

HIST 2420
The Medieval World
2019-2020
M/W/F 11:30-12:20
Prof. Roisin Cossar
454 Fletcher Argue
474-8885 or roisin.cossar@umanitoba.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-4:30 pm

Welcome to the medieval world! This class is an introduction to the history of the Middle Ages between 500 and 1500 CE. We will examine some of the most significant events, people, and places of that time through both primary sources and modern historical texts. The course requires regular work from you outside class time, reading assigned work and writing, revising, and editing assignments. By attending class regularly and completing the coursework, you will develop your reading, writing, and speaking skills, and you will learn to think historically.

This syllabus is a guide to our class. In it, you'll find a list of the assignments, course readings, and tips for effective writing and reading. Keep the syllabus handy and refer to it during the year. Reading the syllabus often is one of the easiest ways you can help yourself as a student.

Course expectations

You can expect me to

- learn your name as quickly as possible and use it often in class
- answer emails within 24 hours on weekdays (I don't usually respond on weekends)
- be regularly available to you during my office hours (Monday afternoons) and by appointment at other times
- keep you informed about what's coming up through in-class announcements and emails sent to your myumanitoba address – check your email daily!
- endeavour to mark and return all of your written work within two weeks

I will expect you to

- attend class regularly (you are allowed 3 unexcused absences per term only)
- let me know if you need to leave class early or if you will be absent
- stay off the internet in class (unless we need to Google something)
- upload your portfolio assignments into the correct UMLearn folder on the due dates identified on the syllabus unless you have asked in advance for an extension
- use your own words and do your own work in all assignments and on the exam
- call me Prof. Cossar or Dr. Cossar

Class structure

Class meetings include lectures and frequent paired or small group discussions. Often during a lecture I will ask you to work with one other student to define a term, interpret a map, or discuss an idea I have presented. On most Fridays during each term we will also discuss primary sources and reading/writing strategies in groups of 4-5. Class discussions are a good opportunity to clarify difficulties you might be having with the sources. They are also a chance to work on expressing your ideas out loud. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the work we do in class.

Academic Integrity

Doing your own work is essential to your success at university and beyond. I'm aware of the many temptations to cheat, especially when you are stressed or unsure how to complete a challenging assignment. Please don't fall for them – talk to me instead. *There are real and lasting penalties for academic dishonesty.* We will discuss plagiarism, cheating, and academic misconduct in more depth during our first class meetings. In the meantime, please take note of the penalties for plagiarism in the Faculty of Arts:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Attendance

You are required to attend classes at university. I also hope you will want to attend class, but I recognize that sometimes things happen (illness, snowstorms) that make it impossible to be here. Keep in mind that unexcused absences have consequences. In this class, if you have more than 3 unexcused absences in either term, you risk “debarment” from the class, meaning that you would be expelled from the class and not allowed to complete it. Please contact me whenever you cannot come to class.

Required Course Texts (available for purchase at the bookstore)

Term I

K. Fischer Drew, ed. *The Lombard Laws* (Penn Press, 1973)

Term II

Henrietta Leyser and Samuel Fanous, eds. *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (Oxford), 978-0199556052

Both Terms

E.H. Gombrich, *A Little History of the World* (available as an e-book in the UM Library, no need to purchase)

Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages* 5th ed. (Toronto, 2018)

I may make other materials such as journal articles, original sources, and links to useful websites available to you on our UMLearn site from time to time.

Assignments and Evaluation

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must pass the requirement for written English in order to pass the course.

Written assignments. These vary, including short papers and longer essays, notes on readings, and reflections on your work as a student. You'll hand these in to our UM Learn site 5 times this year and to me personally once (see below for details).

