

# **History 3602**

## **Crusaders and Muslims in the Middle East**

**Summer 2025**

Online June 16-July 25

**Instructor: Professor Maya Shatzmiller**

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Office: **Department of History, Lawson Hall**

Office Hours: By appointment

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

### **Course Description**

The Crusades movement led to an 11<sup>th</sup> century European enclave states in the heart of the Islamic Middle East. Although Crusader presence in the Holy Land lasted for a short time, between one hundred to two hundred years, it had a long-term impact on the development of political, religious and economic institutions in Europe and the Middle East. We study the history of the Crusades on two levels, one chronological the second thematic, reconstructing trajectory chronologically and then study the impact of the changes brought through topics, and in comparative perspective, Islamic Middle East against Europe. We begin by examining the background to the first Crusade and preparations in Western Europe, Byzantium and the Middle East. We focus on its main drivers. We follow with the mobilization in Western Europe, the march to the holy Land and the conquest of Jerusalem. We study the new Crusaders states created in the Holy Land and their institutions, legal system, economic foundations, warfare and the establishment of the military orders, followed by the liquidation of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem by Saladin after the battle of Hattin. We conclude with a survey of the new political, religious, intellectual, and economic institutions in Europe and the Middle East in the aftermath of the Crusades.

### **Course Syllabus**

The course aims at achieving double aims, providing knowledge through lectures prepared by the instructor and readings from scholarly works by specialists in the field of Crusaders studies, as well as train students in constructing knowledge through research and essay writing. The approach to the Crusades history here is distinctive in the sense that lectures provide detailed analysis of the significant themes in the study of the Crusades in the Middle East including exclusive questions such as crusade ideology, response to Urban II call by social class, why was the first crusade successful while the other crusades failed. It is also distinctive by looking at the Crusades experience from both sides, European and Islamic. As a result, students will become aware of the significance of the Middle East civilization and its interaction with medieval Europe and its global significance.

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Given the goal of the course to provide and generate knowledge of a unique historical episode as were the crusades to the Holy Land, the course grade evaluation is split between a student's grade achieved in the research essay (65%) and the grade given to the exam (35%). The instructor will provide full guidance to essay writing including methodology and essay topics on the course site. The purpose is to encourage students to learn how to use the empirical evidence and analysis provided in the lectures as a basis to develop individual new research skills, that extend beyond the historical discipline of medieval studies.

## **Methods of Evaluation and schedule of assignment delivery**

1. **First assignment:** An essay topic selection and essay proposal with annotated bibliography (15%) **due before July 4.**
2. **Second assignment:** written research essay (50%) **due July 12.**
3. **Final exam** (35%) **July 28.**

### ***Late Assignments:***

Essays may be submitted **up to three days late** (by 11:55pm) with a 10% deduction. Thereafter, essays will not be accepted without a formal consideration *Social Science Academic Counselling on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#), the university's policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and the Department of History's own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#)*

Students must complete all course assignments in order to pass the course. Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

## **Course Materials**

### **Lectures:**

The main course platform is online and asynchronous. Lectures for the course will be posted on the course site on - *OWL Brightspace* site.

### **Readings:**

Readings from one or two textbooks will accompany each lecture and will be posted in OWL or available online through Weldon Library.

### **Assignments**

Assignments will be posted in *OWL Brightspace* site

## **Additional Statements**

### **Communication policies:**

The best ways to get in touch with the instructor is through e-mail. I can meet students in-person on campus or by zoom, if preferred. Currently, no office hours are scheduled.

### ***Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):***

You may not make any use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for the assignments in this course.

The use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be clearly acknowledged and explained. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

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](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.