

HIST*2200 (01) – The Middle Ages

Fall 2026

0.5 credits

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: GUELPH

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines many of the major events and developments in medieval Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to 1500 CE. Important themes include the spread of Christianity, interactions with Islam and Judaism, the emergence of important medieval institutions and relations with the Byzantine Empire and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Prerequisite(s): 2.00 credits

Department(s): Department of History

LECTURE SCHEDULE



INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION



COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Communicate a strong understanding of influential events and people, along with their significance, from throughout the medieval period and across the medieval landscape.
- Identify, describe, explain and analyze major political, religious and cultural developments that took place during the medieval period, as well as their causes.
- Evaluate medieval texts and other sources critically, analyzing them for authorial motives, influence of genre or patrons, and other factors that might affect the presented information.
- Conduct independent research, develop academic arguments and present ideas through formal scholarly writing.
- Demonstrate an ability to work independently, meet deadlines, follow instructions and take personal accountability for their work.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 Sep. 10	Introduction	Backman, pp. 3-60
Week 2 Sep. 15, 17	Romans & Franks	Backman, pp. 62-90, 116-26, 149-80 Rosenwein, docs. 1.1, 1.13-16, 3.4, 3.11
Week 3 Sep 22, 24	Anglo-Saxons & Vikings	Backman, pp. 185-203 Rosenwein, docs. 2.12, 3.8, 4.18, 4.20
Week 4 Sep. 29, Oct. 1	England & France	Backman, pp. 261-75, 399-409, 543-52 Rosenwein, docs. 5.15, 5.16, 5.17, 5.18, 6.14, 7.18
Week 5 Oct. 6, 8	Germany & Italy	Backman, pp. 253-61, 284-89, 291-304, 364-79, 409-17 Rosenwein, docs. 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 6.13, 6.22
Week 6 Oct. 15	Byzantines	Backman, pp. 126-37, 422-29 Rosenwein, docs. 1.2, 2.1, 2.3,
Week 7 Oct. 21, 23	Islam & al-Andalus	Backman, pp. 137-46, 203-11, 276-84, 599-603 Rosenwein, docs. 2.5, 2.6, 3.7, 4.3, 6.5, 7.16
Week 8 Oct. 28, 30	Crusades	Backman, pp. 304-16 Rosenwein, docs. 5.11, 5.13, 6.2, 7.4, 7.5
Week 9 Nov. 3, 5	Social Order	Backman, pp. 219-44, 246-53, 395-99, 467-83 Rosenwein, docs. 6.17, 6.18, 6.19, 6.21, 8.10, 8.18
Week 10 Nov. 10, 12	Monasticism	Backman, pp. 92-114, 317-22, 496-507, 603-5 Rosenwein, docs. 1.8, 1.10, 4.4, 5.21, 6.23, 6.25
Week 11 Nov. 17, 19	Economics & Belief	Backman, pp. 379-90, 459-67, 507-18, 524-29, 552-61 Rosenwein, docs. 5.3, 5.5, 6.7, 6.8, 6.26, 7.13, 7.14, 8.15
Week 12 Nov. 24, 26	Learning	Backman, pp. 324-62, 431-57, 484-86 Rosenwein, docs. 5.19, 7.20, 8.16
Week 13 Dec. 1	Health	Backman, pp. 486-93, 530-43 Rosenwein, docs. 1.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Clifford R. Backman, *The Worlds of Medieval Europe*, 4th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2022)
4th edition is required
 - E-book 180-day rental \$46.99
- Barbara H. Rosenwein, *Reading the Middle Ages*, 3rd ed. (University of Toronto Press, 2018)
3rd edition is required
 - Paperback: \$80.00

Both books are required, as are the stipulated editions.

Prices are variable, subject to change, and do not include applicable taxes or shipping.

Please be aware that e-books can display erroneous page numbers – all references must accurately present the relevant published (hardcopy) page numbers. For this reason, students are encouraged to secure a hardcopy of the Rosenwein reader.

ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN

Quizzes	30%	due each class, in class
Referencing assignment	5%	due 2 October, before 11:00pm
Essay	30%	due 6 November, before 11:00pm
Final exam	35%	TBA (December exam period)
<i>Feedback bonus</i>	<i>+1%</i>	issued by the university

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Quizzes

There will be a quiz each lecture. Students' best twenty-one (21) quizzes will count towards their final grade. Students will complete these quizzes in class using their own device (laptop, phone, tablet, etc.) via CourseLink. For a quiz to be counted, the student must be physically present in the lecture hall, attempt the quiz synchronously (moving through the questions as they appear), and submit the quiz as soon as it ends. Even the slightest anomaly (including delayed submission) will disqualify a quiz (it will receive a mark of 0). As not all quizzes will count towards a student's final grade, a quiz cannot be retaken or rescheduled for any reason (including technical issues). If a lecture is cancelled due to a university-wide closure, the total number of counted quizzes will be reduced accordingly (i.e. that quiz will not count).

