

EUH 3440: Medieval France



Time and Location

Dr. Florin Curta

Tuesday 3:00-4:55 and Thursday 4:05-4:55

Office: Keene-Flint 212

Flint Hall 111

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-1

Description

The Middle Ages were a formative period in the history of France. Irrespective of whether people in the 10th or 11th centuries thought of their land(s) as France, France existed, as did the political obligations to the French king. There has been a recent scholarly effort to dismantle the idea that France existed as such at an early date. Some have dismissed the idea as the product of the 19th-century nationalism, others have focused on regions of France, in an attempt to show how different various parts of the future France were in relation to each other. However, France was clearly a political concept (at the very least) during the reign of Louis VII. Louis's title nonetheless still made reference to the Franks, for he was a *rex Francorum*. Suger,

who wrote a biography of the king's father, called the country *regnum Franciae*, the kingdom of France. Territory, not ethnicity was what mattered in the 12th century. A clear distinction between the French and the other peoples of Europe came with the Second Crusade, in which there was an opportunity to meet Germans in large numbers, who, though still perceived as *Franci*, were not French. With Breton, Basque, and Flemish pushed to the peripheries, a sense of linguistic commonality (if not yet uniformity) is expressed in the literary explosion of the 12th century. To look back from that century means therefore to understand how the basic elements of Frankish history became French. To look forward for another century or so, is to see how France began to be built.

This course is designed as a chronological and topical introduction to the history of medieval France, from the abandonment of the Roman province of Gaul to the beginning of the Hundred Years War. Since this is a survey, it is impossible to cover everything. Instead, the course will offer a selection of representative topics from a much larger possible list. We will examine some of the key political, economic, and social developments that had historical significance, the growth of the Church and its relation to the State, and the growth of urban culture in medieval France. Anyone with enough curiosity and desire to learn is welcome.

Textbooks

- Marios Costambeys, Matthew Innes, and Simon MacLean. *The Carolingian World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. [hereafter *Costambeys*]; ISBN 9780521564946; available as e-book through the University of Florida library
- Paul Edward Dutton (ed.). *Carolingian Civilization. A Reader*. 2nd edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004. [hereafter *Dutton*]; ISBN 9781551114927.
- Alexander Callander Murray (ed.). *From Roman to Merovingian Gaul*. North York/Tonawanda: University of Toronto Press, 2008. [hereafter *Murray*]; ISBN 9781442600959; on two-hour reserve in Library West.
- Elizabeth M. Hallam and Charles West. *Capetian France, 987-1328*. 3rd edition. Abingdon/New York: Routledge, 2020. [hereafter *Hallam*]; ISBN: 9780429289828; available as e-book through the University of Florida library

Assignments and grading policies

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 four quizzes and two exams (Midterm and Final). The unannounced quizzes are exclusively based on primary source readings from your *Dutton* and *Murray* books and will consist only of multiple-choice questions (no essay). A careful study of these texts is necessary for a good performance at the quiz. The Midterm and Final exams will cover everything from lectures and readings. Both Midterm and Final will consist of two parts: an identification and/or multiple-choice part, and a short essay, in which you will be asked to synthesize your knowledge of the topic, dropping in facts to show that you understand the concrete aspects of that topic. Only the Midterm will be cumulative. In other words, the Final examination will cover only the material since the Midterm examination. Make-up Midterm and Final exam will be given for very serious reasons, in which case you will have to produce some official proof. There is no make-up for quizzes. Extra-credit work will be accepted only for students with active participation in class discussions. The format of the extra-credit option shall be discussed with the instructor during regular office hours. The following point system will be used in determining the final grade:

Quizzes: 40 points

Midterm: 30 points

Final exam: 30 points

Total: 100 points

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

| <i>Points</i> | <i>Grade</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 97-100 | A |
| 93-96 | A- |
| 88-92 | B+ |
| 81-87 | B |
| 75-80 | B- |
| 68-74 | C+ |
| 61-67 | C |
| 55-60 | C- |
| 48-54 | D+ |
| 41-47 | D |

| | |
|----------|----|
| 35-40 | D- |
| under 30 | E |

Required Policies

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results>.

University Honesty Policy

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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-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 the appropriate personnel.

