

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**HIST\*2200 The Middle Ages**  
**Winter 2026**

Instructor: [REDACTED]  
Teaching Assistant: [REDACTED]  
Office Hour: [REDACTED], Thu. 11:00-12:00 pm or by appointment  
Classes: Tues. & Thur. 2:30-3:50 pm, [REDACTED]

### **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.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a survey of the Middle Ages in Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the onset of the European Overseas Expansion. Students should emerge from the course with an understanding of the factors that led to the political rise and decline of the Christian Church; the development of crusading ideologies; some of the defining social structures of Europe in this period and the factors that contributed to the so-called crisis of the late Middle Ages.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

The following textbook will be used in the class and will be available on course reserve in the library: Rosenwein, Barbara. *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Sixth Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2023. If purchased, the text is \$74.95 (paperback) or \$59.95 (e-book); note that the price may vary slightly when purchased at the UofG Bookstore. Readings for the Document Studies are found directly on Courselink. Copies of these readings MUST be brought to class either in paper or electronic format.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, students will have had an opportunity to:

1. learn about the historical development of many of the key elements of medieval European History
2. develop an informed historical perspective by reading primary sources in context and, through oral discussion, analyzing their bias and limitations.
3. synthesize independent research and course readings to develop a balanced historical perspective.

4. formulate and complete a developed and proof-read assignment and to submit it by a scheduled deadline.

### ASSESSMENT AND DUE DATES

Participation and Attendance	15%	Classes marked with* (see lecture schedule)
Midterm Exam #1	20%	05 February 2026
Midterm Exam #2	30%	19 March 2026
or		
Primary Source Paper	30%	19 March 2026
Final Exam	35%	TBA

Attendance is critical to your success in this class. **Participation and Attendance** will be assessed at each class marked with an asterisk (\*). You are expected to participate in small group discussions related to primary documents (document studies) and complete weekly reading quizzes which will be evaluated for completion only. This portion of the grade reflects the consistency of your attendance and engagement with the course. Therefore, these discussions and quizzes cannot be made up unless there is serious, ongoing illness or an unforeseen issue impacting your ability to attend lectures (i.e. an unforeseeable reason requiring you to miss three or more weeks of class). Further information on how participation and attendance will be graded is posted on Courselink.

**Midterm Exam #1** will focus on course content and will be written in class on Tuesday, 05 February 2026. **Midterm Exam #2** will focus on reading a primary source document in context and will be written in class on Thursday, 19 March 2026. If you require extra time as part of an accommodation granted by Student Accessibility Services, you must book an exam with them as soon as possible.

Students may choose to write a **Primary Source Paper** in lieu of Midterm Exam 2. The paper, should discuss the historical importance of a primary source (medieval document), should be 1500- 2000 words in length, and cite at least five secondary sources in the footnotes. Footnotes must conform to Chicago Style for the Humanities and must include page numbers, or the paper will receive a minimum 15% deduction. Papers based on inadequate research (e.g., too few sources or non-academic sources) will receive a failing grade. Further instructions and a grading rubric will be provided on Courselink. Late papers will not be accepted after the drop box closes on the last class day.

To choose the Primary Source Paper as an option, the student will select a primary source from the collection of medieval documents posted on Courselink and compose a short proposal based on a given template. The student will then book a meeting to discuss the proposal and have the topic approved. All proposals must be approved by **Friday 06 February 2026** or the student will be required to write Midterm Exam #2.

This course uses Turnitin Software to check for originality. Students are encouraged to check originality scores prior to submission. Please see me if you need further assistance.

All submissions must be original work and reflect the ideas and research conducted by the student. Use of AI software (e. g. ChatGPT) may result in charges of academic misconduct. Please see the instructor if you are unsure as to what tools may be used.

The **Final Exam** will be written in person during the exam period. The date and location will be announced on Web Advisor.

## LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Tues. Jan. 06 Introduction

Thur. Jan. 08 Christianization of the Roman Empire

No Readings

Tues. Jan. 13 \*The Byzantine Empire & Chapter 01 Quiz

Thur. Jan. 15 \*Doc. Study 01 "Byzantine Village Life"

Readings: *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Chapter 01; Document Study 01: "Byzantine Village Life and the Education of a Saint" [Courselink]

Tues. Jan. 20 \*The Germanic Invasions & Chapter 02 Quiz

Thur. Jan. 22 The Rise of Islam

Readings: *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Chapter 02

Tues. Jan. 27 \*Feudalism and the Carolingian Renaissance & Chapter 03 Quiz

Thur. Jan. 29 \*Doc. Study 02 "The Donation of Constantine"

### Meetings for Primary Source Proposal this Week

Readings: *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Chapter 03; Document Study 02: "The Donation of Constantine." [Courselink]

Tue. Feb. 03 The Vikings

Thu. Feb. 05 \*Midterm Examination 01

Fri. Feb.06 **Last day to have Primary Source Paper proposal approved**

No Readings

Tues. Feb. 10 \*Cluniac Reforms and the Eleventh Century & Chapter 04 Quiz

Thur. Feb. 12 \*Doc. Study 03 "The Investiture Controversy"

Readings: *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Chapter 04; Document Study 03: "The Investiture Controversy," [Courselink]

### **READING WEEK**

Tues. Feb. 24 \*The Crusades & Chapter 05 Quiz

Thur. Feb. 26 Growth of Towns and Gothic Cathedrals

Readings: A Short History of the Middle Ages, Chapter 5.

Tues. Mar. 03 \*Pope Innocent III and the Medieval Inquisition & Chapter 06 Quiz

Thur. Mar. 05 \*Doc. Study 04 "Episcopal Register" [Courselink]

Readings: *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Chapter 6; Document Study 04: "Jacques Fournier, Episcopal Register."

Tues. Mar. 10 \*Religious Conflict and Coexistence in Iberia & Chapter 07 Quiz

Thur. Mar. 12 \*Doc. Study 05 "The Siete Partidas"

Readings: *A Short History of the Middle Ages*, Chapter 07. Document Study 05, "The Siete Partidas" [Courselink]

Tues. Mar. 17 \*Marco Polo and the Pax Mongolica & Preparation for Midterm 2

Thur. Mar. 19 \*Midterm Examination 02

**Primary Source Paper should be uploaded into Courselink by Thursday 19 March, 11:59pm.**

No Readings

Tues. Mar. 24 \*Black Death, Schism and Hundred Years War & Chapter 08 Quiz

Thur. Mar. 26 \*Doc. Study 06 "Letter to Pope Gregory XI"

Readings: Chapter 08, Document Study 06: "St. Catherine of Siena, Letter to Pope Gregory XI (1376)" [Courselink]

Tues. Mar. 31 The Renaissance

Thur. Apr.02 Conclusion and Review

No Readings

## **COURSE POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **Late penalties and missed assignments**

All written assignments should be submitted to the Courselink Dropbox by 11:59 pm on the day they are due. For assignments due on Friday, a grace period will extend to the following Monday at 9am. Assignments that are submitted in the grace period are considered late and will not receive detailed feedback, but equally they will not receive a penalty. All students are welcome to make an appointment to receive oral feedback on their work. Assignments received after the grace period will receive a late penalty of 2% per weekday, calculated on the calendar day. Late penalties are capped at 15%, but papers will not be accepted after the dropbox closes. If a student misses an assignment because they are experiencing exceptional difficulties (e.g., long term illness, a death in the family) or needs accommodation for a learning disability, they must contact the instructor as soon as possible, and prior to the assignment due date.

### **Reweighting of Assignments**

The value of the various components for this course will not be reweighted, except in very exceptional cases (such as severe and prolonged illness or very serious health circumstances). Each component of the course is designed to contribute to and assess different aspects of the course's learning objectives, and students are expected to complete all of them.

### **Use of external commercial educational websites**

Course slides, sample assignments, rubrics and templates are the intellectual property of the instructor. These are freely given to registered students in the course as part of their education. I do not give my permission to students to post these materials on any external commercial website or platform (e.g., CourseHero). If you are struggling in the course, arrange to meet with me and I can either help you or point you in the right direction.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **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 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. 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](#).