

Fall 2017: EUH3931 – Medieval Power and Politics

Instructor: Luc Houle luc.houle@ufl.edu

Office Hours: T 10:00am – 11:00am; R 2:00pm – 3:00pm, Flint 009

Class Times: T Period 5-6 (11:45am – 1:40pm); R Period 6 (12:50pm – 1:40pm), Flint 119

Course Description:

Power relationships in history are often seen as self-evident and unchanging, forming a simple pyramid in which royals rule nobles, nobles rule knights, and knights rule serfs. The approach of many scholars has been to describe the rules, structures, and institutions that create this pyramid. However, a casual look at power and politics in our own time shows that these self-evident structures are only an edifice. To truly understand how power and politics functioned in medieval Europe, we must look behind the façade of feudal oaths to see how power was exercised in practice. As Michael Mann says in his recent sociological history of power, politics is nothing more than an “organizational means” of achieving human goals, and not even the only means at that. This course will show that power is variously a practical force, a set of ideals, and a public performance, precariously balanced between totalizing claims and limited capacity.

Required Texts:

Weiler, Bjorn. *Kingship, Rebellion and Political Culture: England and Germany, c.1215-c.1250*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Additional Resources:

“History Study Guides” <https://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/history/resources/study/> (How-To)

Rosenwein, Barbara H. *A Short History of the Middle Ages*. 3rd Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

Academic Honesty:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code”. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Students 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 the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please ask the instructor if you would like any assistance in this process.

Students in Distress:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Assignments and Grading:

Attendance 10%

Perfect attendance is expected and absences will only be excused in compliance with UF policy. No make-up opportunities will be given except in case of emergency.

Participation 10%

You are expected to be engaged in both lecture and discussion and conduct yourself professionally. There is no penalty for wrong answers. You cannot earn participation credit if you are not in class, even if the absence is excused.

Follow Along Activity 5%

You will have a choice of whether you prefer to work individually or in a group for this activity. Each individual/group will be assigned to one of the “Follow Along” readings from Rosenwein. Individuals will be given preference for the shortest readings. You will answer questions as a way to give background to the lecture and foster class discussion.

Quiz 2%

There is 1 in-class quiz that will help you track your progress and will focus on key terms, people, and concepts.

Primary Source Analysis 10%

A brief, 800 – 1000 word exploration of a primary source that connects with your important person for your biography. It must make an argument about how this source can be used to understand an aspect of Medieval Power and Politics. On Tuesday September 26 you will bring a draft of the introduction and thesis statement to class to discuss with your group. If you do not bring a draft, there will be a 10 point deduction from the grade for the assignment.

Exams 33%

There are 3 exams that focus on key terms, people, and concepts, and ask you to integrate these with the larger themes of the course.

Research Paper 30%

A concise, 3000 – 4000 word biography of one of the important people assigned in class. On Tuesday November 14 you will bring an annotated bibliography to class to discuss with your group. If you do not bring a bibliography, there will be a 10 point deduction from the grade for the assignment. The paper must make an argument about how this person helps us better understand some aspect of Medieval Power and Politics. It must make use of both primary and secondary sources.

Schedule:**Unit 1 – Politics in Action****Week 1 – How do we study power in the past?****Follow Along:** Rosenwein, “An Empire in Spite of Itself,” (118-135).**Tue 8/22:** Introductory Lecture – Class Expectations, Syllabus, Assignments, Setting the Stage
Introductory Source Activity – Images of the Coronation of Charlemagne**Thu 8/24:** Lecture – “Places and Approaches”**READ:** Weiler, “Introduction” (xv – xvi); Thomas N. Bisson, “Preface” (viii – ix) from *The Crisis of the Twelfth Century: Power, Lordship, and the Origins of European Government* (Available on Canvas).**Week 2 – How did medieval rulers exercise power over widely scattered lands?****Follow Along:** Rosenwein, “Of Empires and City-States,” (231-237).**Tue 8/29:** Lecture – “Frederick II in Sicily”Source Activity – *Liber Augustalis***READ:** David Abulafia, “Law and Monarchy in Sicily,” (202 – 208) from *Frederick II: a Medieval Emperor* (Available on Canvas).**Tue 8/31:** Lecture – “Exercising Power in Medieval Germany”**READ:** Weiler: Chapter 1 “To Be King in Name as well as Deed: the Revolt of Henry (VII) in Germany (1234-5)” (3 – 10).**Week 3 – How did the exercise of power vary from place to place?****Follow Along:** Rosenwein, “The Institutionalization of Government in the West,” (223-229).**Tue 9/5:** Lecture – “Magna Carta and Henry III”

