

Western University, Department of History, Fall 2016
HIS2149A: Medieval Lives

Instructor: Professor Eona Karakacili

Lecture Time: Wednesdays 10:30-12:30

Office: LH 2264

Location of Lectures: MC-110

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30 to 1:30 or by appointment Email: eona@uwo.ca

Course Description

Welcome to the middle ages! This course offers non-history majors an introduction to medieval western Europe 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 modern 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, 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of historical research by studying secondary sources (articles and selections from books, whose arguments are based on historical documents) and primary sources (historical documents); historians working with primary sources must take care not to allow biases to skew their interpretation of them; in this regard, the analyses of modern films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 in-class test days, you will read secondary and/or primary sources or view a film.
- Worth 100% of the final grade, three separate tests on lectures, assigned readings and films (each test is worth one-third of the final mark). The in-class test dates are October 12 and November 9. Students have the option to write the third test in-class on December 7 OR write it during the exam period (date TBA). The tests each cover the preceding three weeks of lectures and course work and are not cumulative in coverage, so the test on November 9, for example,

will test you on the lectures and course work for October 19, 26 and November 2. The third test, similarly, covers the three weeks prior to December 7, regardless of whether you choose to write it on December 7 or during the exam period. Please note that the third test written during the exam period is not identical to the one offered on December 7, but it covers the same three weeks of material and will be the same format.

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

September 14: Introduction to Course and A Short Overview of the Middle Ages (lecture)

Course Work: none

September 21: Not Impoverished or Oppressed!: The Real Life of an English Male "Serf" Farmer

Course Work: September 21 readings online

September 28: Moving Beyond the Submissive Wench Stereotype: A Married English Woman (With a Focus Upon Women & Consent in Marriage)

Course Work: September 28 readings online

October 5: The Life of A Knight in Historical Context

Course Work: Watch the movie, *A Knight's Tale* (2001) and see the questions posted online (October 5) to help guide your note taking.

October 12: In-class test (on lectures and course work for September 21, 28, October 5)

October 19: 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 (October 19) to help guide your note taking.

October 26: Rethinking Medieval and Modern Conspiracy Theories: A Templar

Course Work: October 26 readings online

November 2: A Pilgrim's Definition of Progress

Course Work: November 2 readings online

November 9: In-class test (on lectures and course work for October 9, 26 and November 2)

November 16: A Saint's Life

Course Work: November 16 readings online

November 23: 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.

November 30: A Leper's Lot

Course Work: November 30 readings online

December 7: In-class Test (on lectures and course work for November 16, 23, 30)

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"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Prerequisites and Antirequisites:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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 Issues:

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 to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links the necessary forms. 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 should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

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.

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.ca