HIST 4330-010 The Middle Ages

Group 1: Tuesday, 11.00am–12.15pm, Academic 221
Group 2: Thursday, 11.00am–12.15pm, Academic 221

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325-942-2202

Virtual Office Hours: Tues, 1pm–2pm; Wed, 9am–11am; Thurs 1pm–2pm
(or by appointment)
See Blackboard for instructions

Table of Contents
Student Learning Objectives ........................................................................................................... 1
Required Reading ............................................................................................................................. 2
Grade Information ................................................................................................................................ 2
Course Requirements and Policies ..................................................................................................... 3
Assignments .......................................................................................................................................... 3
Plagiarism ............................................................................................................................................. 6
University Policies ............................................................................................................................. 6
COVID-19 Protocols & Precautions ................................................................................................. 9

Student Learning Objectives
Essential
○ You will gain a basic understanding of the Middle Ages, both in a European and a global context (including factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, and theories)
You will be expected to pay attention in class, take good notes in class and while reading, and retain this information.
You will be expected to analyze historical events and processes.
○ You will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of global intellectual and cultural activity, including (but not limited to) science, art, literature, and religion.
○ You will develop skills in expressing themselves orally and in writing.
N.B. This is a writing-intensive class. Students will be expected to achieve a high degree of written fluency during the course of the semester.
○ You will analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view relating to the history of medieval Europe and perceptions thereof.

Important
○ Students will learn to find evaluate, and use resources to explore common themes and trends in medieval history, in particular the use of library and digital resources of the highest academic caliber.
Required Reading
I will set further reading but this will be your starting point for all class preparation. All assigned readings must be completed before each corresponding class. Any additional readings will be posted online through Blackboard.

You can buy either the print edition or the electronic edition. I would recommend getting the print edition, if you can. You will be spending a lot of time on screens this semester so using a printed textbook to do your reading will give your eyes a rest.


Students are not required to buy their textbook from the campus store. Instead, you should consider buying it through an online retailer (AbeBooks, Amazon, etc.). These are usually cheaper.

Grade Information
Grades and Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (90%-100%)</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Exceptional work, excellent analysis and fluent writing skills, excellent knowledge of facts</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+, B (80%-89%)</td>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>Very good analysis but less fluid writing skills etc., solid grasp of facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+, C (70%-79%)</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good analysis and standard writing skills, solid knowledge of facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+, D (60%-69%)</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Some issues with analysis and writing, basic knowledge of facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F (&lt;60%)</td>
<td>Not satisfactory</td>
<td>Issues with analysis and written expression, lack of factual knowledge</td>
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Composition of Total Grade

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% Participation</td>
<td>Read below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% Journal Entries</td>
<td>February 12th, March 12th, April 16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% Research Paper Thesis, Plan and Bibliography</td>
<td>March 5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>30% Research Paper</td>
<td>April 19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% Final Exam</td>
<td>May 11th</td>
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Extra Credit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5% Medieval Object Online Presentation</td>
<td>March 26th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Medieval Meme</td>
<td>April 30th</td>
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Mid-term grades will be calculated based on the results of the first two journal entries and the paper prep assignment.

Course Requirements and Policies

General

*Remember to complete the daily wellness screening on Ramport before you travel to campus/leave your dorm room.*

- Please be respectful. Be attentive to me and to your classmates during lectures and class discussions. Do not interrupt either myself or other students.
  
  *As per university policy, you must cover your nose and mouth in class this semester. If you cannot wear a mask and/or have an official waiver, please contact me in advance.*

- Do not arrive late or leave early. Students are expected to be seated by the time class is scheduled to begin. **Students who arrive late will be penalized 0.5% for each incident.**

- Bathroom breaks are not permitted except in cases of illness.
  
  *Due to the specific circumstances this semester, you must adhere to the seating chart provided throughout the semester and avoid moving around the classroom during class.*

- **Switch off** your phones. If you are found using your phone during class for any reason, you will lose **1% from your participation grade for each incident.**

- Students should not consume any tobacco products (including dipping, chewing, or snuff).

- Students should avoid chewing gum in class.
  
  *This is particularly important when you are wearing a mask.*

- **Take notes.** Slides will be posted online after class but will not be detailed.

- Taking notes on a laptop computer or other electronic devices will only be permitted in certain circumstances. **Students must ask for permission before doing so.** Students must not distract other students or use them to access non-class related material.

- If you are unable to attend class, please contact me at sarah.lynch@angelo.edu as far in advance as possible.

- Please address me as “Dr. Lynch” or “Prof. Lynch” in all emails. Please sign off with your full name and class number and section (e.g. Regards, Sorcha Ní Laoinsigh, HIST 2312-D010)

Assignments

Participation (20%)

This is a VERY DIFFERENT semester from normal so how I determine your participation will be very different.

- You must try to come to every in-person class for your group. If you cannot come, **for whatever reason**, please contact me in advance so I can mark you as excused. If you miss four or more classes unexcused, you will not lose your participation grade but you will be early alerted and you will have to contact both myself and your advisor. If you fail to arrange a meeting with me, you will lose your entire participation.