Source Activity – Magna Carta

READ: J. C. Holt, “The Charter and Its History,” (33 – 40) from *Magna Carta* 3rd Ed. (Available on Canvas).**Thu 9/7:** Lecture – “Exercising Power in Medieval England”**READ:** Weiler: First Half of Chapter 2 “The Marshal Rebellion in England (1233-4)” (11 – 16).**QUIZ:** Quiz 1

Week 4 – How was power at home affected by politics abroad?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “English Parliament,” (278).

Tue 9/12: Lecture – “Foreign Corruption”

Source Activity – Roger of Wendover’s *Flowers of History*

READ: Alan Harding, “Introduction: Sources and Interpretations,” (1 – 4) from *England in the Thirteenth Century* (Available on Canvas).

Thu 9/14: Lecture – “Foreign Affairs and Rebellion”

READ: Weiler: Second Half of Chapter 2 “The Marshal Rebellion in England (1233-4)” (16 – 21).

Week 5 – How does the meaning of power and rebellion change in different contexts?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “Xenophobia,” (272-274).

Tue 9/19: Lecture – “Religion, Murder, and Context”

Source Activity – The Murder of Conrad of Marburg

READ: Weiler: Chapter 3 “Rebellion in Context” (22 – 33); Karen Sullivan, “Conrad of Marburg: Zealot of the Faith,” (75 – 78) from *The Inner Lives of Medieval Inquisitors* (Available on Canvas).

Thu 9/21: EXAM 1

Unit 2 – Politics in Mind

Week 6 – How did medieval people use ideas to represent power and politics?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “New Forms of Learning and Religious Expression,” (203-205).

Tue 9/26: Lecture – “Images of Power and Justice”

Source Activity – Images of Unjust Executions and Corrupt Judges

READ: Maïté Billoré and Esther Dehoux, “The Judge and the Martyr: Images of Power and Justice in Religious Manuscripts from the Twelfth to the Fifteenth Century,” (171 – 190) from *Textual and Visual Representations of Power and Justice in Medieval France: Manuscripts and Early Printed Books* (Available on Canvas).

DUE: Draft of Introduction and Thesis Statement

Thu 9/28: Lecture – “Ideals of Justice”

READ: Weiler: “Part II: The Ideals and Norms of Politics” (35 – 38) and First Half of Chapter 4: “Loyalty, Justice and Honour: Henry (VII) and Frederick II” (39 – 43).

Week 7 – How did medieval rulers see themselves?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “French Monarchs and the ‘Estates’,” (279).

Tue 10/3: Lecture – “Louis IX and Self-Conscious Government”

Source Activity – Louis IX’s Advice to his Son

READ: William Chester Jordan, “Simon de Nesle, Aristocrat,” (79 – 84) from *Men at the Center: Redemptive Governance under Louis IX* (Available on Canvas).

Thu 10/5: Lecture – “Royal Honor”

READ: Weiler: Second Half of Chapter 4 “Loyalty, Justice and Honour: Henry (VII) and Frederick II” (43 – 52).

DUE: Primary Source Analysis

Week 8 – How were medieval rulers judged by the Church and other authorities?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “Church Reform and Its Aftermath,” (187-193).

Tue 10/10: Lecture – “Emperor and Pope”

Source Activity – Chronicle of Salimbene

READ: Brett Whalen, “Introduction,” (1 – 6) from *The Medieval Papacy* (Available on Canvas).

