

HTST 319: Early Medieval Europe, c. 400 - 1076

MWF, 12:00 – 12:50. Location: EEEL 161

Instructor: Dr. Lucie Laumonier

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Office Hours: Monday 14:00 – 15:30 ; Wednesday 9:30 – 11:00

Office: SS 622

Course overview

From the fourth century to the mid-eleventh century, this course explores a defining moment of the history of Western Europe with a focus on the history of France, the British Isles, Spain, Germany and Italy. In chronological order we will examine the main periods of time which define the early Middle Ages in Western Europe: late antiquity and the fall of Rome, the “German” (very early medieval) kingdoms, the Carolingian empire and the shift towards the high Middle Ages. Each section provides an overview of political history, Church history and social history. Although based on lectures, the course puts an emphasis on the analysis of archival documentation; on a regular basis, texts from historical sources will be studied and commented in class. Workshops will be dedicated to the preparation of the assignments.

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to provide a general understanding of the early Middle Ages while stimulating reflections on historical sources and concepts related to the field. At the end of the semester, students should be able to identify the main features of early medieval Europe, to understand the evolutions that societies experienced, to comment archival material, and to discuss historical concepts and secondary sources. In a broad sense, this course encourage the development of valued transferrable skills such as critical thinking, articulating ideas persuasively and sorting information.

Exams and Assignments (see details below)

10% Short assignment (1) – Wednesday September 28th

15% Short assignment (2) – Wednesday October 19th

20% Mid-term exam – Monday October 31st

30% Essay – Wednesday November 23th

25% Final exam – Week of December 12th

Required textbook

Barbara H. Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014) – 4th edition.

Note that:

- This textbook will also be used for the Winter course HTST 321 “High / Late Middle Ages”
- A complementary bibliography will be uploaded on the portal Desire2Learn

Weekly schedule, assignments and readings

	Content	Assignments
Week 1 (12 sept)	Introduction Late Antiquity (1)	
Week 2 (19 sept)	Late Antiquity (2) <i>Friday: no class</i>	Readings: p. 1-24.
Week 3 (26 sept)	Migrations, Invasions and Acculturation (5th c.)	Course 2: Short Assignment (1) Readings: p. 25-36.
Week 4 (3 oct)	Politics and Political Culture (6 th – 8 th c.)	Readings: p. 61-77 (from the title “Politics and Culture”)
Week 5 (10 oct)	Social Structures and the Daily Life <i>Monday: no class, Thanksgiving</i>	Readings: p. 58-61.
Week 6 (17 oct)	The Early Medieval Church (5 th – 8 th c.)	Course 2 : Short Assignment (2)
Week 7 (24 oct)	The Eastern World and Culture	Readings: p. 39-57 + p. 79-89.
Week 8 (31 oct)	<i>Monday: Midterm exam</i> Towards the Carolingian Empire	Course 1: Midterm exam Readings: p. 96-102.
Week 9 (7 nov)	The Carolingian Society (1) <i>Friday: Midterm break</i>	Readings: p. 102-114 (from the title).

Week 10 (14 nov)	The Carolingian Society (2) Invasions and Invaders (9 th -11 th c.)	Readings on Invasions: p. 127-130 (from the title).
Week 11 (21 nov)	Church History (9 th -11 th c.)	Course 2: Essay Readings: p. 146-147.
Week 12 (28 nov)	Culture and Exchanges (8 th -11 th c.)	Readings: p. 91-96 (to the top of the page).
Week 13 (5 dec.)	The Political Changes (10 th c.-11 th c.)	Readings: p. 131-145.
Week 14 (12 dec.)	Final Exam	Final Exam

10% Short assignment (1): The Early Middle Ages in pop culture

Due date: Wednesday, September 28th.

Length: one and a half / two double-space pages

During the second week of class students will watch in class abstracts of the TV shows *Vikings* and *Kaamelott*. The assignment is based on the screenings.

In the assignment the students are expected to:

- 1) Give a brief description of the video selected.
- 2) Explain how an event/character/period of time is depicted considering the genre of the video.
- 3) Discuss the accuracy and interest of such depiction.

Students must clearly state the aim of their paper by asking a question, such as “How is the Vikings’ religion depicted in the episode of *Vikings* ?” ; “How is the fall of Rome represented in the episode of *Kaamelott*?”

15% Short assignment (2): Paper review or Source commentary

Due date: Wednesday October 19th

Length: two / two and a half double-space pages

Based on the recommendations received in class and on the exercises made during the workshops the students will write either a paper review or a source commentary.

+ Paper review

The paper must have been published in the scholarly and peer reviewed journals *Early Medieval Europe* or *Journal of Medieval History*. The paper should be recent (from the years 2000's onwards) and its topic on early medieval European history (5th century to early 11th century). The students can choose a topic of their liking (early medieval women, Viking history, military history, etc.). If you have a doubt, please contact the Teaching Assistants.