Keep the following rules in mind when handing in assignments:

1. All late submissions must be cleared with me first, or they will not be accepted. I also reserve the right to deduct 2% per day from late work.
2. All materials must be printed using a standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman and clearly marked with your name and student number. ***Title pages must include the word count for the assignment.***
3. Please upload the assignment as a Word file (.doc or .docx) to the correct folder in our UMLearn portal. Folders will be marked with the due date. No printed copies are necessary. ***I will not accept emailed submissions.***

Term I

September (any time this month)

- A 1-2 page personal reflection about yourself as a student. Let me know a little about you. How long have you been at UM? What are your strengths? Areas you need to improve on? How do you plan to use this class to improve? What topics or subjects that we plan to cover are most interesting to you? Make specific reference to assignments and readings in the course as they are described in the syllabus. You must bring me this assignment during my office hours on any Monday in September. Please email for an appointment if you are unavailable on Monday afternoons. 2.5%

October 21

- 750-word summary and analysis of either Chapter 18, 20, or 21 from Gombrich's *Little History of the World*. 7.5%
- 500-word analysis of one theme from one legal code in *The Lombard Laws* 5%

December 1

- 1500-word analysis of your selected theme from *The Lombard Laws* 15%
- Research/reading assignment I: use the International Medieval Bibliography (a database we will explore in class) to locate a journal article or essay on a theme from early medieval history that interests you. Then read and annotate the article using the technique we will discuss in class. 5%

Term II

January 20

- Research/reading assignment II: use the International Medieval Bibliography to locate a journal article on a theme on the history of the Middle Ages after 1000 CE. Then write a 750-word analysis of the article. 7.5%

February 14

- 500-word analysis of a theme from *The Life of Christina of Markyate* 5%

March 20

- 1500-word essay of the same theme from *The Life of Christina of Markyate* 15%

Quizzes

6 quizzes on course content, to be completed monthly on UMLearn. Total: 7.5%

Final exam

The exam will consist of historical identification questions, analysis of primary sources we have read in class, and an essay. It will draw on everything we cover in the course, including our primary sources, textbook readings, films and other media, and lectures. It is worth 30% of your final mark.

Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Evaluative feedback will be provided by the Voluntary Withdrawal date January 17, 2020.

Numerical range of letter grades in this class

A+: 88-100 %

A: 80-87 %

B+: 75-79 %

B: 70-74 %

C+: 65-69 %

C: 60-64 %

D: 50-59 %

F: Below 50%

Student Resources

Academic Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC):

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/> The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and

tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on two days of the week. I'll give you more information about that in class.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian and tailored just for you. They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=219304>

Student Counseling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our instagram account www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/ or emailing umhisau@gmail.com.

Lectures and Readings, Term I

Abbreviations: Rosenwein textbook = *SHMA*

Week of	Class Topic	Readings/Discussion dates
Sept 4 and 6: First classes	Introductions	
Sept 9	4 th and 5 th centuries: Rome and early Christians	
Sept 16	5-6 th centuries: monasticism, the “fall” of Rome	<i>SHMA</i> 5-11. Sept 20: First discussion
Sept 23	7 th -9 th century: Islam in east and west	<i>SHMA</i> 50-57, 87-96.
Sept 30	7 th -8 th century: “Barbarians”	<i>SHMA</i> 21034; 39-50 Oct 4: Lombard Laws disc 1
Oct 7	8 th century: Merovingians and Lombards	<i>SHMA</i> 96-103 Oct 11: Lombard Laws disc 2
Oct 16	9 th century: Carolingians	Oct 18: Lombard laws disc 3
Oct 21	9 th century: Carolingians	<i>SHMA</i> , 131-133, 214-218; Portfolio #2 due Oct 21
Oct 28	10 th century: Vikings, Muslims, and more	Nov 1: Article annotation disc
Nov 4	11 th century: demographic change	Nov 8: Paper writing disc
Nov 11	No classes this week: November break	
Nov 18	11 th century: political change	Nov 22: Bayeux Tapestry (digital version) disc
Nov 25	11 th century: religious change	Portfolio #3 due Dec 1
Dec 2 and 4	Term wrap-up	

Term II lecture and reading list will be distributed in class during Term 1.

Marking Rubric
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The following criteria will guide our evaluation of your assignments in the course.

Criteria	Outstanding	Very good	Good	Adequate	Emerging	Incomplete
Evidence that writer has read widely in the assigned text						
Summary of content succinct and clear						
Well-structured, defensible thesis						
Argument developed with effective, paraphrased examples						
Writing free from errors						
Citations in Chicago style used appropriately						