

HIST 2420  
The Medieval World  
2020-21

Remote Learning  
Prof. Roisin Cossar

[roisin.cossar@umanitoba.ca](mailto:roisin.cossar@umanitoba.ca)

Online classes: M/W/F 9:30-10:20 am

Available for individual online meetings: Mondays 2:30-4:30 pm or by appointment

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, listening to podcasts, and watching documentaries. By attending online class meetings 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
- stick to our class schedule and only change it in consultation with the class
- answer emails within 24 hours on weekdays
- be regularly available to you during my online office hours (Monday afternoons) and by appointment at other times
- keep you informed about what's coming up through the discussion forums on our UMLearn page
- endeavour to mark and return all of your written work within two weeks

I will expect you to

- participate in our class meetings regularly. Ideally you will join all online class lectures at our scheduled time, but for those who can't, recorded lectures will be available on request. Everyone will need to be available during class time once each week for a discussion class in which we will explore lecture topics, assignment criteria, and primary and secondary source readings/podcasts. A schedule of lectures/discussions is attached to this syllabus
- upload your 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
- participate in discussion forums using civility; avoid racist/sexist language
- communicate with me by email or on our discussion forum whenever you have questions (please call me Prof. Cossar or Dr. Cossar)

### Class structure/accessibility of materials

Welcome to the brave new world of remote learning.

- Class meetings will include “live” lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays and regular discussion/question and answer sessions on most Fridays
- You do not need to be on camera for lectures or discussions
- If you miss a lecture, email me and I will send you a recording
- Our discussions will not be recorded, so you will need to attend those classes at their scheduled time
- You will need internet access to view Powerpoint slides, write on discussion forums, obtain sources for essays, and upload assignments
- Please use our discussion forums to ask any questions or concerns about the work we do in class. That way others get the benefit of your questions! It is also essential that you communicate with me if you are having trouble accessing the class materials

### Class platform

UMLearn is home to our course materials, including slides, discussion forums, and folders for you to upload assignments. Our lectures will be delivered on Zoom. Our meeting information is available on the UMLearn page.

### Communication

- Please ask questions about the lectures on our discussion forum (on UMLearn).
- I will send regular emails about class events to your myumanitoba address.
- I will also be available to answer any individual questions you might have or discuss what we are covering in class (“office hours”) online every Monday afternoon from 2:30 until 4:30 – see the password on our UMLearn page. You can use the chat function or talk to me directly, whichever works best for you. If that time does not work, please get in touch and we can make an appointment.

### 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. Remote learning may make the temptations even stronger. 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. If you have read this far, congratulations!*

*Please send me an email to let me know you have done so. 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.*

Required Course Texts (available for purchase at the bookstore)

- Barbara Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto, 2018). The text title is abbreviated here as *SHMA*. The textbook will be essential to your success in the course, since almost all maps, tables, etc that we discuss in class will come from it. I will often refer to the text in class. You will need a copy by our class meeting on Sept 11.
- Rosemary Horrox, ed. *The Black Death* (Manchester Medieval Sources, 1994). 978-0719034985
- Henrietta Leyser and Samuel Fanous, eds. *The Life of Christina of Markyate* (Oxford U Press, 2009), 978-0199556052

I will make other materials such as journal articles, original sources, and links to useful websites available to you on our UMLearn site regularly during the year.

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. There is a lot of writing in this course. Almost every month you will have to hand in a piece of writing, and by the end of the year you will have written more than 6000 words of prose about medieval sources and scholarship. That might seem overwhelming, but keep in mind that I don't just expect you to write in isolation – we work in class on how to write effectively, and you have opportunities to revise your work to improve it.

Keep the following rules in mind when handing in assignments:

- Deadlines are important, but I do grant extensions if you need them. Contact me at least one class period in advance of the deadline to discuss
- If you have not asked for an extension and you miss a deadline by 24 hours or less, you can hand in your assignment without penalty **once per term**. I may deduct 2% per day from other late assignments
- All materials must be typed using a standard 12-point font and clearly marked with your name and student number. **Title pages must include the word count for the assignment**
- Please upload the assignment as a Word file (.doc or .docx) to the folder marked with the due date in our UMLearn portal. Unless otherwise specified, due dates are always 11:30 pm on the date listed on the syllabus. **I will not accept emailed submissions**

Term I

Written assignments

 @UM\_HistoryDept

umanitoba.ca/history

September 14

- A 250-500 word 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? Is there anything about online learning that excites or scares you? 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. 2.5% This assignment is marked pass/fail, i.e. if you complete it according to the criteria outlined here you will receive full marks.

