

HIST 330/HUM 403: THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES, 600-1000
SYLLABUS FOR SPRING 2007
MWF 11:10-12:00, BUS 108

INSTRUCTOR:

Prof. Megan Williams

Office: Science 267B

Office hours: Wednesday 2:10-6:00 PM or by appointment

Contact: mhw@sfsu.edu (please contact me by e-mail only; messages left on my office voicemail will not be picked up or returned)

Course web site: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/mwilliams/hist330>

PREREQUISITE:

ENG 214 required; minimum third-semester sophomore standing recommended

DESCRIPTION: Political, social, economic, and cultural history of Europe and the Mediterranean ca. 600-1000 C.E., focusing on Christian Europe and Byzantium, with secondary coverage of the Islamic world. [NOTE: this varies from the Catalogue]

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

1. be familiar with the geography of Europe and the Mediterranean and with major events, persons, and developments in the history of those regions during the period 600-1000 CE in the areas of political, social, economic, and cultural history
2. be familiar with the various types of evidence available for the period (including literary texts in various genres, documents, archaeology, art, and architecture)
3. study, interpret and critically evaluate historical evidence in all these forms in its appropriate chronological, geographic and cultural contexts
4. read and critically evaluate modern scholarly interpretations and reconstructions of the period in light of relevant evidence
5. recognize the limitations of evidence and understand the constraints these place upon historical reconstruction, and the limitations of working with translations
6. further develop historical imagination and empathy, so as to enter into a real dialogue with the past rather than simply viewing past persons and events through the lens of present realities and values
7. become more aware of what is taken for granted in present cultures and of the limitations our own cultures place upon our imaginations and our critical faculties

BOOKS ORDERED:

Beowulf. Tr. Seamus Heaney. W. W. Norton & Company, repr., 2001. ISBN: 0393320979
Einhard and Notker the Stammerer. *Two Lives of Charlemagne*. Tr. Lewis Thorpe. Penguin Books, 1969. ISBN: 0140442138
Gregory of Tours. *History of the Franks*. Tr. Lewis Thorpe. Penguin Books, repr., 1976. ISBN: 0140442952
Collins, Roger. *Early Medieval Europe*. Second Edition [ONLY]. Palgrave, 1999. ISBN: 0312218869
Rosenwein, Barbara H. *A Short History of the Middle Ages, second edition. Volume I: From c.300 to c.1150*. Broadview Press, 2004. ISBN: 1551116677
Rosenwein, Barbara H., ed. *Reading the Middle Ages: Sources from Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic World*. Broadview Press, 2006. ISBN: 1551116936.

COURSE POLICIES:WEIGHTING OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE FINAL GRADE:

Class participation	15%
Quiz (20 minutes)	5%
Midterm exam (50 minutes)	15%
Interpretation paper (5-7 pp.)	20%
Book review (5-7 pp.)	20%
Final exam (120 minutes)	25%

Assignment descriptions, guidelines, and other resources will be available online at <http://bss.sfsu.edu/mwilliams/hist330>.

Students who have taken HIST 325 may elect to write a 10-15 page research paper instead of the two 5-7 page papers. Graduate students enrolled in HIST 330 must write a research paper, minimum 20 pages in length. Please speak with me immediately if either of these applies to you.

MISSED EXAMS, LATE PAPERS, ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES:

All assignments **must** be completed to pass the course. Students who fail to complete any one assignment will receive a grade of UW in the course. Papers are to be submitted **in class at 12:10 exactly**. Late papers will be penalized one full grade for every 24 hours late or fraction thereof (e.g., a B paper turned in on the due date at 12:11 pm will receive a grade of C). Papers submitted more than three days (72 hours) after the deadline will receive a grade of F regardless of quality. Regular attendance is necessary to pass the exams; the readings alone will not be sufficient. Attendance will be taken at discussion sessions, with two unexcused absences permitted during the semester. Every student should be prepared to participate in every discussion section; specific guidelines for preparation for each discussion will be posted online in advance. Participation grades will be based on grades for 4 discussions, for a total of up to 20 points towards the final grade. Make-up tests will be given, late writing assignments excused, and further absences excused, only in the case of **emergencies** documented by (1) an original, signed letter, on letterhead or its equivalent, from a medical professional (in case of illness) or (2) an original death certificate or notarized copy (in case of attendance at a funeral). **No other excuses of any kind will be accepted.**

BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM:

In order for the classroom to serve as a learning environment, students must be courteous to each other and to the instructor, and must show respect for the course material. For example, differences of viewpoint should be expressed with courtesy and without personal hostility; at the same time, students should show respect for the course material by accepting that intellectual debate and disagreement are not personal, but an essential part of the learning process. Disruptive behavior is unacceptable at any time. This includes talking or making noise during lecture, leaving cell phones on during class, interrupting the instructor or other students, speaking at great length during discussions, and so on. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave the room. Do not make a habit of coming to class late, leaving during class and returning, or leaving class early, as this is very disruptive to the instructor and to other students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Integrity is essential to learning as it is to the good life. Its opposite in the academic context, dishonesty in the form of cheating or plagiarism, is unfair to your fellow students and is prohibited by the San Francisco State University Student Code of Conduct. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying other students' work and helping other students to cheat. All exams in this course will be closed-book; you may have only blank blue books and pens or pencils during the exam. Plagiarism means using someone else's work without proper acknowledgment (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism> for further discussion of the concept, and more resources). Students in this course are encouraged to work together in preparing for discussions and other group activities, reviewing for exams, and improving their writing, but should not contribute substantial content to other students' papers. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from, at minimum, a failing grade on the specific assignment, to expulsion from the University. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Chair and College Dean. Students are responsible for knowing the SFSU regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism, to be found at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~helpdesk/docs/rules/conduct.htm>.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ACCOMMODATION:

The University is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodation to students with disabilities. The Disability Programs and Resources Center (DPRC) provides academic support services and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. In order to receive accommodation through the ADA, you must make a formal request through the DPRC in SSB 110 (415-338-2472). If you are registered with the DPRC, please let me know so that I can be prepared to accommodate you.

WARNING:

This syllabus is **for informational purposes only**. It is not a final statement of the policies, assignments, or schedule for this course. **Only the online course materials can be considered authoritative, and these are subject to change at any time.** Students are responsible for checking the online course materials regularly (at least three times a week) for any changes. If class must be cancelled, for example because I am ill, this will be announced online, and the syllabus will be adjusted appropriately.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: Background: Europe and the Mediterranean world

Wednesday (1/24): Lecture 1: Introduction

No reading

Friday (1/26): Lecture 2: Geography and climate

No reading; begin preparation for map portion of quiz

WEEK 2 Background: Late Antiquity to 600

Monday (1/29): Lecture 3: Origins and nature of the late Roman state

Reading: Rosenwein ch. 1, SB 1.3

Wednesday (1/31): Lecture 4: West vs. East in the fifth century

Reading: Brown, *World of Late Antiquity*, pp. 114-125, 137-149 (e-reserve)

Friday (2/2): **Video**: "Biography: Justinian"

Reading: SB 1.4

WEEK 3 Byzantium, 565-787

Monday (2/5): Lecture 5: Chronological overview

Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 2

Wednesday (2/7): Lecture 6: Iconoclasm and the cult of icons

Reading: SB 2.3-2.5

Friday (2/9): Lecture 7: The early Byzantine state

Reading: SB 2.1

WEEK 4 Merovingian Gaul, 481-751

Monday (2/12): Lecture 8: Chronological overview

Reading: Begin Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*

Wednesday (2/15): Lecture 9: Life at the Frankish court

Reading: Continue Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*

Friday (2/17): **Discussion 1**: Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*

Preparation: Finish Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*

WEEK 5 Spain and Italy

Monday (2/19): Lecture 10: Visigothic Spain, 511-721

Reading: SB 1.16

Wednesday (2/21): Lecture 11: Lombard Italy, 568-756 (30 minutes)

Quiz (20 minutes)

