

HIST 349: Reading Guide – Pilgrimages and Crusades

1. What is the appeal of pilgrimage for medieval people?
2. What do pilgrim narratives and pilgrim guides highlight? What does this suggest about what each considers important?
3. What range of reactions do we see from the sources the pilgrims having as they accomplish their pilgrimages? Why is it so important to be close to the holy?
4. Why would the monks of Durham Cathedral have thought it important to create a catalog of their relics? What does this tell us about medieval popular religion?
5. What is the relationship between crusade and pilgrimage?
6. How does Pope Urban II convince the people of Europe to go on crusade? Why does he do it? What kind of power does the Pope have that he is able to do this?
7. Why did people go on crusade? What motivated them? What kind of people went on crusades? Were the motivations different based on social position?
8. Are crusades and pilgrimages a source of social control? If so, how?