

HISTORY 431 (FALL 2009) THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

Professor Brett Whalen
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Office: Hamilton #457

Office Hours: T/TH, 12:30-2:30

Tel. 962-2383

Course Time: Thurs. 12:30-1:45

Location: Dey 402

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the political, cultural, and intellectual history of the Christian Church during late antiquity and the High Middle Ages. In particular, it will explore the formation of important ecclesiastical institutions; the emergence of the “reform” papacy starting in the eleventh century; and the flourishing of religious life during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Ongoing attention will be paid to the wider historical significance of the “Church” for the development of medieval European society.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Peter Brown, *The Rise of Western Christendom*, 2nd ed. (Blackwell, 2003)

Kathleen Cushing, *Reform and the Papacy in the Eleventh Century: Spirituality and Social Change* (Manchester, U.K., 2005).

C. H. Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism: Forms of Religious Life in Western Europe during the Middle Ages*, 2nd ed. (Longman, 1989)

Maureen Miller, ed., *Power and the Holy in the Age of the Investiture Conflict* (St Martin's, 2005).

John Shinnars, ed., *Medieval Popular Religion: A Reader*, 2nd ed. (Broadview, 2007).

Additional Readings will be posted on Blackboard [BB]: Students are responsible for printing assigned readings on Blackboard and bringing them to class.

COURSE FORMAT

Anticipated enrollment for this course is around twenty-five, consisting mostly of third- and fourth-year students. Lecture will be held two days a week, including time spent in class with an “open floor forum,” when students will be expected to actively participate in discussion, small-group work, and other exercises. Even during lecture, students will be encouraged to ask questions and contribute their thoughts about the day's topics.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance will be taken in class. As noted above, students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions and other in-class assignments. Participation might also include meeting with the professor at office hours, emails about course content, and messages on the Blackboard “chat room.”

Over the semester, there will be two take-home exams (5 pages each, typed, double-spaced) and an in-class final exam. Study guides for the exam will be posted on Blackboard later in the semester.

Students will also write a medium-length essay (5-6 pp.) analyzing primary sources (not previously assigned) from Miller, *Power and the Holy*, and/or Shinnars, *Medieval Popular Religion*. Details about this assignment will be given later in the semester.

Grading Distribution:

- Attendance: 5%
- Participation: 10%
- Take-Home Exam One: 20%
- Take-Home Exam Two: 20%
- Primary Source Analysis Essay: 20%
- Final: 25%

BLACKBOARD

Students are responsible for being familiar with all materials posted on Blackboard and any other course announcements by email during the course of the semester.

LAPTOPS

Students are welcome to use their laptops in lecture during the first three weeks of class. After that, students who wish to continue using their laptops must become “approved laptop users.” To do so, students must come to office hours and demonstrate how their use of the laptop in class is enhancing their note-taking and learning experience.

POLICIES

Missing more than two classes without a legitimate excuse (i.e. religious holiday, sickness, etc.) can have a negative impact on your attendance and participation grades. Students are responsible for completing any work due during their absence. Late work will be accepted at my discretion and may be marked down. Remember that when writing, taking exams, or performing other assignments you are bound by the Honor Code. For details, see www.unc.edu/depts/honor/honor.html.

For sources of assistance, contact:

The Learning Disabilities Services (www.unc.edu/depts/acadserv/lds.html)

The Writing Center (www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/).

For questions about scholarship in the field, see also the David Library Guide to Medieval Studies: (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/reference/hum/medieval.html>) also my “Medieval Research Page” at: <http://history.unc.edu/faculty/medieval>

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

WEEK ONE: Course Introduction

(8/25) Distribute syllabus; discuss plan for semester

(8/27) Shinnars, *Medieval Popular Religion*, 3-4; 7-14

PART ONE: ANTIQUITY AND THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

WEEK TWO: The Church and the “Making” of Medieval Europe

(9/1) Brown, *Western Christendom*, pp. 1-34

(9/3) Brown, *Western Christendom*, pp. 54-71 / [BB] Edict of Milan

WEEK THREE: Bishops and Monks

(9/8) Brown, *Western Christendom*, pp. 71-92, 106-115, 145-165

(9/10) Gregory of Tours / Cassian, *Institutes* [BB]

WEEK FOUR: Gregory the Great and Columbanus

(9/15) Brown, *Western Christendom*, pp. 190-215, 219-232; skim 232-246; read 246-266

(9/17) Pope Gregory, *Pastoral Rule* [BB] / *Life of Columbanus* [BB]

WEEK FIVE: The Carolingian Church

(9/22) Brown, *Western Christendom*, pp. 408-461

(9/24) Boniface, *Letters / Admonitio generalis* [BB]

WEEK SIX: Review and Take-Home Exam

(9/29) In-Class Discussion and Review

(10/01) Take-Home Exam #1 Due

PART TWO: THE “REFORM” PAPACY

WEEK SEVEN: The Origins of Reform

(10/6) Cushing, *Reform and the Papacy*, 7-54

(10/8) Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 34-43

WEEK EIGHT: Reforming the Roman Church

(10/13) Cushing, *Reform and the Papacy*, 55-110

(10/15) Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 45-49, 54-59, 63-69, 71-73

WEEK NINE: The Clash of Pops and Emperors

(10/20) Cushing, *Reform and the Papacy*, 111-161 / Miller, *Power and the Holy*, 81-90, 105-112

(10/22) No Class: Fall Break

PART THREE: RELIGIOUS LIFE

WEEK TEN: The “Twelfth-Century Reformation”

(10/27) Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 149-205

(10/29) *Medieval Popular Religion*, 459-472; then 480-485; then 103-109

WEEK ELEVEN: Female Monasticism and Spirituality

(11/3) Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 216-237

(11/5) *Medieval Popular Religion*, 127-128, 133-137; then 113-117

WEEK TWELVE: Religious Life and the Laity

(11/10) Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 238-290

(11/12) *Medieval Popular Religion*, 44-61, 88-90, 325-330

WEEK THIRTEEN: Regulating Christendom

(11/17) *Medieval Popular Religion*, 7-14, 14-18, 401-408

(11/19) Discussion and Exam-Review

WEEK FOURTEEN:

(11/24) Take-Home Exam #2 Due

(11/26) No Class: Thanksgiving Break

WEEK FIFTEEN:

(12/1) Individual Meetings with Professor / work on essays

(12/3) Individual Meetings with Professor / work on essays

WEEK SIXTEEN:

(12/8) Course Wrap-Up and Exam Review / Primary source analysis essay due

Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 18, High Noon