

History 3602F

Crusaders and Muslims in the Middle East

Fall 2023

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*This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The crusades represent one of the most sensational episodes of medieval history. Traditionally viewed from a Western perspective, this course will instead focus on events in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean. It will explore how Catholic Christians came to rule a part of the Middle East, the different reactions of various Islamic powers and how relationships changed over time. Although often presented as a binary struggle between Christians and Muslims, for those who fought for control of the Holy Land in the 12th and 13th centuries, or simply lived through this struggle, the reality was far more complex and interesting.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above.

Antirequisite(s): History 3605E

COURSE SYLLABUS

Proceeding chronologically, this course will explore the context in which the crusades took place, the evolution of this institution, the reactions of various regional powers, and the complex networks of relations, rivalries and entanglements that characterize this period.

By their completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of influential events and people, along with their importance in the political history of the Levant, between the late 11th century and end of the 13th.
- Show an understanding of the impact of the crusades and differing social, religious and cultural developments that took place as a result.
- Analyze and evaluate relevant primary sources, communicating an appreciation of the insights they can provide into the societies of the period, as well as the ways in which they represent and present certain ideas and various political and religious movements.
- Critically examine historiographical interpretations of topics relating to the crusades and show an appreciation of their significance.

Students are expected to attend all classes, arriving prepared (having read the assigned readings) and ready to participate in and contribute to discussions. Students are expected to complete all assignments.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Participation	30%	Weekly
Primary Source Essay	35%	Mon. 16 Oct., before 11:59 pm
Historiography Essay	35%	Mon. 20 Nov., before 11:59 pm

REQUIREMENT TO PASS: Students must attend at least seven (7) of the scheduled twelve classes in order to pass the course, regardless of marks received for other assignments.

Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time having completed the assigned readings, and engage in discussions of the weekly materials. Students will be awarded marks for their attendance, degree of engagement and demonstrated preparedness, and the insightfulness of their contributions. No marks will be awarded for a missed class.

Grade value: 30%

Due date: weekly

Late policy: participation marks from a missed class cannot be 'made-up' – full attendance is expected.

Primary Source Essay

Making use of the primary sources found in the assigned reader (the Allen and Amt text), students will be asked to formulate an argument in response to an assigned question. This assignment is designed to allow students to interact with contemporary testimony and gain a better understanding of how figures at the time understood and presented certain issues and ideas. Essays should be between 2000 and 2500 words (not including footnotes and the bibliography). A choice of topics, further details, and formatting instructions will be provided on OWL.

Grade value: 35%

Due date: Mon. 16 Oct., before 11:59 pm

Late policy: Essays will be accepted for one week (168 hours) following the due date, without penalty; however, no comments or other feedback other than a mark will be provided for late essays. No essays will be accepted a week after the due date.

Historiography Essay

This assignment will allow students to gain a deeper appreciation of a broad topic by investigating the different ways that historians have studied and interpreted its various aspects and components. Essays should be between 2000 and 2500 words (not including footnotes and the bibliography). A choice of topics (each with a list of corresponding sources to be used), further details, and formatting instructions will be provided on OWL.

Grade value: 35%

Due date: Mon. 20 Nov., before 11:59 pm

Late policy: Essays will be accepted for one week (168 hours) following the due date, without penalty; however, no comments or other feedback other than a mark will be provided for late essays. No essays will be accepted a week after the due date.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts:

- Niall Christie, *Muslims and Crusaders*, 2nd ed. (Routledge, 2022)
- S.J. Allen and Emilie Amt, eds., *The Crusades: A Reader*, 2nd ed. (U of T Press, 2014)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Tentative list of topics to be covered:

Fri. 8 Sep.	Rise of Islam
Fri. 15 Sep.	Setting the Stage
Fri. 22 Sep.	First Crusade
Fri. 29 Sep.	<i>NO CLASS (Truth and Reconciliation)</i>
Fri. 6 Oct.	Who's Who
Fri. 13 Oct.	New Neighbours
Fri. 20 Oct.	Interactions
Fri. 27 Oct.	United Front
<i>Fri. 3 Nov.</i>	<i>NO CLASS (Reading Week)</i>
Fri. 10 Nov.	Lure of Egypt
Fri. 17 Nov.	Infighting and Outsiders
Fri. 24 Nov.	Influence and Exchange
Fri. 1 Dec.	Rise of the Mamluks
Fri. 8 Dec.	Legacy

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Extensions and Late Assignments: Students are expected to submit all work on time. Extensions will not be granted for essays; however, students have a one-week grace period (168 hours) following the due date to submit their work. The cutoff point following this grace period will be enforced strictly and without exceptions. Requests for further accommodation issued by academic counselling will not be considered unless the stipulated period in question includes the due date and the entire grace period that follows (the assignment was *due* seven days before the end of the grace period). Students are encouraged to turn their work in early in order to avoid potential problems.

Collaboration: All of the work produced by students needs to be the product of their own individual efforts. Although discussion of topics is to be expected, work submitted for grading needs to reflect original individual ideas and be written independently.

AI: All work submitted by students in this class is to be original and entirely their own. The use of generative AI tools (such as, but not limited to, ChatGPT) is not permitted in any form.

Privacy: Students' names may be divulged in the classroom/OWL, both orally and in written form, to other members of the class. Students who are concerned about such disclosures should contact the course instructor to identify whether there are any possible alternatives to such disclosures.

Use of Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices for the purposes of taking notes is allowed; however, the use of any device to record audio or video during lectures is forbidden.

Copyright and Intellectual Property: The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, videos, lecture notes, slides, PowerPoint files and displays, handout materials, assignments, evaluations, and any original materials posted to OWL, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content, or any other materials developed for this course, to any third-party violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's code of student conduct and/or academic integrity policies, and will result in appropriate penalties. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant university policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Western University.

Email Policy: Emails requiring a response will typically receive one within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) unless I have established that I will otherwise be unable to reply promptly. If your question is about course or assignment requirements, ensure that you check for the answer to your question on the syllabus, OWL and other course documents before sending me an email. I also reserve the right to ask you to attend office hours if your question is too complex or detailed to be answered over email (but email is often the best place to start for a quick answer). Please use only your Western email (____@uwo.ca) to contact me and include your name, student number and the course code in the body of the email.

Submitting Work: All evaluations must be submitted using OWL. Any work submitted by email, as a hardcopy, or in any other manner will not be accepted.

Technical Issues: Technical issues will not be considered grounds for any extra accommodation (such as an extension, exemption, or re-write). Please plan ahead, do not leave things to the last minute/day, and ensure you have access to a stable and reliable internet connection when submitting work.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.