GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

# HISTORY 136 - SURVEY OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

HIST 136 Survey of Medieval History 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

A historical survey tracing the political, social, economic, intellectual, religious and cultural events that occurred during Europe’s medieval period c. 500-1500 C.E. The course begins with the decline of the Western Roman Empire and then focuses upon rise of Germanic kingdoms, role of the papacy, monasticism, establishment of Christendom, Carolingian Empire, feudalism, Vikings, England, German States, Eastern Europe, Muslim invasions, Crusades, Black Death, medieval philosophy and science, art and literature, role of women, gender and sexuality, and the demise of medieval era and birth of modern Europe. The course also explores the creation of significant lasting institutions, ideas, and thought from the medieval era that remains part of the present-day Western world.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Identify the physical setting and major geographic landmarks of the medieval Western world.
2. Explain and define the periodic characteristics and dividing features of the Early, Late and High Middle Ages.
3. Examine reasons why the decline of the Western Roman Empire ushered in the arrival of the Middle Ages.
4. Describe the political, social and economic system of the European Germanic states during the

early medieval period.

1. Sketch and explain the spread of Christianity throughout early medieval Europe and the idea of Christendom.
2. Discuss and analyze the powers of the papacy (along with some famous popes) and their religious, social, and political impact upon the Middle Ages.

g. Examine the rules, ideals and goals of monasticism during the Middle Ages.

h. Construct the rise of the Frankish kingdom to the Carolingian Empire under Charlemagne.

i. Set up the development of medieval cities, towns and villages through medieval Europe.

j. Discuss and trace the political, economic and social development of medieval feudalism.

k. Describe the contributions of the Vikings and Scandinavian people to Europe’s medieval period.

l. Describe and trace the contributions of medieval peoples and cultures in England, Germany and

Eastern Europe.

m. the impact and contributions of Islamic culture and invasion on medieval Europe.

n. Construct and discuss the origins, events and legacy of the medieval Crusades.

o. Assemble and analyze the causes, events and aftermath of Europe’s Black Death (1347-1351).

p. Describe the intellectual goals and features of medieval philosophy such as scholasticism.

q. Discuss noteworthy art, literature, architecture and sculpture of medieval Europe.

r. Explain the role and contributions of women from all social levels during medieval Europe.

s. Discuss and compare the political, economic, cultural, intellectual and social life throughout

various cultures in medieval Europe.

t. Discuss and analyze reasons for the medieval era’s collapse and the subsequent emergence of the modern world.

u. Appraise primary documents with a critical and inquiring mind.

v. Analyze and interpret maps, historical data and charts.

w. Compose written assignments reflecting insightful understanding of historical forces, people and events.

x. Analyze historical sources to formulate a purposeful historical thesis and support the thesis with evidence.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

1. Background: Early Western Civilization
   1. Paleolithic to Neolithic Ages
   2. First Civilizations of the Ancient Near East
   3. Mediterranean Basin and Empire
2. The Late Roman Empire and Rise of Christianity
3. The Germanic World and the Rise of the Franks
4. Making Medieval Europe
   1. Vikings, Scandinavia
   2. Celts, England
   3. German States
   4. Eastern Europe
   5. Italy
   6. Spain
5. Rise of Western Church: Defining Orthodoxy, Saints Lives, Women, relics, monasticism
   1. Medieval Law
   2. Carolingian Empire
   3. Holy Roman Empire
   4. Liberal Arts/Education
   5. Architecture
   6. Art and Music

f. Decentralization and Feudalism.

(1) Warriors, Clergy, Peasants/Serfs

(2) Commerce/trade/guilds

(3) Innovations/developments in agriculture

g. Early Reform Movements in the Western Church

(1) Monastic reform

(2) Investiture Conflict

(3) Famous Popes – Gregory VII, Leo III, Boniface VIII, etc.

h. Islam and the West

i. The Crusades

j. Anti-Semitism

k. Byzantium, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Western Catholic Church

l. Medieval Intellectual Life and Culture

1) Universities

2) Scholasticism and Theology

3) Medieval Philosophy

4) Gothic Architecture

5) Music and Arts

6) Woman and Religion

7) Mysticism

8) Secular Contributions

m. Heresy and Reform during the 13th century

1) Heresy vs. Orthodoxy

2) Mendicant and Reform Movements Franciscans and Dominicans

3) Hanseatic League

n. Courtly Love/Vernacular Literature

o. Controversies, Devastations, and Developments of the 14th Century

1) Avignon Papacy

2) Capitalism

3) Great Famine

4) Black Death

5) The Great Schism

6) Hundred Years’ War

7) Dante’s Divine Comedy

p. Consolidation of Late-Medieval Governments.

