

EUH3473 - Medieval Germany

Time and Location

MWF 11:45-12:35

Keene-Flint 101

Description

The German medievalist Eckhard Müller-Mertens once wrote that he could accept only a strictly geographic definition of medieval Germany. Indeed, there was no such thing as Germany in the Middle Ages. No term in medieval German existed for what we now know as “Germany.” It was only in the 1500s that the term *Deutschland* came to be used and the term received its nationalistic ring only in the nineteenth century. The land and the people whose medieval history is to be the subject of this course were known by a great variety of names. Most of the provinces of which modern Germany is made up were incorporated into the Frankish Empire, a process completed only during the reign of Charlemagne (768-814). In 800, Charlemagne adopted the title of “emperor of the Romans,” but in the tenth century, the eastern parts of his empire came to be known as the East Frankish kingdom, united since 961 with the Lombard kingdom consisting of northern Italy and augmented by the Saxon conquests of the Slavic territories in the East, across the Elbe River. It was only during the eleventh century that the term *regnum Teutonicum* (“the kingdom of the Germans”) came to be used. German historians have traditionally referred to the medieval history of Germany as the period of the “old empire.” The medieval empire was “old” in contrast to the German Empire established in 1871. It is with this idea in mind that the Nazis called their Germany “the third empire (Reich),” after the medieval and modern one. So what was medieval Germany? What makes it so difficult to represent by the traditional means of Western historiography and so easy to manipulate in the modern political discourse? What were the historical conditions in which German kingship came to represent the earthly vicariate for Christ, the epitome of the State whose main reason to exist was to protect the Church? How were ethnic identities formed and under what circumstances did the Holy Roman (-German) Empire come into being? Above all, this course aims to provide answers to some of these questions. We will explore social and political issues of German medieval history and examine various aspects of daily life and Church organization. Following a chronological order, we will look, each week, at the questions and problems raised by the study of the entire region of Central Europe, and at some of the primary sources from which historians draw their analysis.

Textbooks

- Horst Fuhrmann, *Germany in the High Middle Ages, c. 1050-1200*. Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001; ISBN: 0521319803 [hereafter *Fuhrmann*]; on two-hour reserve in Library West.
- *Ottoman Germany. The Chronicon of Thietmar of Merseburg*. Translated and annotated by David A. Warner. Manchester/New York: Manchester University Press/Palgrave, 2008; ISBN: 0719049261 [hereafter *Warner*]; on two-hour reserve in Library West

- Timothy Reuter, *Germany in the Early Middle Ages, 800-1056*. London/New York: Routledge, 2013; **ISBN: 0582081564** [hereafter *Reuter*]; available as pdf file on the course Canvas page
- *Eleventh-century Germany: the Swabian Chronicles*. Translated and annotated by I. S. Robinson. Manchester/New York: Manchester University/Palgrave, 2012; **ISBN: 9780719077340** [hereafter Robinson]; on two-hour library reserve in Library West
- (optional) *Medieval Germany. An Encyclopaedia*. Edited by John M. Jeep. London/New York: Routledge, 2017; **ISBN: 9781138062658** [hereafter *Jeep*]; available in the Reference section (in-library use only) of Library West.

Assignments

There is no attendance policy, but you are responsible for attending all lectures and reading the required texts. Class participation may be taken into account to determine the overall grade. The basis for evaluation of performance will be a reading journal and a research paper. Below is a detailed description of these assignments and the corresponding percentages of your final grade. Extra-credit work will be accepted only for students with active participation in class discussions. If necessary, I will explain the format of the extra-credit option during regular office hours. You are otherwise encouraged to keep in touch with me by e-mail, if you have any questions: I check my mailbox regularly, and promise to answer quickly.