- Each in-person class will consist of a short lecture and a class discussion. You must get involved in these discussions. Demonstrating that you understand the concepts at hand and posing well-considered questions all count towards a good participation mark. There will also be a selection of online discussions in which you must participate. While you will not
gain additional points for these online discussions, **you will lose 0.5% from your participation grade for every missed discussion board.**

- You must arrange to have **two** virtual office hours with me throughout the semester with prepared questions on the course material in order to receive a full participation grade. This will enable all of you to speak to me on a one-on-one basis.
  
  *First v-office hour must be completed by the end of Week 6 (March 5th)*
  
  *Second v-office hour must be completed by the end of Week 12 (April 16th)*

  If you do not “attend” my office hours during these timeframes, you will lose 2% from their participation grade for each office hour missed. **Students who have good attendance and participate well in class but who do not attend both virtual office hours can only receive a maximum of 16% for their participation grade.**

Students should avoid arranging vacations etc. during the semester and especially during the exam period.

**Journal Entries (15%)**

**February 12th, March 12th, April 16th**

You will write **three** 1–2 page journal entries throughout the semester (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, 1” margins). After listening to and taking careful notes on the lectures, class discussions etc., you should reflect on what you have learned and provide your own analysis and impressions in a journal format. You should consider:

- Reflecting on the readings from the textbook/ additional material
- Looking for stories and current events pertaining to the Middle Ages in the news and analyze them using what you have learned in class
- Interrogating your own preconceptions of the Middle Ages

While these will be graded for grammar, spelling, as well as content, I would encourage you to write in a less formal style. Journals must be submitted to Turnitin via Blackboard before 5pm on the day that they are due.

**Paper-Prep Assignment- Research Paper Thesis, Plan, and Bibliography (20%)**

In preparation for your Research Paper, you must complete this assignment and submit it at the beginning of class on **March 5th.** You must write a half-page thesis or introduction on the paper topic of your choice (see below), demonstrating how you are going to approach your topic and briefly discussing the key points that you are going to cover in the body of your paper. You must also construct a plan for the paper, briefly outlining what you will cover in each paragraph of the paper (4–6 paragraphs, 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, 1” margins). Finally, you must research what books and articles you will use for your paper (at least six books/ journal articles) and assemble that information in a bibliography. **You must follow the Chicago Rules of Style.** The vast majority of websites are not acceptable references for a college-level research paper. **If you wish to use a website in your bibliography, you must clear it with me in advance.**

You must choose from one of the following topics:

- Why were some “Germanic” successor states more Romanized than others?
- Compare and contrast the ways in which European, Byzantine, and Islamic cultures and states were heirs of Rome?
How important was the role of secular rulers in the conversion of their states and peoples to Christianity up to 800?

Why was Islam so successful? Discuss with reference to the period between 610 and 750.

Why did the Carolingians come to dominate Western Europe in the eight century?

Compare and contrast the Byzantine state with those in Western Europe up to the eleventh century.

What strategies did Europeans employ in order to emerge from the collapse of the Carolingian Empire?

What was the significance of the Peace of God movement?

Discuss the Crusades from a Muslim perspective.

Examine the causes and consequence of the commercial revolution, c. 1000–c. 1250.

Explain the emergence of the European nation state by 1300, with reference to two specific states?

Was the Twelfth-Century Renaissance a renaissance?

What was the position of women in the Middle Ages?

Why did Jewish people and communities face prejudice and persecution in medieval Europe?

Why did the Church find it so difficult to combat heresy in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries?

Discuss the significance of the intellectual and scientific achievements of the later Middle Ages.

Which factors led to the crises of the fourteenth century?

“Dreadful as the immediate impact of the Black Death was, its consequences were by no means wholly negative.” Discuss.

Was medieval Europe diverse?

This assignment will be graded on clarity of writing and argument, the inclusion of appropriate points in your plan, and in the type and range of material in your bibliography.

Research Paper (30%)
Each student must submit a research paper at the beginning of class on April 19th. This should be 4–8 pages in length (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman or Calibri, 12 point font, 1” margins). The Chicago Rules of Style must be followed. Please note: I do not read or comment upon rough drafts.

Papers will be graded on quality of argument and analysis (backed up by appropriate evidence), as well as clarity and correctness of writing. Students will lose marks for poor grammar, informal writing, and careless composition.

Final Exam (15%)
Due: May 11th
You will be required to write an essay (1–3 pages, standard formatting) reacting to one of a selection of prompts provided. This final will be made available on Friday, May 7th at 12pm (noon) and it must be uploaded to Turnitin via Blackboard before 5pm on Monday, May 11th.
Due to the extended time provided to complete the exam, extensions or make-up exams cannot be arranged.

Extra Credit (up to 10%)
There will be two opportunities for extra credit this semester, a video presentation on a medieval object of your choice (5%) and a medieval meme exercise (5%). Details will be provided on Blackboard. They must be appropriately completed and uploaded before 5pm on the date that they are due. Since these are extra credit assignments, no extensions will be given. Any extra credit will be added to your total grade at the end of the semester.