q. End of the Medieval Era

1) Early Voyages of Exploration

2) Italian Renaissance

3) Reformation

8. Method of Instruction:

# a. Lecture

# b. Discussion and interpretation of primary documents and/or historical topics.

# c. Study guides or examination reviews

# d. Multi-media presentations

# e. Visual aids, such as PowerPoint slides, transparencies, video/DVDs, etc.

# f. Internet websites

# g. Guest speakers

h. Collaborative projects

i. Library resources: books, periodicals, databases, reference works, and internet resources

pertaining to medieval history.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Objective tests involving true or false questions, multiple choice, or multiple answer, mapping, or sequencing, which build on knowledge over modules.

b. Quizzes that assess module mastery and SLOs via multiple choice, multiple answer, t/f, sequencing, mapping, or short lists.

c. Oral and written reports on course material involving the use of primary and secondary source material to analyze topics, discuss cause and consequences, and demonstrate course level knowledge of relevant events and people.

d. Written essays based on prompts requirement students to discuss historical events in context, with reference to relevant individuals and case and consequences.

e. Group/Discussion activities involving the analysis of primary and secondary sources related to course material with an eye towards recognizing bias and presentism.

f. Research papers (6-8 pages minimum, 600 word minimum) on significant events, people, concepts, or socio-cultural developments understood within their historical context and demonstrating knowledge of changes over time and consequences.

g. Midterm and final exam with a strong writing (essay) component to assess students’ critical thinking skills as well as the course content. Other types of questions might include multiple choice, multiple answer, listing, defining, mapping, sequences, true/false, and short answer.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Prepare for an in-class essay of minimum 600 words about the Frankish culture by creating answers to sample essay questions, one of which will be asked in class. Preparation will involve reviewing evidence from lecture, discussions, readings and any supplemental materials to formulate a thesis in answer to the questions.

b. Prepare a research assignment outside of class, comparing and contrasting the lives of aristocratic medieval women in England and France, utilizing evidence from lecture, discussions, readings and any supplemental materials.

c. Conduct focused independent research and write a 6-8 page paper (minimum 600 words) on the power and legacy of a famous medieval pope of the student’s individual choice. The paper must demonstrate how their subjects relate to larger questions or themes in the Middle Ages.

d. Prepare for group discussions about the medieval Crusades with each group focusing on

different perspectives and experiences from Europeans and Arabs, noted leaders, famous

battles and tactics/strategies, utilizing evidence from course materials and independent

research.

e. Library and internet research with multiple sources, websites.

f. Take-home exams.

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative text(s):

1. Rosenwein, Barbara H. *A Short History of the Middle Ages.* 5th ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018.
2. Rosenwein, Barbara H. *Reading the Middle Ages: Sources from Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic World.* 3rd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018.
3. Geary, Patrick J. *Readings in Medieval History*. Vol. 1, *The Early Middle Ages*. 5th ed. Toronto: University of Toronto, 2016.
4. Backman, Clifford R. *The Worlds of Medieval Europe*. 3rd ed. New York, Oxford University Press, 2015.
5. Winks, Robin W. and Teofilo F. Ruiz. *Medieval Europe and the World: From Late Antiquity to Modernity, 400-1500*. Boston, Mcgraw Hill, 2015.
6. Cook, William R. and Ronald B. Herzman. *The Medieval World View An Introduction*. 4th ed. New York, Oxford University Press, 2019.
7. Bennett, Judith M., et. al. *The Oxford Handbook of Women and Gender in Medieval Europe.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.
8. *Merriam- Webster Advanced Learner’s English Dictionary*. 9th Ed. 2016.
9. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

* 1. Analyze primary and secondary sources and explain how they support a thesis statement.
  2. Explain relationships between the causes of historical events and their effects.
  3. Describe a relevant individual involved in an historical event and explain his/her significance in this event.