Weekly Topics

Tuesday, January 13: Introduction. Late Roman Gaul and the barbarians (*Murray* 3-14, 20-47, 48-54, 59-60, 100-108, 207-218)

Thursday, January 15 : The Franks before 537 (*Murray* 153, 157-159, 166-169, 259-263, 267-286)

Tuesday, January 20: Many kingdoms, one Church; civil wars and legislation (*Murray* 109-137, 169-171, 179-181, 289-3013, 315-428, 533-556)

Thursday, January 22: Merovingians and their neighbors in the 7th century (*Murray* 453-490, 492-498, 565-568)

Tuesday, January 27: Land, wealth, and the economy; royal women, cultured churchmen (*Murray* 313-315, 499-504, 569-587)

Thursday, January 29: From Pippin II to Pippin III; mission and Church during the first half of the 8th century (*Costambeys* 31-65; *Murray* 633-655)

Tuesday, February 3: The dawn of the Carolingian age; Charlemagne (*Costambeys* 1-30 and 65-79; *Dutton* 12-22, 26-51, 65-69)

Thursday, February 5: The Empire (*Costambeys* 154-194; *Dutton* 69-85)

Tuesday, February 10: Church and culture (*Costambeys* 80-152; *Dutton* 95-120, 139-146)

Thursday, February 12: After Charlemagne (*Costambeys* 194-222, 379-427; *Dutton* 146-154, 159-176, 199-203, 256-265, 334-336)

Tuesday, February 17: Carolingian economy and society (*Costambeys* 223-323, 324-378; *Dutton* 85-89, 207-220)

Thursday, February 19: **Midterm**

Tuesday, February 24: The society in western Francia (*Hallam* 1-32); read Fulbert of Chartres, [*On feudal obligations*](#)

Thursday, February 26 and Tuesday, March 3: Principalities around AD 1000 (*Hallam* 33-79); read the [*Chronicle of the Counts of Anjou*](#)

Tuesday, March 3: Early Capetians (*Hallam* 80-138); read [*Richer of Reims*](#), on the coronation of Hugh Capet; read a [letter](#) of Ivo of Chartres to Adele, countess of Blois; read Duke of William of Aquitaine's foundation [charter](#) for the abbey of Cluny

Thursday, March 5: France in the making, from Louis VI to Louis VIII (*Hallam* 139-172, 192-232); read a fragment from Suger, [*Life of Louis VI*](#); read fragments of Rigord's [*Deeds of Philip Augustus*](#)

Tuesday, March 10: French society in the 11th and 12th centuries (*Hallam* 172-180, 188-192); read Guibert of Nogent on the [revolt in Laon](#); read a [charter](#) of Philip II suppressing the commune of Etampes; read Suger's [*On the Administration*](#)

Thursday, March 12: The Church in 11th– and 12th-century France (*Hallam* 232-246); read Guibert of Nogent on [relics](#) and [Carthusians](#); read an account of the [conversion of Peter](#)

[Waldo](#) and a description of [Waldensian beliefs](#); read an excerpt from the [Cathar Gospel](#), a description of Cathar [society](#), and a description of Cathar [rituals](#)

Tuesday, March 24: Louis IX (*Hallam* 247-281, 302-353); listen to a reading from Jean de Joinville's [Life of St. Louis](#)

Thursday, March 26: French society in the 13th century (*Hallam* 281-292)

Tuesday, March 31: The Church in 13th-century France (*Hallam* 302-353); read Pope Innocent III's letters to the [French clergy](#) and to [King Philip II](#); read an account of the 1210 [riot in Chartres](#); read the [Testament](#) of St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, April 2: The last Capetians, from Philip III to Charles IV (*Hallam* 354-372, 384-409); read an [account](#) of the events at Agnani

Tuesday, April 7: Economy and society in late 13th– and 14th-century France (*Hallam* 372-384); read the [Inquisition records](#) of Jacques Fournier, Bishop of Pamiers

Thursday, April 9: The Church in 14th-century France (*Hallam* 409-432); read Pope Boniface VIII's bulls of [1296](#) and [1302](#); read a troubadour [poem](#) criticizing the Avignon papacy

Thursday, April 14: Into the Hundred Years War (*Hallam* 433-440); read Jean Froissart's [account](#) of the battles of Crecy and Poitiers

Tuesday, April 16: The Hundred Years War and the final phase of the making of France

Friday, May 1, 12:30-2:30 am: **Final exam.**