

## HIST 349: Reading Guide – Faith and God

1. To what degree did prayers help to teach Christians dogma? What is the point of saying them in Latin if people did not understand them?
2. What do the canons of Lateran IV tell us about the state of the Church in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century?
3. Do the canons of Lateran IV and the instructions found in the Handbook for Parish Priests favor the teaching of dogma or of morality?
4. What are the goals of confession? How are these goals achieved? What impact did confession have on the penitent? (Did it create comfort, fear, anxiety, relief, etc.?)
5. What kind of spiritual tensions does Europe's growing prosperity create for the faithful? What kind of strains does spirituality create at the social and the familial level?
6. How much control did the Church have on the everyday lives of the faithful?
7. How did people experience God in the Middle Ages? What do these experiences tell us about popular religion and how people understood and interacted with the sacred?
8. How much of popular religion and beliefs was ignorance and how much was it willful disobedience of Church teachings (heresy)?