October 16

- 750-word analysis of a scholarly article on the early Middle Ages (topic TBD). More information on this assignment will be handed out in class. 7.5%

November 20

- 1000-word analysis of The Bayeux Tapestry (available through the UM Library website). More information on this assignment will be handed out in class. 10%

Term II

January 29

- 1000-word comparison of two scholarly articles on the Middle Ages post 1000 CE. More information on this assignment will be handed out in class. 10%

February 26

- 1500-word analysis of the *Life* of Christina of Markyate. More information on this assignment will be handed out in class. 15%

March 26

- 1500-word analysis of sources you will select from Horrox's *The Black Death*. More information on this assignment will be handed out in class. 15%

Writing tutor support for assignments

**All written assignments in this class can be revised before they are marked.** Here is how it works: you complete the assignment and then show it to a History writing tutor for suggestions about how to improve. Then you hand in the assignment and documentation from the tutor to me on the regular due date. I then grant you an extra 5 days to revise the assignment according to the tutor's suggestions. This takes planning on your part, but it can improve your marks significantly.

Discussions

In discussion meetings we will explore the texts that form the basis of our assignments, you will discuss course themes with other students and with me, and you will learn how to read and write analytically. As a part of our discussions, by Friday at 11:30 pm each week you must make at least **one brief contribution to a thread on our class discussion forum**. Contributions can include short (3-5 sentence) statements of analysis, questions, or even images such as memes, provided they are on topic and avoid racist/sexist language and imagery. Threads will include questions about class content, debates about scholarly

interpretations, and analysis of pop culture references to the Middle Ages. Discussion participation is marked pass/fail, i.e. if you complete your weekly discussion task according to the criteria outlined here you will receive full marks. 10%

### Final take-home exam

The exam will consist of essay questions drawing on everything we cover in the course, including primary sources, textbook readings, podcasts and other media, and lectures. 30%

*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 29, 2021. 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**

**\*Student supports and resources are available throughout the Fall and Winter terms. Please consult the appropriate webpages for information on virtual appointments or other modes of contact during this period of limited in-person services.**

#### 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/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/)).

The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students. 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 twitter account @UMH\_Undergrad, our instagram account @UMHISA\_Undergrad, or emailing [umhisau@gmail.com](mailto:umhisau@gmail.com).

Lectures and Readings, Term I

Week of	Lectures	Reading/listening/watching	Discussion dates/topics
Sept 9	Introductions	<i>SHMA</i> map, “The Medieval World Today”	Sept 11: class orientation
Sept 14	300-600 CE: Rome and Christianity	<i>SHMA</i> Chapter One	Sept 18: textbook and maps
Sept 21	300-600 CE: Roman/ “Barbarian” Identities	<i>SHMA</i> Chapter One	Sept 25: How to read an article
Sept 28	300-600 CE: The East and Plague	<i>SHMA</i> Chapter One	Oct 2: Article discussion
Oct 5	600-800 CE: Islam in East and West	<i>SHMA</i> Chapter Two Listen: <i>In Our Time</i> (BBC): “The Arab Conquests” <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00c5xzc">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00c5xzc</a>	Oct 9: Islam
Oct 14	600-800 CE: Men and Women	<i>SHMA</i> Chapter Two	Oct 16: how to read a primary source
Oct 19	751-900 CE: Carolingians and al-Andalus	<i>SHMA</i> , Chapter Three	Oct 23: living and working in the Carolingian world
Oct 26	800-900 CE: The Carolingian West	<i>SHMA</i> , Chapter Three Listen: <i>In Our Time</i> (BBC), “The Carolingian Renaissance” <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p003hyd3">https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p003hyd3</a>	Oct 30: Carolingian culture
Nov 2	Trading and raiding before 1000 CE: Vikings and more	<i>SHMA</i> , Chapter Four	Nov 6: Vikings in popular culture
Nov 9	<b>Fall Break</b>		
Nov 16	11 <sup>th</sup> century Monarchs and Subjects	<i>The Bayeux Tapestry</i> (on UM Library site)	Nov 20: <i>The Bayeux Tapestry</i>
Nov 23	11 <sup>th</sup> century “Feudalism” and animals	<i>SHMA</i> Chapter Five	Nov 27: <i>The Bayeux Tapestry II</i>
Nov 30	11 <sup>th</sup> century: Christian Church	<i>SHMA</i> Chapter Five	Dec 4: revising workshop
Dec 7	11 <sup>th</sup> century Crusades	Reports of Urban II’s sermon (on UMLearn)	Dec 11: Crusade

Marking Rubric  
 HIST 2420

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						