

EUH 3121 The Early Middle Ages: 300-1000

Class Times: MWF Period 7 (1:55-2:45 PM)

Course Location: FLI 111

Instructor: Matthew B. Koval

Course Description

This course will walk through the pivotal years following the fragmentation of the Roman Empire and before the Crusades. During this time, the political, cultural, and social sphere briefly (and very imperfectly) united under the Roman Empire split into three distinct cultural spheres (Latin Christendom, the Byzantine Commonwealth, and the Islamic World), which nonetheless long remained interconnected in sometimes surprising ways. Over the semester this course we will explore how this division occurred and how each sphere drew on the classical inheritance and mixed it with fresh impulses to create a unique hybrid. The significance of this is felt today, as this period saw the emergence of a number of institutions and ideas that have survived until modern times. The Christian religion rallied around a set of scriptures and councils, while Islam was born and evolved. Likewise, these two religions experienced their first major divisions in this period. By the year 1000, a map of Europe had emerged that is recognizable to modern people, and the beginnings of an idea of a sort of "European" identity can be discerned. Finally, new cities and regions appeared, which would later blossom into some of the most important hubs of culture and economy even to the present day.

Course Objectives

- examine major trends that led to the breakup of the Roman Empire
- explore and understand the three distinct successors: Latin Christendom, Byzantium, and Islam
- discuss how the issues in the past relate to modern debates about ethnicity, religion, culture, and history
- learn how to read, contextualize, and analyze primary sources
- practice synthesizing diverse information through two rigorous take home exams

Grade Breakdown

40% - 5 pop quizzes in class, always on Friday, lowest score dropped, covers all lecture and reading SINCE LAST QUIZ

10% - Map Quizzes (2 Total)

25% - Midterm Essay

25% - Final Essay

Attendance

Attendance, while of course necessary to do well in the course, is not mandatory. However, persistent attendance and participation will result in an end of the year bonus worth up to a third of a letter grade.

Respecting Other Students

In discussion and during lectures students are expected to respect other students and the teacher. This means refraining from talking when others are talking, not using computers or cell phones for any purpose other than note taking, and treating other peoples' views with respect.

Academic Honesty

You must conform to UF's academic honesty policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of cheating. The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. If found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment for this course you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the university honor policy, including judicial action and the sanctions listed in 6C1-4.047 of the Student Conduct Code. For serious violations, you will fail the course. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Student with Disabilities

Please do not hesitate to ask for accommodation for a documented disability. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation. Please ask if you would like any assistance in this process.

Week 1 (Aug 21-25) Introduction and the Classical World

M - Syllabus, Expectations, Materials

W - Pax Romana - An Idealized Vanishing Point

F - A Thousand Ways to Die: Crisis of the Third Century
Collins pp 1-7

Week 2 (Aug 28-Sept 1) Twilight of the Gods? The Late Roman Empire

M - Diocletian: Making Rome Great Again?
Collins 8-15

W - Constantine: The Man and the Myths
Collins 17-35, 31-46

F - Terror of the Taxman, Elite Withdrawal from Civic Life, Regionalism

Discussion: Are we Rome?

Murphy: Are we Rome?

Silvian: The Burden of Taxation

Porphyry: Against the Christians

Diocletian: Edicts against the Christians

Diocletian and Constantine: Edicts to Stabilize the Economy (Ancient History Sourcebook)

Marcellinus: Luxury of the Rich in Rome

Sozoman: Constantine Found Constantinople (Ancient History Sourcebook)

Edward Gibbon: MHS on Fall of Roman Empire

Week 3 (Sept 6-8) Cities of God: The Rise of Christianity

M - No Class

W - Martyrs, Church Fathers, Holy Women, and Monks
Collins 61-79

F- Canon and Councils: The Acceptance of Scripture and Foundations of Doctrine
Discussion: What does Athens Have to Do with Jerusalem?

Martyrdom of St. Perpetua, excerpts

Edict of Milan

Constantine I: Laws for Christians

Canon From Nicaea

Theodosian Code: On Religion

Theodosius "Ban" of Paganism

Augustine: City of God, Two Cities

Tertullian: On Pagan Learning

Origen: On Classical Learning

Jerome: Pagan Learning

Boethius: Consolation of Philosophy

Week 4 (Sept 11-15) Barbarians at the Gates?!

M - Beyond the Borders: Evolution of "Barbarian" Society

W - What makes one a "Goth"? The Puzzle of Barbarian Identity
Franks, Northmen, Slavs 1-16, 17-51

F - Mirror, mirror: Modern Uses of "Barbarian" Identity

Discussion: The Meaning of Ethnicity

Patrick Geary: Myth of Nations, 1-40

Tacitus: Germania

Jordanes History of the Goths

Week 5 (Sept 18-22) Barbarian Kingdoms - Part 1

Map Quiz 1: Modern Geography - FRIDAY

M - Visigoths - Italy and Spain

Collins 100-104, 153-160

Sidonius Apollinaris: Theodoric of the Visigoths, c. 460

Fourth Council of Toledo: Division of the Tithe in Spain, 633

The Visigothic Code

W - Italy - Ostrogoths and Lombards

Collins 105-110, 196-217

Jordanes: Theodoric, King of the Ostrogoths

Letters of Theodoric [r.493-526]

F- Britain - Wasteland or Camelot?

