--Required:

Peter Heather, *Empires and Barbarians* (2012). ISBN 9780199892266.  
Justo Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, vol. I (2010). ISBN 9780061855887.  
Yitzhak Hen, ed., *The Uses of the Past in the Early Middle Ages* (2000). ISBN 9780521639989.  
Carolyn Walker Bynum, *Holy Feast and Holy Fast* (1987). ISBN 9780520063297.  
Marcia Colish, *The Medieval Foundations of the Western Intellectual Tradition* (1997). ISBN 9780300078527.  
Steven Justice, *Writing and Rebellion England in 1381* (1994). ISBN 9780520206977.  
Judith Bennett, *A Medieval Life* (1999). ISBN 9780520206977.  
Norman Cantor, *Inventing the Middle Ages* (1991). ISBN 9780688123024.

### Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the wide range of research questions and historiographer debates which occupy historians of Europe from approximately 500 to 1500. Readings will concentrate on the collapse of the Roman Empire, the establishment and nature of medieval Christianity, the Carolingian Renaissance, the characteristics of a “feudal” economy and society, medieval technology, the Italian Renaissance, and the early period of European expansion.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of historiography, that is, a familiarity with a range of historical methods, theories, and schools of interpretation.
2. Students will be able to research and write a thesis-driven paper of at least 15 pages on an historical topic, using appropriate sources.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance and Participation

Attendance at all class meetings is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room.

### Assessment

#### A. Discussion

Students should come to class not only having read the assigned material, but also prepared to ask questions and make comments about it.

#### B. Journal Review

Students will select from a list one academic journal focusing on medieval Europe. Each student will investigate that journal and write a descriptive report, three to four pages long (typed, 10 to 12 point font, one inch margins), with a title page not included in the pagination.

The report must include the following elements:

- 1 – journal title;
- 2 – the journal's purpose, audience, and history (briefly);
- 3 – the accessibility of the journal through Gee Library, including years & issues available in each format (Please note: in most cases, the most recent issues available of the journal will be electronic. Include in your report everything a student would need to know to locate a recent article in the journal.);
- 4 – content description (Approximately how many articles per issue? Are there book reviews? of what length? Are there notes or other content sections?);
- 5 – analysis of the issues published during the most recent five years in which copies are available through Gee Library—either print or electronic, whichever is most recent (What topics are covered? What methodologies appear? What questions inspired debate? What trends emerge?).

On the date assigned, the student will make an informal presentation to the class about the journal, and be prepared to answer questions about it.

#### C. Research Paper

The major project for this course is a research paper with a cover page, body, notes, and bibliography, in typewriter-sized font, with one-inch margins, in which the body and notes together constitute a minimum of fifteen pages.

The paper will focus on comparative biography. Students will select one person on which to focus who has been the subject of at least three biographies, two of which must be stand-alone, full-length books. The purpose of the paper is not to produce another biography, but to analyze how the biographical treatment of the person selected changed over time. The focus is therefore historiographic.

## D. Presentation

Students will present a conference version of their paper that lasts no more than ten minutes and present it in class.

## GRADING

Discussion	300
Journal Review	200
Paper	500
Presentation	<u>200</u>
TOTAL 1000 points	

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

900-1000	=	A
800-899.9	=	B
700-799.9	=	C
600-699.9	=	D
599.9 or less	=	F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

### Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare the proposal and research paper. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

### eCollege:

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu). To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you cannot see me during office hours, please send me an email so that we can make an appointment. I am quite happy to see students at any time as long as I don't have a prior commitment.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

### Academic Honesty

In all courses, I expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask me.

### Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

### ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Jan 19	Introduction
Jan. 26	Discussion of Heather, <i>Empires and Barbarians</i>
Feb. 2	Discussion of González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , Introduction, Parts I and II; Assign journals to be reviewed
Feb. 9	Discussion of González, <i>The Story of Christianity</i> , Parts III and IV
Feb. 16	Discussion of Hen, ed., <i>The Uses of the Past in the Early Middle Ages</i>
Feb. 23	Discussion of Bynum, <i>Holy Feast and Holy Fast</i>
March 2	Research week.
March 9	Discussion of Colish, <i>The Medieval Foundations of the Western Intellectual Tradition</i> .
March 16	<i>Spring Break</i>
March 23	Discussion of Justice, <i>Writing and Rebellion England in 1381</i> ; journal reviews due
March 30	Discussion of Bennett, <i>A Medieval Life</i> ; complete journal review presentations
April 6	Discussion of Cantor, <i>Inventing the Middle Ages</i>
April 13	Working with documents
April 20	Individual meetings
April 27	Presentations
May 4	Final Exam Period: turn in paper