

Historical Studies 540

Dr. F. Michaud

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University of Calgary

Winter 2019

TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY: Century of the Black Death

An examination of the historiography pertaining to the Black Death in the context of the fourteenth-century crises: famine, epidemics, civic unrest, warfare, and troubled papacy. Selected topics will lead to the comparative study of the period from England, France, Italy and the Holy Roman Empire, with a critical assessment of the impact of the Black Death on late medieval society.

COURSE FORMAT:

- I- WEEK 2 - WEEK 4 (21 January – 4 February 2019):
Discussion on selected readings

- II- WEEK 5 - WEEK 8 (11 February – 11 March 2019)
Document analysis: sources from Rosemary Horrox's collection

- III- WEEK 9 - WEEK 13 (18 March – 8 April 2019)
Individual paper presentation

ASSIGNMENT, EVALUATION & DEADLINES

- A) Oral presentation: selected readings¹, document, essay 15%

- B) Document analysis* (3 pages) : 15%
 - **11 February – 11 March 2019**

- C) Thesis, outline and bibliography: 10%
 - **25 February, 2019**

- D) Essay Paper: **18 March – 8 April, 2019** (min. 2,500 words,
(min. 25000 words, in addition to notes and bibliography): 30%
 - **To class members one week prior to oral presentation****
 - **Final copy due one week after class presentation: Bonus points** 5%

- G) Weekly participation: 25%

***From Horrox's source collection: to be identified at least one week prior to presentation**

¹ Students must submit in advance to the instructor a brief written review of the readings (no more than 3 pages), and should prepare in advance for the discussion meetings at least three questions/issues for debate.

1-N.B.: Absence of, or unsatisfactory footnoting in the term paper will involve an “F”: prior to writing your essay, please refer to the *Department Essay Guide* (Department of History Web Site: <http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook1.pdf>). In case of doubt, consult with your instructor. Faulty grammar and spelling will affect the grade. Plagiarism constitutes a **serious** intellectual offence: **A PLAGIARIZED PAPER WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY** reported to the Dean’s Office of the Faculty of Arts. The Faculty policy regarding plagiarism is discussed in greater detail at the end of the syllabus.

2-N.B.: **The use of online secondary sources, as in hard copy, should be limited to peer-reviewed academic publications only.** If in doubt, please consult with the instructor.

3-N.B.: **For other primary sources: Medieval Source Book (Fordham University); Secondary sources: IMB, ITER (on-line library databases); other online reference works: DMA; NCE; *New Cambridge Medieval History*.**

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Horrox, Rosemary (transl.). *The Black Death*. Coll.: Manchester Medieval Sources Series. Manchester / New York: Manchester University Press: 1994

Ziegler, Philip. *The Black Death*. New York: The John Day Company, 1969 or latest edition

SUGGESTED:

Lehfeldt, Elizabeth. *The Black Death*. Boston / New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005

N.B.: Necessary background knowledge in medieval history:

To ensure sufficient knowledge in the field of medieval history PRIOR to enrolling in the course, for insufficient or inadequate preparation will not be accepted as extenuating circumstances to alleviate the work assignments and/or their evaluation, this seminar requires an adequate prior preparation in the field.

To brush up on your knowledge, you NEED to acquaint yourself with the following readers:

1. Rosamond McKitterick, *The Early Middle Ages* (Oxford: 2001)
2. Daniel Power, *The Central Middle Ages* (Oxford: 2006).

Additionally, it is always prudent to revert from time to time to a solid, scholarly sound textbook, written in recent years by professional specialists, that is, reputed medievalists. A very good example of such a reference tool is: Wim Blackmans and Peter Hoppenbrouwers, *Introduction to Medieval Europe, 300-1550* (Routledge: 2007).

Selected Reading Schedule (Week 2 - Week 4): TBA

Essay Topics:

1. Aetiology: origins, cause, nature, symptoms and signs (archaeological vs. textual evidence)
2. Understanding the *Black Death* : Contemporary medical explanations and actions
3. Civic responses: public health policy (immediate and long term) and social impact
4. Post-plague attitudes toward: poor, poverty and charity
5. Children
6. Family, marriage market and demographic behaviour
7. Pastoral care: action and popular reaction
8. Impact on rural economy / habitat; lords and peasants' relations
9. Controlling Labour: Ordinance & Statute of the Labourers, a Success Story?
10. Women and the workforce
11. Differential demographic impact
12. Persecution: Jews
13. Religious impact among the laity (new cults / devotional practices / spirituality)
14. Pilgrimage: geographical / spiritual
15. Commoners, literacy and dissent
16. Leisure, Consumerism and Social Impact
17. Cultural / religious Expressions: The *ars moriendi* / religious literature
18. Rural and urban environmental impact: a new habitat?
19. Others: to be approved

Books on Reserve (Taylor Library):

- Campbell**, Bruce. *Before the Black Death: Studies in the Crisis of the Early Fourteenth Century*. Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 1991.
- Carmichael**, Ann G. *Plague and the Poor in Renaissance Florence*. Cambridge, 1986.
- Garcia-Ballester** (ed.). *Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death*. Cambridge, 1994.
- Hatcher**, John. *Plague, Population and the English Economy 1348-1530*. London, 1977.
- Herlihy**, David. *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*, Harvard, 1997.
- Horrox**, Rosemary and W. Mark Ormrod. *A Social History of England*. Cambridge, 2006.
- Jordan**, William C., *The Great Famine. Northern Europe in the Early Fourteenth Century*, Princeton, 1996, Chapter 3: "Prices and Wages".
- Little**, Lester K. *Plague and the End of Antiquity*, Cambridge, 2007, Chapter 1, "Life and Afterlife of the First Plague Epidemic", p. 3-32.
- Mate**, Mavis. *Daughters, Wives and Widows after the Black Death: Women in Sussex, 1350-1535*, Woodbridge (Suffolk), 1998.
- Ormrod**, Mark (ed.). *The Black Death in England*, Paul Watkins, 1996.
- Park**, Katharine. *Doctors and Medicine in Early Renaissance Florence*. Princeton, 1985.
- Platt**, Colin. *King Death: The Black Death and its Aftermath in Late-Medieval England*, Toronto, 1996.
- Ranger**, Terence and Paul Slack (eds). *Epidemics and Ideas: Essays on the Historical Perceptions of Pestilence*. Cambridge, 1992.
- Willman**, Daniel (ed.). *The Black Death. The Impact of the Fourteenth-Century Plague*. New York, 1982.

Guidelines of Presentation
Source Commentary
HTST-540
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I- **Observations** (40%)

- Nature of the document (historical narratives, chronicles, correspondence, foundation, legal charters, records, statutes, royal ordinances, decrees, inquests, land or fiscal survey, commercial contracts, wills, medical treatise, hagiographical narrative, religious rule, etc);
- Identification of authorship / writer
- Place and Time of Production
- Goal (Purpose) & Audience
- Structural organization
- Explicit Information (thematically ordered)

II- **Implications** (60%):

- Implicit Information
- Research Directions
- Value for Historical Interpretation
- Limitations

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

****Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.****

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, 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 (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

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 (TFDL). 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 course pack 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 (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) **course name and number**, 2) **instructor**, 3) **your name and 4) your student number**. 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

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
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	
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* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), 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 (USRI):

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction 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.

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Campus Resources for Mental Health:

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

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.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- 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>
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

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