Collins 173-195
Gildas: from Concerning the Ruin of Britain
Letters of Theodoric [r.493-526]

Week 6 (Sept 25-29) Barbarian Kingdoms - Part 2

M - Ireland - Luck of the Irish
Confession of St. Patrick (selections)
Poems of St. Columba
St. Columban: Boat Song c. 600

W - France: Merovingians
Collins 111-115, 161-172
The Conversion of Clovis: Two Accounts, 496
The Law of the Salian Franks
Redemption of Slaves, c. 630

F Beowulf Discussion

Week 7 (Oct 2-4) Byzantium

M - Survival and Revival: Justinian and Theodora
Collins 116-135
Discussion: Will the Real Justinian Please Stand Up?
Procopius: Selections from History, Buildings, and Secret History

W - Byzantine Greatness and Weakness: Commonwealth and Religious Dissent

F - Homecoming, No Class

Week 8 (Oct 9-13) Byzantium and Islam
Map Quiz 2: Medieval Geography - Friday

M - Heir to a Cold War: Byzantium and Persia... and the origins of Islam
Collins 135-142

W - The Life of Muhammad
Qur'an Surah's 1 and 47, on women
Qur'an: other excerpts
The Sunnah, excerpts

F - Conquests and Development Under the Rashidun (Rightly Guided Caliphs)
Collins 143-152
Pact of Umar
Accounts of The Arab Conquest of Egypt, 642

Week 9 (Oct 16-20) Cross and Crescent: Islamic Expansion and Evolution

M - Creating a civilization: The Umayyad dynasty

<https://www.saylor.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/HIST101-9.2-Umayyads-FINAL1.pdf>

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/umay/hd_umay.htm

<http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/med/herrin.asp>

Arabs, Franks, and the Battle of Tours, 732: Three Accounts

W -Creating Early Islamic Society: Adoption, Adaption, and Innovation

Mark Graham Textbook and Examples

Garth Fowden: Before and After Muhammad

discuss Iconoclasm

Discussion: "Islam" and "the West"

F - Review and Exam Workshop

Week 10 (Oct 23-27) Society, Economy... And Archaeology!!!

M - Trade and Production in Late Antiquity the EMA: "Its the Economy, Stupid"

Pirenne: Cities, McCormick Intro

Pirenne M+C: Conclusion

W - Emporia, Settlements, and Villages: An Archaeological Perspective

Hodges

Helena Hamerow

F - But how did the average man, woman, or child live?

Discussion: What can archaeology tell historians?

ESSAY #1 Due FRIDAY

Week 11 (Oct 30 - Nov 3) Missionaries, Miracles... and the Loch Ness Monster

M - Missionaries, mulieres suadentes (persuasive women), and (re)converting Europe

Collins 234-261

Adamnan: Life of St. Columba (selections)

Life of Boniface (selections)

W - Byzantium and Slavdom

Life of St. Methodius (selections)

Responses to the Questions of the Bulgars A.D. 866

Russian Primary Chronicle: The Christianisation of Russia, 988

F- Slow and Steady: Conversion in the Islamic World

TBD

Discussion: Turn to Face the Strange: Syncretism and Religious Diversity

Week 12 (Nov 6-8) Charlemagne and Macedonians and Abbasids: How to Make a Renaissance

M - Incense and Gold: Medieval Byzantium Reborn

John of Damascus: In Defense of Icons, c. 730
Liudprand of Cremona (c.922-c.972): Embassy to Constantinople, 963 excerpts

W - : The Paradox of Abbasid Greatness: A Permanently Divided Islam
Yakut: Baghdad Under the Abbasids, c. 1000 CE
Abu Hasan Ali Al-Masu'di (Masoudi): The Book of Golden Meadows, c. 940 CE

F- No Class

Week 13 (Nov 13-17) Carolingians How to Make a Renaissance, Pt 2

M - Charlemagne - From War Lord to Metal God
Collins 262-308

W - Carolingian Society, Economy, Culture, and Gender
Charlemagne: General Capitulary of the Missi (802)
Capitulary De Villis, 9th century
Otfrid: Preface to a Gospel Harmony (Letter to Liudbert), c. 870

F - Discussion: The Lives of Charlemagne

Week 14 (Nov 20) Understanding Art
THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

M - Iconography: A Field Guide to Understanding Saints and Styles

Week 15 (Nov 27- Dec 1) "We come from the land of the ice and snow..."

TAKE HOME EXAM 2

M - Vikings, and Magyars, and Arabs... oh my!
Collins 364-389
Annals of Xanten, 845-853
Abbo of Fleury: The Martyrdom of St. Edmund, King of East Anglia, 870
Three Sources on the Ravages of the Northmen in Frankland, c. 843 - 912
Thietmar (or another) on Magyar raids

W - Viking Connections: From Baghdad to Dublin
TBA

F - New Kids on the Block: Poland, Hungary, Rus', and the Umayyad Spain
Discussion:
Collins 390-422
Gallus Anonymous (selections)
Primary Chronicle (selections)
Deeds of the Hungarians (selections)

Week 16 (Dec 4-6) Review and Looking Forward

FRIDAY READING DAY

M - Papal Monarchy, Crusades, and High Medieval Society
Gregory VII: Dictatus Papae
Henry IV: Letter to Gregory VII, Jan 24 1076
Urban II: Speech at Council of Clermont, 1095

W - Review and Exam Workshop

FINAL EXAM DUE Dec 7 - Midnight