Reading journal. A quick glimpse at the list of weekly topics (see below) will no doubt convince you that this is a course with serious readings. You will be expected to digest a substantial amount of information in a fairly short period of time. The best way to do this is to keep a journal. Before every class meeting, you will post an e-mail message on my address (on top of this syllabus), in which you will discuss briefly the readings for the coming meeting, ask questions and/or make comments, raise issues that need clarification, etc. All e-mails should arrive at least 12 hours before class meetings. Be sure to keep your postings to a reasonable length (175 to 250 words long). I do not want you to spend too much time on them, but I expect you to give an articulate presentation of your thoughts. Needless to say, I also expect you to check on correct grammar and spelling before clicking on "Send." Because the journal is designed to demonstrate your efforts towards an initial understanding of the readings, I must have ***in time*** one report for each class meeting, every week (except, of course, week 10). There are only 35 class meetings with required readings (textbook readings are indicated in brackets, followed by online readings, if any, in the weekly topic list below), so journal entries for these days represent 70 percent of your final grade, 2 percent for each entry. You can make up a reading report only in extraordinary circumstance such as absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or any other conflict (e.g., jury duty), about which you know in advance of the scheduled assignment. In such cases, you are required to notify me of the conflict *before the assignment is due*, and if possible at the start of the semester. Be aware that missed reports may result in a substantially lower grade. For further information, consult the [attendance policies](#) of the University of Florida.

Research paper. The remaining 30 percent of your final grade will be based on a paper of approximately ten pages (with a minimum of 8 and an absolute maximum of 15 pages). The topic of interest to you may be chosen from a variety of issues pertaining to medieval Germany that we will discuss in class (economic life, society and social structures, ministerials, Crusades, conversion to Christianity, rise and growth of towns, art and literature, costume, chivalry and *Minnesang*, etc.). The research paper topic is due on the day of the first class meeting of Week 10. Keep in mind that your research must include both primary and secondary sources. You can use the readings for this course, but in addition you need to have at least six sources not listed below. Your relatively complete list of sources to be used for the research paper is also due on the day of the first class meeting in Week 10. You are strongly encouraged to begin looking earlier for the material for your research paper and to consult with me as early and often as possible. Your research paper must follow the formatting and style rules of the [*Chicago Manual of Style*](#). It should also follow the expectations of a good research paper, with a proper introduction, thesis, body and conclusion, well written in proper formal English with correct spelling and punctuation. A research paper also implies the proper use of footnotes documenting the sources for your facts and ideas. My recommendation is that you write a first draft, which we (you and I) can go over during my office hours.

Grades. The following scale will be used in determining your final grade

Points	Grade
95-100	A
89-94	A-
84-88	B+
79-83	B
74-78	B-
69-73	C+
64-68	C
59-63	C-
54-58	D+
49-53	D
44-48	D-
under 43	E

Weekly Topics

Week 1 (August 24-26): Introduction.

- A history of words: German, *Teutonicus*, *Deutsch* [*Fuhrmann* 19-23; *Jeep* 265-267]; see the entry "German" in the [Online Etymological Dictionary](#)
- A little geography - where was medieval Germany [*Fuhrmann* 6-16]; see a map of [Central Europe, ca. 1180](#), the German lands on the [Ebstorf map](#) of the early 1200s, and a map of [present-day Germany](#)

- Problems of historiography [*Reuter* 1-17; *Jeep* 362-364]

Week 2 (August 29-September 2): Sources

- Thietmar of Merseburg, a key source of Ottonian Germany [*Warner* 1-5, 16-26, 49-62; *Jeep* 754-755]; see a facsimile of [a page](#) in Thietmar's *Chronicon*
- Chronicles: Hermann of Reichenau [*Robinson* 1-20]
- Chronicles: Berthold of Reichenau [*Robinson* 20-41]