Grading, Extensions, and Late Assignments
• You must complete the paper-prep assignment and the research paper in order to pass the course. If you do not complete any one of these components within 2 weeks of the due date, you will automatically receive an “F” grade for the class.
• All assignments, quizzes etc. must uploaded to Turnitin before 5pm on the due date.
• Late assignments will lose 5% for each calendar day that they are late, beginning immediately at 5pm on the due date.
• There will be no make-up exams or quizzes, nor will I authorize any extensions of the due date for assignments, unless approved by me and arranged in advance.
• In the event of a problem or emergency, send me an email. I may also be reached by telephone at 325-942-2202 or 325-942-2324 (the history department office).
• While this semester may be different for extracurricular activities, all students involved in athletics, band, theater, and other university-related activities must provide me with a signed letter and schedule from the relevant faculty member, coach, or advisor. This must be handed to me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as the schedule is finalized. Failure to do so will be reflected in students’ participation grades.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that is defined as the theft of ideas or information from a source without giving proper credit. Plagiarism is a serious offense that could result in failure of the course, among other penalties. All work must be your own. Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated in any way. A digital plagiarism detection program (such as Turnitin) will be used to check your work.

Plagiarism cases will result in 0% on an assignment for the first offense and a failing grade in the entire class for all subsequent offenses, including those that have occurred in other classes taken with the same professor. Students will also be formally reported for academic misconduct.

Academic integrity is essential to the discipline of history. Historians are in a constant conversation with each other, building upon the work of others, while contributing their own original research. Precise and rigorous citation of documents and secondary sources is a
necessity to provide a road-map for future historians. Citing sources will be discussed in class. If you are unsure about a citation, contact me with your question.

University Policies

Academic Integrity
In the academic world (and world beyond) honesty and integrity are of great importance. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft. In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center. Plagiarism is not the only academic offense: cheating, forgery, disruptive/disrespectful behavior are all forms of unacceptable behavior. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of “unauthorized collaboration” as a form of academic misconduct. View the university’s honor code here: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf

Copyright Policy: Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Special Accommodations
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of
reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is: Ms. Dallas A. Swafford, dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

**Religious Holy Days**
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for **Observance of Religious Holy Day** for more information. Any due dates impacted will be rearranged by the instructor.

**Incomplete Grade Policy**
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

**Student Code of Conduct**
As a student, there are rules. Find them here: [https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/Student-conduct-mission-policies.php](https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/code-of-student-conduct/Student-conduct-mission-policies.php)

**Title IX at Angelo State University**
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

**Michelle Boone, J.D. Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator**
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.*

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications
required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.
For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

University Policies
For additional general university policies, consult the university student handbook. The handbook may be found here: http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

COVID-19
Official Angelo State University Statement on Face Coverings
As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Protocols & Precautions
Angelo State University is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of everyone on campus and is following protocols recommended by local and state officials and the Centers for Disease Control. What does that mean practically for the 2020–2021 school year?

What are the requirements for being on campus?
- **Face coverings** that cover both the nose and mouth are required and must be worn by the entire campus community (students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors, and contractors) while on campus or in university facilities.
- Daily wellness screenings are required and can be completed at ramport.angelo.edu.
- After completing the daily wellness screening, a badge will be generated with today’s date. This badge may be necessary to enter certain areas of campus, so have it handy on your phone.
- Some areas on campus (hallways, stairwells, etc.) may offer directional signage to keep traffic moving in the same direction.
- Signage will be placed throughout campus, both reminding you to socially distance, as well as note six-foot markers between you and the person in front of/behind you.

How will classes work?
- Classroom capacities have been reduced to maximize social distancing.
- Masks will be required in the classrooms, and students will be required to follow a seating chart.
- Most classes will involve some combination of on-campus and online instruction.
- Students are required to follow any directions given by professors concerning individually assigned class dates in a hybrid format.
- Students are encouraged to stay home if they are not feeling well; online lectures will be made available.

**What will happen if somebody tests positive for COVID-19?**
- Classroom capacities have been reduced to maximize social distancing.
- If a student tests positive, the relevant medical authorities will alert the university and the department chair.
- At that point, the student will be isolated and quarantined, and everybody who has been in contact with that student will be asked to quarantine as well.
- Students who are isolated following a positive test or who are quarantined because of exposure to a positive case will be allowed to continue their courses online.
- Should an instructor or professor fall ill, the course will immediately move online.

**What do I do if I think I might be sick?**
- If you have been in contact with anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or if you feel unwell, please stay home; online lectures will be made available.
- If you have been in contact with anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19 and/or if you feel unwell, input this information into the wellness screening app to help the university keep up-to-date information about the health of the Ram Family.
- Students who need additional screening can download and use the Shannon on Demand app to receive medical advice and to determine whether or not they need to be tested.
- If you are living on campus and you need to self-isolate, you may be moved from your current residence hall to a self-isolation location on campus until you have met the CDC recovery guidelines.

Students must regularly check email and Blackboard for any changes that arise. Should it become necessary, courses may have to go online, and the professors or department chairs will provide all relevant information in such a case.

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, course requirements, or policies at any point during this semester. Due to the particular challenges of the Spring 2021 semester, this class may be switched online at any point.