Thu 10/12: Lecture – “Contemporary Critics”

READ: Weiler: Chapter 5 “Justice, Loyalty and the Absence of Honour: Frederick II and Henry (VII) as Seen by Their Contemporaries” (53 – 75).

Week 9 – How were medieval rulers judged by history?

Tue 10/17: Lecture – “Henry III and the Legacy of Power”

READ: Weiler: Chapter 6 “Loyalties True and False: Political Values in England” (76 – 99); Rebecca Boone, “Empire and Medieval Simulacrum: A Political Project of Mercurino Di Gattinara, Grand Chancellor of Charles V,” (1040 – 1045) in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 42, no. 4 (Available on Canvas).

Thu 10/19: EXAM 2

Unit 3 – Politics in Practice

Week 10 – What constituted a political public in the medieval world?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “Culture and Institutions in Town and Countryside,” (237-242).

Tue 10/24: Lecture – “Public Perceptions”

Source Activity – Hugh of Digne

READ: Eugene L. Cox, “The House of Savoy in England and Gascony,” (107 – 117) from *The Eagles of Savoy: The House of Savoy in Thirteenth-Century Europe* (Available on Canvas).

Thu 10/26: Lecture – “Public Policy”

READ: Weiler: “Part III – The Ways and Means of Politics” (101 – 103) and Chapter 7 “Creating a Public” (105 – 129).

Week 11 – How did medieval rulers engage with the public?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “Urban Guilds Incorporated,” (242-244).

Tue 10/31: Lecture – “Medieval Cities”

Source Activity – Notarial Manuscripts

READ: Alan Friedlander, “Notaries and their Signs in Medieval Languedoc” from *The Experience of Power in Medieval Europe, 950-1350* edited by Robert F. Berkhofer III, Alan Cooper, and Adam J. Kosto (Available on Canvas).

Thu 11/2: Lecture – “Public Rituals”

READ: Weiler: Chapter 8 “Addressing the Public: Rituals, Gestures and Charters” (130 – 150).

Week 12 – RESEARCH WEEK

***SCHEDULE TBA**

Week 13 – How did medieval rulers balance constituencies?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “Monastic Splendor and Poverty,” (205-216).

Tue 11/14: Lecture – “Different Publics”

Source Activity – Bernard of Clairvaux

READ: David Nirenberg, “Christian Love, Jewish ‘Privacy,’ and Medieval Kingship” (25 – 38) from *Center and Periphery: Studies on Power in the Medieval World* edited by Jansen, Geltner, and Lester (Available on Canvas).

DUE: Annotated Bibliography

Thu 11/16: Lecture – “Townpeople and Others”

READ: Weiler: Chapter 9 “Townsmen, Clergy and Knights: the Public in Politics” (151 – 171).

Unit 4 – Politics in Perspective

Week 14 – How did gender affect the ideals of power?

Tue 11/21: Lecture – “Queens and Power”

Source Activity – Peter of Blois

READ: Theresa Earenfight “Introduction” (1 – 12) from *Queenship in Medieval Europe* (Available on Canvas).

Thu 11/23: NO CLASS

Week 15 – How did gender affect the realities of power?

Follow Along: Rosenwein, “The Ins and the Outs,” (253-254).

Tue 11/28: Lecture – “Gender, Heresy, Crusade”

Source Activity – Inquisition Records

READ: Sara Lipton “Pedro II of Aragon and the Gendering of Heresy” (107 – 129) from *Queer Iberia: Sexualities, Cultures, and Crossings from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance* edited by Josiah Blackmore and Gregory S. Hutcheson (Available on Canvas).

DUE: Research Paper

Unit 5 – Politics in Theory

Thu 11/30: Lecture – “Comparisons and Conclusions”

READ: Weiler: “Conclusion” (172 – 178); “Introduction” (1 – 3) from *The Experience of Power in Medieval Europe, 950-1350* edited by Robert F. Berkhofer III, Alan Cooper, and Adam J. Kostó (2005) and Thomas N. Bisson “Introduction” (1 – 21) from *The Crisis of the Twelfth Century* (2009).

Tue 12/5: EXAM 3