Week 3 (September 5-9): Carolingian Germany

- Monday, 09/05: Labor Day, no classes
- Franks, the Frankish kingdom, and Carolingian Francia [*Reuter* 21-44; *Jeep* 1-2, 12, 96-98, 98-102, 469-470, 472-473]; see a map of the [Carolingian Empire](#); see a passage from the [Salian Law](#), [Einhard's Life of Charlemagne](#), the [Capitulary for Saxony](#), the [Life of Liutberga](#)
- The East Frankish kingdom and its constituent parts [*Reuter* 70-111; *Jeep* xxxv, 696-697]; see a [map](#) of the division of the Carolingian Empire (ca. 842) and the [Annals of Xanten](#) on the situation in the years following the Treaty of Verdun; see also the [plan of a Benedictine abbey](#) in the library of the St. Gall Abbey (ca. 820)

Week 4 (September 12-16): "The iron century" (882-983)

- Late Carolingian Germany [*Reuter* 115-147; *Warner* 68-76 and 78-81; *Jeep* 87-95, 106, 107, 340-341, 357-358, 463-465, 471-472]; see a [map](#) of the Late Carolingian kingdoms; read [Ekkehard of St. Gall](#) on his abbey and an [English translation](#) of the [Hildebrandslied](#); see also an image of the [Holy Lance](#) and a late Carolingian representation of Pope [Gregory the Great writing along with his scribes](#)
- Otto I [*Reuter* 148-174; *Warner* 89-123]
- Otto II [*Reuter* 174-180; *Warner* 123-148; *Jeep* 141-142, 371-372, 443-444, 586-587, 588-589, 590-591, 592, 752-753]; see a [map](#) of the stem duchies and a [map](#) of the Ottonian Empire in ca. 962; see also a reconstruction of the Slavic temple at [Gross Raden](#) and; see also the [ivory of Otto II and Theophanu](#)

Week 5 (September 19-23): Germany under the Ottonians

- Kingship, patronage, and rebellion [*Reuter* 183-220]
- Ottonian society [*Reuter* 221-236]
- Ottonian religious life [*Reuter* 236-252; *Jeep* 50, 81, 267-268, 374-375, 497-498, 595-605, 643-645]; see the interior of the [St. George Church in Oberzell](#), the [St. Michael Church in Hildesheim](#) (built by St. Bernward of Hildesheim), an image of the Benedictine convent of St. Cyriacus in [Gernrode](#) (near Quedlinburg), and an example of [westwork](#); read the [Life of Bishop Burchard of Worms](#)

Week 6 (September 26-30): Ottonian hegemony in Europe

- Ottonian art; see an illumination from the [Egbert Psalter](#), another from the [Gero Codex](#); see a page from the [Bamberg Apocalypse](#) and images of [Otto II by the Gregory Master](#) and of [Otto III in the Aachen Gospels](#); read [Dulcinius](#), a medieval play by Hrosvit of Gandersheim (with [Latin text](#))
- The Slavs and the eastern frontier [*Reuter* 253-264; *Warner* 149-204]
- The Empire [*Reuter* 265-286; *Jeep* 39-41, 200-202, 641-643]; see an image of [Otto III on the throne](#) (from the Gospel of Otto III)

Week 7 (October 3-7): Henry II and Thietmar of Merseburg: the emperor and the chronicler

- The last Ottonian? [*Warner* 205-234]; see a portrait of [Henry II](#) near one of the entrances into the Cathedral of Bamberg and an image of his [coronation](#) in a Regensburg sacramentary
- The first Salian? [*Warner* 235-385; *Robinson* 58-64]
- Reading from the chronicle: a seminar

Week 8 (October 10-14): Germany under the Salian emperors

- Expansion, demographic and economic growth, and their problems [*Fuhrmann* 23-30; *Jeep* 582, 410-414]; see a [grant of market and coinage for the bishop of Osnabrück](#) (952) and another of [privileges to the Jewish community of Speyer](#) (1084)
- Salian society [*Fuhrmann* 31-38; *Jeep* 142-144, 224-226, 342-343, 660-672, 687-689, 727-728]
- Salian religious life [*Robinson* 64-98]; see an image of the Benedictine abbey of [Maria Laach](#) (Palatinate), and visit the [Speyer Cathedral](#), the [crypt](#) of the Salian emperors

