

Course Syllabus

MEM 3510 Engineering the European Middle Ages
Course Syllabus

Course Information

INSTRUCTORS Fall 2025

Dr. Will Hasty

Preferred Method of Contact: hasty@ufl.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays 11:45-12:35 and 1:55-2:45, or by appointment, in Dauer Hall 263a; set up an in-person or zoom appointment with me via my above email address.

Dr. Mark Law

Preferred Method of Contact: mlaw@ufl.edu

Office hours: By appointment; set up a zoom appointment via email.

This course does not have scheduled meeting times. Quizzes and assignments are due on scheduled dates and times. Access the course through Canvas on UF e-Learning (<https://elearning.ufl.edu/Links to an external site.>) and the Canvas mobile app by Instructure.

Course Description

In this online course, you will learn about pivotal moments in technological innovation and the basic physics principles (e.g. force, work, and energy) underlying those changes focused on the cultural domains of power generation, agriculture, sacred spaces, warfare, and textiles in the European Middle Ages. You will learn about the ideas, ideals and practical exigencies that motivated engineers and artists to transform their communities, through the application of scientific, economic, social, philosophical, and practical knowledge. The course will introduce some of the challenges of materials, physical knowledge, construction techniques, and societal pressures that medieval craftspeople and engineers faced.

Course Requirements

Text

1. Frances and Joseph Gies, *Cathedral, Forge, and Waterwheel. Technology and Invention in the Middle Ages* (HarperCollins, 1994).
2. You will be referred to other online texts, videos, musical pieces, etc. in the course modules.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Minimum Technology Requirements

The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to their degree program. Most computers are capable of meeting the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

- Webcam
- Microphone
- Broadband connection to the internet and related equipment (cable/DSL modem)
- Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university)

Individual colleges may have additional requirements or recommendations, which students should review before starting their program.

Minimum Technical Skills

To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of operating a computer and using word processing software.

Materials/Supply Fees

Yellowdig Discussion Community, \$14.95.

[Getting started with Yellowdig](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Generative AI Policy

- Other than in the construction of the "Narrative Simulation" parts of course projects where you are directed to "collaborate" with ChatGPT in ways you will be documenting, you may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own.
- You may use AI to help organize and brainstorm ideas, but not to do your writing.
- If you use generative AI to do your thinking for this class, you'll be wasting a huge (and expensive!) opportunity to learn how to think and communicate. You can cut corners, but you will regret losing the opportunity to develop your own thoughts and skills

- You should note that all large language models still tend to make up incorrect facts and fake citations, code generation models have a tendency to produce inaccurate outputs, and image generation models can occasionally come up with highly offensive products. You will be responsible for any inaccurate, biased, offensive, or otherwise unethical content you submit regardless of whether it originally comes from you or a foundation model.

Modules

Click to explore module content.

[Module 1: Introduction](#)

[Module 2: Power Generation](#)

[Module 3: Agriculture](#)

[Module 4: Sacred Spaces](#)

[Module 5: Warfare](#)

[Module 6: Textiles](#)

[Module 7: Conclusion](#)

Course Grading Policy

Assignment	Percent
Quizzes	10%
Discussion in Yellowdig	25%
Project Preparation Reports	10%
Module Group Projects: ChatGPT-based Narrative Simulations & Contests	25%
Individual Technological Developments TimelineJS	20%

Final Narrative Simulation Project & Contest**10%****Grading Scale**

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93-100%	A	4.00
90-92.9%	A-	3.67
87-89.9%	B+	3.33
83-86.9%	B	3.00
80-82.9%	B-	2.67
77-79.9%	C+	2.33
73-76.9%	C	2.00
70-72.9%	C-	1.67
67-69.9%	D+	1.33
63-66.9%	D	1.00
60-62.9%	D-	0.67
0-59.99%	E	0.00

See the current UF grading policies for more information.

UF Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies (i.e. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, MAKE-UP EXAMS, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, S/U OPTION, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS). For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this linkLinks to an external site.](#)

Getting Help

Technical Difficulties

For help with technical issues or difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- 352-392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups (assignments, exams, etc.) due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the UF Computing Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should email your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please email umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter We Care to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the UF Counseling & Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the UF Student Health Care Center website.
- University Police Department: Visit the UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111, or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center website.
- Academic and Student Support
- Career Connections Center: For career assistance and counseling services, visit the UF Career Connections Center website or call 352-392-1601.
- Library Support: For various ways to receive assistance concerning using the libraries or finding resources, visit the UF George A. Smathers Libraries Ask-A-Librarian website.

- Teaching Center: For general study skills and tutoring, visit the UF Teaching Center website or call 352-392-2010.
- Writing Studio: For help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers, visit the University Writing Program Writing Studio website or call 352-846-1138.