

Western University, Department of History
HIS2149B: Medieval Lives

Instructor: Professor Eona Karakacili
Office: LH 2264
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:30 or contact by email eona@uwo.ca

Lecture Time: Mondays 2:30-4:30
Location of Lectures: SSC-2032

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 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 it is a 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of historical research by studying secondary sources (articles and selections from books, whose arguments are based on historical documents) and primary sources (historical documents); historians working with primary sources must take care not to allow biases to skew their interpretation of them; in this regard, the analyses of modern films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

- almost each week, excluding weeks with 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 2 and March 16
- 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) can be found online as e-readings on the sites of Weldon Libraries or Owl. There are also three films that are required course work (*A Knight's Tale*, *The Name of the Rose* and the 2010 version of *Robin Hood*). These popular films can be streamed online or purchased in DVD format from a variety of venues. They can also be borrowed from the London Public Library. Questions will be posted online to help guide your interpretation and note taking from the assigned readings and films.

Lecture Topics & Weekly Course Work

January 5: Introduction to Course and the Middle Ages

Course Work: none

January 12: Not Impoverished or Oppressed!: The Real Life of an English Male “Serf” Farmer

Course Work: January 12 readings online

January 19: Moving Beyond the Submissive Wench Stereotype: A Married English Woman (With a Focus Upon Women & Consent in Marriage)

Course Work: January 19 readings online

January 26: 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 26) to help guide your note taking.

February 2: In-class test

February 9: 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 9) to help guide your note taking.

February 16: No Class–Reading Week

February 23: Did the Papacy Really Have An Evil Plan to Rule the World?: Pope Innocent III & His Conflict with Kings Over Relative Might

Course Work: No readings (enjoy Reading Week!)

March 2: Rethinking Medieval and Modern Conspiracy Theories: A Templar

Course Work: March 2 readings online

March 9: A Pilgrim's Definition of Progress

Course Work: March 9 readings online

March 16: In-class test

March 23: A Saint's Life

Course Work: March 23 readings

March 30: 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 6: A Leper's Lot

Course Work: No readings for final class.

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"

PLAGIARISM RULES AND REGULATIONS

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 UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
PLAGIARISM**

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. 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. Reprinted by permission of the Department of History. Adopted by the Council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970. Revised after consultation with Department of History, August 13, 1991

If, on medical or compassionate grounds, you are unable to meet your academic responsibilities, i.e., unable to write term tests or final examinations or complete course work by the due date, you should follow the instructions listed below. You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds that can be documented before academic accommodation will be considered. Read the instructions carefully. In all cases, action must be taken at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the scheduled examination, test or assignment.

1. Check the course outline to see if the instructor has a policy for missed tests, examinations, late assignments or attendance. The course outline should include the preferred method of contact (e-mail, phone, etc.).
2. Inform the instructor prior to the date of the scheduled time of the test or examination or due date of the assignment. If you are unable to contact the instructor, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
3. Bring your request for accommodation to the Academic Counselling Office, Room 2105, Social Science Centre, telephone 519 661-2011 or fax 519 661-3384. Be prepared to submit

documentation of your difficulties.

4. If you decide to write a test or an examination you should be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis is not permitted.

TERM TESTS and MID-TERM EXAMS

1. If you are unable to write a term test, inform your instructor (preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test). If the instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office.

2. Be prepared, if requested by the instructor, to provide supporting documentation (see below for information on acceptable forms or documentation). Submit your documentation to the Academic Counselling Office.

3. Make arrangements with your professor to reschedule the test.

4. The Academic Counselling Office will contact your instructor to confirm your documentation.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

1. You require the permission of the Dean, the instructor, and the Chair of the department in question to write a special final examination.

2. If you are unable to write a final examination, contact the Academic Counselling Office in the first instance to request permission to write a special final examination and to obtain the necessary form. You must also contact your instructor at this time. If your instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office.

3. Be prepared to provide the Academic Counselling Office and your instructor with supporting documentation (see below for information on documentation).

4. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Chair and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Advise the instructor if you are having problems completing the assignment on time (prior to the due date of the assignment).

2. Submit documentation to the Academic Counselling Office.

3. If you are granted an extension, establish a due date.

4. Extensions beyond the end of classes must have the consent of the instructor, the Department Chair and Dean. A Recommendation of Incomplete form must be filled out indicating the work to be completed and the date by which it is due. This form must be signed by the student, the instructor, the Department Chair, and the Dean's representative in the Academic Counselling Office.

SHORT ABSENCES

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. This must be done by the appropriate deadlines. (Refer to the Registrar's website for official dates.) The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your

instructors informed of your difficulties.

DOCUMENTATION

Personal Illness: If you consulted Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should complete a Records Release Form allowing them to notify Academic Counselling (the form is available in the Academic Counselling Office, 2105). Once your documentation has been assessed, the academic counsellor will inform your instructor that academic accommodation is warranted.

- If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used.

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>. The doctor must provide verification of the severity of the illness for the period in question. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

- In Case of Serious Illness of a Family Member: Obtain a medical certificate from the family member's physician.

- In Case of a Death: Obtain a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director.

- For Other Extenuating Circumstances: If you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask an Academic Counsellor.

Note: Forged notes and certificates will be dealt with severely. To submit a forged document is a scholastic offense (see below) and you will be subject to academic sanctions.

ACADEMIC CONCERNS

- You need to know if your instructor has a policy on late penalties, missed tests, etc. This information may be included on the course outline. If not, ask your instructor.

- You should also be aware of attendance requirements in courses such as Business and English. You can be debarred from writing the final examination if your attendance is not satisfactory.

- If you are in academic difficulty, check the minimum requirements for progression in your program. If in doubt, see your Academic Counsellor.

- If you are registered in Social Science courses but registered in another faculty (e.g., Arts or Science), you should immediately consult the Academic Counselling Office in your home faculty for instructions.