Week 9 (October 17-21): The Investiture Controversy

- The "priestly king" Henry III [*Fuhrmann* 38-46]; *Jeep* 83-84, 309-311]; see the [Golden Evangeliary](#) made in the Echternach Abbey and visit the [imperial palace](#) in Goslar
- The Church reform [*Fuhrmann* 46-50; *Jeep* 344-345, 701-702]
- Henry IV [*Fuhrmann* 51-58; *Robinson* 99-131 and 245-254]; read the [Song of Anno](#) and [Lampert of Hersfeld's](#) account of the "coup of Kaiserswerth"; see a [plan](#) and a [picture](#) of the Harzburg Castle, built by Henry IV, as well as an image of Otto of Northeim's castle at [Hanstein](#); see the [Dictatus Papae](#) (1075); see the [Castel Sant'Angelo](#) in Rome and visit the [Hirsau Abbey](#)

Week 10 (October 24-28): The Investiture Controversy and its long-term consequences (research paper topic and list of sources due on Monday, 10/23)

- The rise of communes [*Fuhrmann* 77-81; *Jeep* 81-82, 116-118, 320, 474-475]; see a [genealogy](#) of the late eleventh- to thirteenth-century Welf family; see [Christian](#) and [Jewish](#) accounts of the 1096 pogrom in Mainz; see an [illumination](#) in the Chronicle of Ekkehard of Aura showing Henry IV handing over the royal insignia to

Henry V; visit the sites of the reformed abbeys of [Kastl](#) and [Baumburg](#) (Bavaria); and see [Frederick I's charter of privileges for Lübeck](#) (1188)

- Climax and consequences of the Investiture Controversy (Canossa and its aftermath); [*Fuhrmann* 58-77 and 81-95; *Robinson* 132-244 and 254-337; *Jeep* 140-141, 399-401]; see the [Concordat of Worms](#)
- The Investiture Controversy until Frederick Barbarossa [*Fuhrmann* 98-109 and 116-134]; visit the [Trifels Castle](#), the ruins of the Hohenstaufen stronghold at [Oppenheim](#), and the [Stahleck Castle](#) founded in 1135 above Bacharach by Count Hermann; see an [illumination](#) in the manuscript of Ekkehard of Aura's Chronicle showing the wedding of Henry V and Matilda (1114)

Week 11 (October 31-November 4): Twelfth-century Germany

- Economic growth [*Jeep* 153, 321-322]; read a [grant of craft guild](#) to the fishermen of Worms (1106/7) and [Henry IV's imposition of tolls on craftsmen at Koblenz](#) (1104); see a [map](#) of the eleventh- to thirteenth-century [Ostsiedlung](#); visit the Cistercian abbeys of [Kamp](#), [Ebrach](#) and [Walkenried](#); read a biography of Count [Wiprecht of Groitzsch](#)
- Church [*Fuhrmann* 109-116; *Jeep* 83, 358-359, 419, 435-436, 441-443]; read the biographies of [Hildegard of Bingen](#) (with a [portrait](#)) and [Herrad of Landsberg](#); read a [summary](#) of Hildegard's *Scivias*; visit the abbeys of [Siegburg](#), [St. Blasien](#), [Hirsau](#), and [Springiersbach](#), as well as the convents of [Disibodenberg](#) and [Eibingen](#); see a portrait of St. [Norbert of Genep](#)
- *Landfrieden*