Referencing Assignment

This short assignment will require students to correctly reference a passage of text, making use of assigned resources to do so. The objective of this assignment is to ensure students are familiar with proper referencing formatting and other expectations in preparation for the essay. Further instructions can be found on CourseLink.

Essay

This essay of about 1,500 words will allow students to demonstrate their ability to critically examine primary sources and use such to advance a scholarly argument. Using documents in the Rosenwein sourcebook (and no other materials), students will compose an essay that addresses one of the assigned topics. Essays should focus on the primary source documents, making use of at least six (6), and address one of the topic options in a direct and focused manner. Topic choices, along with further instructions and requirements, can be found on CourseLink.

Exam

A final exam will take place during the university's scheduled December exam period. Students are advised not to make travel plans or other commitments during this period.

Course Feedback Bonus

If at least 80% of students enrolled in the course complete the official (anonymous) course feedback survey issued by the university near the end of the term, everyone will receive an extra 1% added to their final grade.

LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE

The last day to drop this course is 4 December 2026. After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a 0 is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

COURSE GRADING POLICIES

Students are expected to complete all assignments and submit all work on time. This course has no provision to re-submit graded work, or to complete 'extra' work to make up for otherwise lost marks.

Submitting Work:

All evaluations must be submitted using CourseLink. Any work submitted by email, as a hardcopy, or in any other manner will not be accepted. If a grace period applies, any work submitted after this expires (even a second after) 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 assignments and completing quizzes.

Late Policies:

Quizzes: No extensions or exemptions will be granted for quizzes. These cannot be rescheduled or retaken (for any reason). Not all quizzes will count towards a student's final grade, providing a reasonable degree of accommodation for potential issues or disruptions relating to illness, personal or family crisis, scheduling complications, and all other barriers that a student might encounter.

Referencing Assignment: This assignment can be completed as far in advance as students' like (from the first day of class onward). As no additional information will be released, and this assignment should not take long to complete, the deadline will be enforced to the second and no extensions will be granted (for any reason).

Essays: Extensions will not be granted (for any reason). There will, however, be a one-week grace period (exactly 168 hours) following the due date in which students can submit late work without a grading penalty; however, late essays will not receive feedback comments. No essays will be accepted beyond the end of the grace period, and this cut off point will be enforced to the second. The grace period is effectively a blanket extension granted to everyone in acknowledgement that things come up (people get sick, accidents happen, technical issues arise, schedules get busy, etc.), but further extensions will not be granted on top of this. Requests for further accommodation issued by academic counselling will not be considered unless the student is judged to have been incapacitated for the entire grace period and the two weeks leading up to the due date. Far more time than is needed has been provided to complete this assignment.

Students are encouraged to submit work early in order to avoid potential problems. Updated written assignments can be uploaded until the end of the grace period. Only a student's latest (most recent) submission will be graded.

COURSE STANDARD STATEMENTS

Email Policy: Email is usually the best way to contact me. Emails requiring a response will typically receive one within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) unless I have established that I will 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, CourseLink 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 your Guelph email and include in the body of your email:

- Your name
- Your student number
- The course code (HIST 2200)

Emails lacking these three points, or sent from a non-Guelph account, may not receive a response.

Collaboration: All work produced by students for evaluation in this class 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.

Turnitin: In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Academic Integrity and AI: The University of Guelph's statement on the use of AI, ChatGPT, and academic integrity can be found at <https://news.uoguelph.ca/2023/03/university-of-guelph-statement-on-artificial-intelligence-systems-chatgpt-academic-integrity/>.

The use of ChatGPT and/or any other AI systems to conduct research, mimic independent analysis, and generate text related to any evaluation in this course is strictly prohibited. The use of ChatGPT (or other similar AI systems) will be considered a violation of the university's academic misconduct policies. Students are required to keep and provide research notes, essay drafts, and other documentation as might be considered evidence of original research and writing should this become suspect. Likewise, students may be asked to attend an interview and demonstrate their knowledge of a topic, their research process, and any other information that might be of use in determining their authorship of work submitted for grading.

Privacy: Students' names may be divulged in the classroom/CourseLink, 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 CourseLink, 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 the University of Guelph.

STANDARD STATEMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 business days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the [SAS website](#).

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations](#).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the [Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses](#).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the [Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness](#). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a [Student Wellness Navigator](#) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our [mental wellbeing resources](#). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#).