

**University of Western Ontario, Department of History  
HIS2149B: Medieval Lives (Winter 2014)**

Instructor: Professor Eona Karakacili  
Office: LH 2264  
Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00 to 3:00 or contact by email

Lecture Time: Mondays 2:30-4:30  
Location of Lectures: KB-K203

or contact by email [eona@uwo.ca](mailto:eona@uwo.ca)

### **Course Description**

An introduction to western Europe in the middle ages through an examination of certain aspects in the lives of some of its inhabitants, with a particular focus on their daily lives. The historical reality of such lives is juxtaposed against contemporary popular notions about the middle ages. To what degree do such popular ideas accord with the far more interesting historical reality? What can such lives tell us about their respective societies? Lives examined include a “serf” farmer, a knight, a monk, a Templar (soldier monk), a married English woman, a pilgrim, Robin Hood (a medieval fictional creation), a leper, a pope and a medieval saint.

### **Learning objectives**

- correct some current common popular misconceptions about the middle ages and its inhabitants
- introduce students new to historical research to the idea of history as a research discipline, that is, history is not a straightforward narrative as presented in encyclopaedia articles but a critical and often debated construct
- students unfamiliar with history will become acquainted with the character of historical research by studying secondary sources (articles and selections from books, whose arguments are based on historical documents) and primary sources (historical documents); historians working with primary sources must take care not to allow biases to skew their interpretation of them; in this regard, the analyses of modern films about the middle ages will serve to underscore the degree to which our perception of the past can be influenced by contemporary ideas and concerns

### **Course Work and Grading**

- each week (excluding test days), you will read secondary and/or primary sources or view a film
- worth 60% of the final grade, two separate in-class tests on lectures, assigned readings and films (30% each test); test dates are February 3 and March 17
- worth 40% of the final grade, a three hour final exam; date TBA

## **Course Readings and Films**

Students do not need to purchase a textbook. All assigned readings (secondary and primary sources) will be online, either as e-readings from Weldon Libraries or our Owl class site. There are also three films that are required for the course work (*A Knight's Tale*, *The Name of the Rose* and the 2010 version of *Robin Hood*). These popular films can be readily streamed online or bought in DVD format from a variety of venues. They are also available as loans from the London Public Library. Questions will be posted online to help guide your interpretation and note taking for secondary and primary sources, as well as films.

## **Lecture Topics & Weekly Course Work**

### **January 6: Introduction to Course and the Middle Ages**

Course Work: none

### **January 13: No Lies–Not Impoverished Nor Oppressed!: The Real Life of an English Male “Serf” Farmer**

Course Work: January 13 readings online

### **January 20: Moving Beyond the Submissive Wench Stereotype: A Married English Woman (With a Focus Upon Women & Consent in Marriage)**

Course Work: January 20 readings online

### **January 27: The Life of A Knight in Historical Context**

Course Work: Watch the movie, *A Knight's Tale* (2001) and see the questions posted online (January 27) to help guide your note taking.

### **February 3: In-class test**

### **February 10: A Monk & Monastic Educational Contributions to Western Progress**

Course Work: Watch the film, *The Name of the Rose* (1996) and see the questions posted online (February 10) to help guide your note taking.

### **February 17: No Class–Reading Week**

### **February 24: Did the Papacy Really Have An Evil Plan to Rule the World?: Pope Innocent III & His Conflict with Kings Over Relative Might**

Course Work: February 24 readings online

### **March 3: Rethinking Medieval and Modern Conspiracy Theories: A Templar**

Course Work: March 3 readings online

**March 10: A Pilgrim's Definition of Progress**

Course Work: March 10 readings online

**March 17: In-class test**

**March 24: A Saint's Life**

Course Work: March 24 readings

**March 31: Robin Hood (s)**

Course Work: Watch the 2010 version of *Robin Hood* film (directed by Ridley Scott) and see the questions posted online to help guide your note taking.

**April 7: A Leper's Lot**

Course Work: April 7 readings

**Final Exam Preparation Today!**

**I look forward to getting to know you individually. Please feel welcome to visit me in my office to discuss medieval lives or just to chat!**

**Professor "K"**

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

**PLAGIARISM**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism

is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

#### MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form.

In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo](mailto:rdashfo@uwo).