HIST 342: Europe in the Middle Ages, c. 1000-c. 1450.

Instructor: Bruce O'Brien, Professor of History; Monroe 215; 654-1477; bobrien@umw.edu;
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:00; Tuesday only 9:00-11:00 and 5:00-6:00; or by appointment; Class meets in Monroe 210, 3:30-4:45

Course

The course concentrates on the events, movements, and crises of Western Europe in the High and Late Middle Ages, but also devotes attention to the Byzantine and Islamic worlds, from the end of the first millennium to the aftermath of the Black Death (c. 1350), Hundred Years War (1337-1453), and fall of Constantinople in 1453.

'Europe in the Middle Ages' counts in the History major. With respect to the goals of the History major, students will gain an:

- ability to read critically primary sources and modern authorities
- ability to write with clarity about the past
- ability to utilize technological resources in research
- understanding of the discipline's methods and processes

Readings

Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, volume II: *From c. 900 to c.1500,* 4th edition *(*University of Toronto Press, 2009). For additional materials related to this textbook, see the University of Toronto Press site.

Galbert of Bruges, *The Murder, Betrayal, and Slaughter of the Glorious Charles, Count of Flanders*, translated by Jeff Rider (Yale Univ. Press, 2013).

Additional readings are on this website, and can be reached through links on the sylabus.

Work

1. A 4-5 page Anaylsis of *the principal primary source* you are using for your paper (March 16; 10%).
2. One 12-14 page Research Paper on a topic chosen from a list provided by me (topic selected by March 1; an abstract and outline is due in class on April 10; draft of paper due in class (printed out) on April 17 for peer review; revised draft due as email attachment on April 29, by 11:59pm; 40%). Here is an example of one of my papers to show how I researched and composed it.
3. Participation in discussions (measured principally by the ten one-page responses to readings, you will turn in over the course of the semester. These are ungraded, but receiving a minus, check-minus, check, check-plus, or plus. Participation includes a peer review (due to be returned to the author on April 19 in class) (20%). There is a sign-up sheet here for selecting your 7 responses.

4. A geography quiz (January 25; 5%), a quiz on Galbert of Bruges's chronicle (February 15; 10%), and a final exam (May 1; 15%) (See Final Exam under Assignments for description)

The Significance of Participation

Participation, which counts for 20% of the grade, will be based on on attendance and contributions to discussions and, most importantly, on frequent short informal writing submitted in class. *You cannot submit an informal writing assignment if you are not in class on the day it is due.* The level of written participation expected of students will decrease as the semester progresses, but my expectations for your oral participation will increase. It is imperative that students keep up with the reading. You will be called on to engage with issues raised by the readings throughout the term. You will often be assigned a question for the following day's discussion, and will be expected to speak on the subject if called upon. Whenever readings are due, you should bring the appropriate book to class. For the list of questions and the requirements, see the page labelled Questions for Readings.

Grading Principles

In this class, an A (93–100) or A- (90–92) mean that the work done is of excellent quality. B+ (88–89), B (83–87) and B- (80–82) mean that the work was well done, competent, even excellent in some ways, but that there is room for improvement. C+ (78–79), C (73–77), and C- (70–72) signify that the work was satisfactory in most respects, even good in some ways, but that there was much room for improvement. D+ (68–69) and D (60–67) are passing grades, but mean that much more could be done in most if not all areas of the work, but that it was not missing *in toto* any key aspect of the assignment. I assign grades based on a number of variables which, if they can be named (e.g., style, argument, research, etc.), cannot in reality be separated from each other. Each variable affects the others. Deficient style will vitiate argument; poor research will undermine argument, and so on. Students earning less than a C by mid semester will receive a notice of unsatisfactory performance.

As with all courses at UMW, this class will abide by the honor code. In particular, students must not commit plagiarism. Any questions concerning the boundary between legitimate and illegitimate appropriation and citation of sources should be brought to the professor before assignments are turned in.

Grade

Analysis of primary source 10%; Research paper 40%; final exam 15%; Geography quiz 5%; Galbert of Bruges quiz 10%, and participation 20%.

Students with Disabilities

The Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University of Mary Washington as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with

me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodations. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise.

If you have not made contact with the Office of Disability Services and have reasonable accommodation needs, I will be happy to help you contact them. The office will require appropriate documentation of a disability.

Other Resources

If you are depressed or stressed out and finding it hard to cope with school, the people around you, or life in general, I recommend visiting the UMW Counseling and Psychological Services Center: the Center can be reached at (540) 654-1053 (M-F 8-5), or you can stop by Lee 106.