Reading: SB 2.16

Friday (2/23): **Discussion 2**: Post-Roman law codes and the new states

Preparation: review and compare SB 1.3, 2.1 and 1.16

WEEK 6 Rise of Islam and Ummayyad Caliphate, 622-750

Monday (2/26): Lecture 12: Chronological overview

Reading: SB 2.6, 2.7

Wednesday (2/28): Lecture 13: The Pirenne Thesis: then and now

Reading: SB 2.8, 2.9, 2.10

Friday (3/2): **Video:** Islamic Origins

Reading: SB 3.7

WEEK 7 England (410-793)

Monday (3/5): Lecture 14: Chronological overview

Reading: Begin *Beowulf*

Wednesday (3/7): **Video:** “The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial”

Reading: Continue *Beowulf*

Friday (3/9): **Discussion 3:** *Beowulf*

Preparation: Finish *Beowulf*

WEEK 8 Beyond Rome’s Borders

Monday (3/12): **Video:** “In Search of Ancient Ireland”

Reading: Patrick, *Confession* ([online text](#))

Wednesday (3/14): Lecture 15: Beyond Rome’s borders

Reading: *Life of Shirin* (e-reserve)

Friday (3/16): **Midterm exam**

WEEK 9 The Carolingians

Monday (3/19): Lecture 16: Chronological overview

Reading: Rosenwein, ch. 3

Wednesday (3/21): Lecture 17: Irish monasticism in Francia and beyond

Reading: *Life of Columbanus* by Jonas ([online text](#))

Friday (3/23): Lecture 18: The Carolingian Renaissance

Reading: Nees, *Early Medieval Art*, 173-194 (e-reserve)

WEEK 10 Charlemagne and Frankish empire

Monday (3/26): Lecture 19: The Conversion of Saxony

Reading: Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*

Wednesday (3/28): **Discussion 4:** *Lives of Charlemagne*

Preparation: Read Notker, *Life of Charlemagne*; review Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne*

Friday (3/30): No class (Cesar Chavez Day)

WEEK 11 Social and cultural dimensions

Monday (4/2): **Video:** “Christians, Jews and Muslims in Medieval Spain”

Reading: SB 3.12, 3.13, 3.14

Wednesday (4/4): Lecture 20: Private life in the Early Middle Ages

Reading: SB 3.19

Friday (4/5): No class: finish interpretation paper

Interpretation paper due (iLearn)

SPRING BREAK 4/9-4/13

WEEK 12 The Viking Age I

Monday (4/16): Lecture 21: The West: chronological overview

Reading: Rosenwein ch. 4

Wednesday (4/18): Lecture 22: Early medieval Scandinavia

Reading: SB 4.18

Friday (4/20): Lecture 23: The East: chronological overview

Reading: SB 4.2

WEEK 13 The Viking Age II

Monday (4/23): Lecture 24: Kievan Rus

Reading: SB 4.11

Wednesday (4/25): **Discussion 5**: the Viking impact

Preparation: review SB 4.18, 4.11

Friday (4/27): No class: finish book review

WEEK 14

Monday (4/30): Video: Vikings

Book review due (iLearn)

No reading

Wednesday (5/2): Lecture 25: Byzantine Expansion

Reading: SB 4.7, 4.8

Friday (5/4): Lecture 26: Bulgaria from origins to conversion (30 minutes)

Student evaluations

Reading: SB 3.5, 3.6

WEEK 15 The Tenth Century

Monday (5/7): Lecture 27: The Ottonians

Reading: SB 4.13, 4.14

Wednesday (5/9): Lecture 28: Cluny

Reading: SB 4.3

Friday (5/11): **Discussion 6**: Concepts of "Empire" in east and west

Preparation: review readings for Lectures 23, 25, 26, 27

WEEK 16 Conclusion

Monday (5/14): Lecture 29: Conclusion

No reading

Wednesday (5/16): Review session for the final exam

No reading

Final exam: Monday, May 21, 10:45 a.m.

PERSONAL PROFILE:

Name: _____

Class rank: _____

Are you a transfer student? _____

SFSU e-mail address: _____

What is your major? How and why did you choose it?

What was the last book you read for pleasure? Would you recommend it to someone else? Why or why not?

If you had a time machine, where would you go and why?

Why are you taking this class? What do you expect to enjoy most about it?