In the paper review, the students are expected to:

- 1) Briefly present the author and provide general information on the paper (title, date, topic, main argument, archival sources).
- 2) Summarize the paper.
- 3) Reflect on the method, archival documentation and secondary sources used by the author. This last section should be at least a half-page long.
- 4) Properly refer to the article in the footnotes.

Through the paper review, you demonstrate your ability to summarize complex texts, to identify main lines of argumentation and to analyze methodological tools.

+ Source commentary

The source must be selected on the Fordham University database, "Internet Medieval Sourcebook": <http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/sbook.asp>

The topic of the source must focus on early medieval European history (5th century to early 11th century). The students can choose a topic of their liking (early medieval women, Viking history, military history, etc.). If you have a doubt, please contact the Teaching Assistants.

The source must be at least 20-lines long and maximum 50-lines long. Students can select two or three sources if they wish but should respect the 50-lines limit.

In the source commentary the students are expected to:

- 1) Briefly introduce the source, its author, its content and the context of production – short paragraph.
- 2) Summarize the source while giving brief explanations related to the context of production (using the textbook).
- 3) Reflect on the nature of the source, the standpoint of the author, the reasons why the document was written at that time and in that manner (at least one half-page).
- 4) Quote the source and properly refer to it and to the textbook using footnotes.

Through the source commentary, you demonstrate your ability to criticize a source of information by reflecting on its author and its context of production.

20% Mid-term exam

Date: Monday October 31

Duration: 50 min

Students will be asked to:

- identify locations on a map (6 points), such as capital cities, seas, rivers, mountains of Europe
- answer two questions (7 points each, 15 to 20 lines) pertaining to the content of the lectures and to the reading of the textbook, from week 1 to week 6 included.

30% Essay or research paper

Due date: Wednesday November 23

Length: five / six double-space pages

The research paper must follow the structure of an essay, exploring a question and offering hypothesis in the introduction, argue and discuss the hypothesis in the body of the paper, summarizing and drawing a conclusion in the conclusion. The topic of the essay must focus on early medieval European history (5th century to early 11th century). The question leading the argumentation should be “How” or “Why” oriented – for instance: how did the Romans perceived the “barbarians”? Why did the Carolingians decide to reform schools and the Church? Don’t hesitate to contact the Teaching Assistants to discuss the research paper.

Historians cite their sources: students are expected to include footnotes in their paper referring to scholarly books (at least two) and scholarly articles (at least three), as well as to provide a bibliography after the essay.

Read the *Student's Handbook* for more information on how to write an essay and to write footnotes¹.

Through the essay, you demonstrate your ability to define a precise topic of research, to identify reliable sources of information, to articulate arguments and to prove a solid point.

25% Final exam

Date: Week of December 12th – to be scheduled by the registrar

Duration: 120 minutes

The final exam consists in a short source commentary (7 points) and three questions pertaining to the content of the course and readings for the whole semester (6 points each).

Course policies

Assignments

All papers must include a title page, be written in Times New Roman, font size 12, with a double spacing.

The minimum page requirements for each assignment must be met, the maximum page requirements should not be exceeded.

The source commentary, paper review and the essay must include footnotes. Except for scientific Journals available on line, Internet sources are usually not reliable scholarly sources. The secondary sources used in the papers must be from peer-reviewed books or journals. When referring to an article accessed on-line the reference should be the same as for the paper version and without citing an internet URL.

Refer to the *Student's Handbook* for more information².

¹ http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/2012_handbook.pdf

² http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/2012_handbook.pdf

Failure to follow the guidelines such as length of paper, footnotes, etc. will be sanctioned with the loss of 1 point.

Spelling and grammatical errors in the papers may be penalized in the following manner: the first two errors will not be counted, then for every two errors 0.25 point will be taken off the grade. Maximum loss: 10% of the grade.

Plagiarism constitutes a fraud and will be severely sanctioned.

Late Assignments and non-completion

All assignments and exams must be completed to pass the course.

Assignments will be handed to the professor or teaching assistants in class on the due date. Students can also drop off their assignments in the “red box” located outside of the History Department Office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 pm are date stamped with the date of the next business day.

No electronic copies of assignments will be accepted.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of 10% of the grade by day of delay.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones should be turned off during class.

Audio and or visual recording of lectures is not permissible.

Students who bring laptops in class should turn off the Wi-Fi and use them for taking notes only. They are strongly invited to seat at the back or at the sides of the classroom so their device does not distract close by students³.

Email

The instructor will not respond to emails on Saturdays and Sundays.

³ Pam A. Mueller and Daniel M. Oppenheimer, “The Pen Is Mightier Than The Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking,” *Psychological Science* (2014), pp. 1-10 [\[link\]](#). Carrie B. Fried, “In-class Laptop Use and its Effects on Student Learning,” *Computers & Education*, 50-3 (2008), pp. 906–914 [\[link\]](#).

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist - For departmental updates and notifications

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions

permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print coursepack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student’s Handbook*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one’s own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author’s language and ideas as one’s own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts’ associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Other Useful Information:

Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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