For events and announcements from the History Department, as well as useful pages on research and writing, see the Department's News and Resources website: http://cas.umw.edu/historyamericanstudies/

Warning on Electronic Devices

You cannot use a laptop in class unless you have a specific accomodation for this. Unfortunately, too often laptops become a distraction, principally for the user. Phones must be placed in a box provided at the start of each class.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Calendar

January 16 Introduction: Early Medieval History Primer.

January 18 Expect the unexpected

Read: Rosenwein, chapter 4; The Khazar Correspondence (for the question to answer for these letters [and the questions for all of the primary source readings], see Required Readings)

January 23 An Age of Feudal Revolution?

Read: Thomas Bisson, "The 'Feudal Revolution'"; and any one of the following Replies by Dominique Barthelemy (I), Stephen White (II), Timothy Reuter (III), or Chris Wickham (IV). I and II are in one pdf, as are III and IV. I have added Bisson's Reply to these replies FYI.

January 25 Geography Quiz (see in Exams for list of relevant maps and names to memorize)

January 30 Byzantine Apogee

Read: Rosenwein, chapter 5; Michael Psellos, *Chronographia* (Reigns of Eudocia [1067]and of Romanus Diogenes [1068-1071]--book 7, pages 264-280.

February 1 The Norman conquests

Read: *Domesday Book* selection; prologue, chapters 15-16, and chapters 33-34, to the first version of the *Leges Edwardi Confessoris*.

February 6 Reforming Christianity

Read: Dictatus Papae and Concordat of Worms.

February 8 Cultures of Spain

Read: Fuero of Toledo, 1086-1118.

February 13 A-Crusading We Will Go.

Read: 5 accounts of Pope Urban II's speech at Clermont, along with his letter of instruction.

February 15 Class, Murder, and Revolution

Read: Galbert of Bruges, *Murder, Betrayal, and Slaughter.*

Quiz at the beginning of class on Galbert of Bruges's chronicle.

February 20 How to read evidence

February 22 Discussion of life in early 12th-century Flanders based on Galbert of Bruges's observations.

February 27 Adventures in Eastern Europe

Read: Cosmas of Prague's *Chronicle of the Czechs,* and a further story from Cosmas.

March 1 High and Late Medieval Historical Writing.

Read: William of Malmesbury, dedicatory letters and prologue to book one of his Gesta regum Anglorum; Ibn Khaldun, preliminary remarks to his *Muqaddimah*.

Research paper topics must be chosen or approved by this date.

March 2-March 11 Spring Break

March 13 Penance and Heresy

Read: Rosenwein, chapter 6; Byzantine heresy.

March 15 Orthodoxy

Read: the canons of Lateran IV (1215)

March 16: ***Analysis of Primary Source*** ***Due by 11:59pm; Upload to Canvas.***

March 20 Varieties of evidence: discussion of primary sources.

March 22 Law and Empire: Revenge of the Reactionaries.

Read: The *Liber Augustalis* of Frederick II (1231) and Magna Carta (1215).

March 27 Rise of the Vernaculars and the Mores of Love.

Read: A poem by Macabru, an early 12th-century troubadour; 'The Rules of Love' from Andreas Capellanus, Art of Courtly Love (1180s).

March 29 Wales and Ireland Muddle Along

Read: Gerald of Wales on Welsh practices.

April 3 Strangers within and Peculiar Newcomers: Jews and Mongols.

Read: Rosenwein, chapter 7; Decisions of Rashi; Thomas of Monmouth on ritual murder

April 5 Writing up findings: writing the research paper.

For selections from Richard Marius's *Short Guide to Writing about History*, see his section on writing coherent paragraphs and another on outlining papers for greater flow.

April 10 Workshop on Research Papers

Bring an abstract and an outline of your paper to class.

April 12 Gloom and Doom.

Read: Rosenwein, chapter 8; Boccaccio on the Black Death

April 17 Curing without miracles.

Read: Selections from two 'Trotula' texts: *Conditions of Women* and *Treatments for Women*.

Drafts due in class; Peer reviewers chosen

April 19 Hail Britannia

Read: The Declaration of Arbroath

Peer Reviews returned to authors

April 24 Travels thoughout the Byzantine and Islamic Worlds.

Read: Ibn Battuta's account of his visit to the Uzbek khan and Constantinople.

April 26 The Hundred Years War/Final thoughts.

Read: Rosenwein, epilogue.

April 27 History Department Symposium and Banquet

April 29 Research paper due by 11:59pm (by email attachment or on canvas as a pdf, doc, or docx)

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 1, 3:30-6:00pm.