Week 12 (November 7-11): Germany under the Staufen emperors

- Frederick Barbarossa [*Fuhrmann* 135-157; *Jeep* xxxvi, 155-157, 237-240, 732-734]; see an [image of the emperor](#) from a Vatican manuscript and the decisions of the [Diet of Roncaglia and the stipulations of the Peace of Constance](#); see a [map](#) of the Empire under Barbarossa's rule, a [map](#) of twelfth-century Italy, and the [map](#) of the emperor's Italian expeditions
- From Henry VI to Frederick II - empire and papacy in the struggle for supremacy [*Fuhrmann* 157-186; *Jeep* 241-245, 348-350]; see the [gold seal](#) of Henry VI following his proclamation in Palermo (1194); read three [love songs](#) written by the emperor in Old German with an [English translation](#) of one of them; see an [image](#) of Frederick II and an [image](#) of the battle of Bornhöved (1227) and read about the emperor's [encounter](#) with the Ayyubid sultan al-Kamil in 1228; read the [Statute in Favor of the Princes](#) forced upon Henry VII at the 1231 assembly in Worms; see a brief description of [Frederick II's castle in Lucera](#), where the emperor established a colony of Saracens; visit [Castel del Monte](#), the "hunting lodge" Frederick II built in Apulia in 1249, and see the ruins of the [Castel Fiorentino](#) where Frederick II died in 1250; see the seal of [Henry Raspe](#), an image of [Alfonso X of Castile](#), and another of [Charles of Anjou](#) receiving the crown of Sicily from Pope Clement IV (1266); see a late medieval, idealized image of the [electors](#)
- Friday, 11/11: Veterans' Day, no classes

Week 13 (November 14-18): Land and lordship

- Demographic growth and agriculture [*Jeep* 163-164]; see Henry VII's [attempts to enforce serfdom](#) (1224); read a [brief description of the eastward colonization](#) (to the Polish lands); visit the Cistercian monasteries of [Altzelle](#) (near Dresden), [Doberan](#) in Mecklenburg, [Oliwa](#) near Gdańsk (Poland), [Lubiąż](#) in Silesia (Poland), and [Lehnin](#) (near Potsdam)
- Fiefs and church property. Ministerials and communes [*Jeep* 195, 196-197, 346, 434-435, 523-524, 804-805]; see a presentation of the [Welf family](#) and a short [biography of Henry the Lion](#); see a portrait of [Otto the Child](#), the first duke of Brunswick; see the tombstone of [Siegfried III of Eppstein, Archbishop of Mainz](#); read Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa's [regulation of priestly rights of inheritance](#) (1169), the [imperial precaria of 1241](#), and a [presentation of the "Mirror of the Saxons"](#) (Sachsenspiegel); see the [Heerschildordnung](#) in the "Mirror of the Saxons"; see an image of the [Scharfenberg](#) Castle near Annweiler; visit the imperial cities of [Haguenau](#) (Alsace), Wimpfen, and [Gelnhausen](#); visit the episcopal towns of [Schaffhausen](#) (Switzerland), [Colmar](#) (Alsace), [Feuchtwangen](#), and [Wetzlar](#)
- Commercial expansion; see the [Hamburg and Lübeck treaty](#) (1241) and their [coinage agreement](#) (1255); see also the [regulations of the master butchers of Tulln](#) (1237), the [rules of the toll-collectors in Freiburg](#) (1178), a collection of [Heller](#), and a [map of the trade routes across Europe](#), ca. 1200

Week 14 (November 21-25): The thirteenth-century expansion

- Church and heresy [*Jeep* 8-9, 45-46, 52, 144, 161, 199-200, 514-515]; see a presentation of the [Beguin](#) movement; see also a [biography of St. Elizabeth of Thuringia](#) and a [biography of Albertus Magnus](#)
- Wednesday, 11/23 and Friday 11/25: Thanksgiving, no classes

Week 15 (November 28-December 2): A new society

- New beginnings in the social system [*Jeep* 19-20, 28-34, 274-292, 303-306, 323-326, 332-334, 510-511, 525-532, 795-797, 822-826]
- Thirteenth-century German literature; read the [Prologue to Gottfried of Strasbourg's Tristan](#); see also a [presentation of Minnesang](#); read [the Falkenlied](#); see a digital version of the [Codex Manesse](#) in Heidelberg and a [Minnesang competition](#) in Braunschweig (2009); listen to [Walter von der Vogelweide's Palästinalied](#)
- Reading medieval poetry - another seminar.

Week 16 (December 5-9): Late medieval German culture (research paper due on Wednesday, 12/07)