HIST 3362: “Medieval Myths, Mysteries, and Misconceptions”

Instructor: Marla Morris  
mlmorris@utep.edu  
CRN #27850  
Spring 2024 – MW, 4:30pm-5:50pm  
Location: EDU, Room 305

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Often misunderstood, the medieval era spans 600 years and represents a time of tremendous progress and change. This course is a survey of the various facets of the period, including monarchy, warfare, feudalism, architecture, art, culture, literature, the church, law, legends, migration, language, and everyday life. The focus will primarily be on the British Isles.

OBJECTIVES and OUTCOMES
1. Read primary source documents to determine multiple points of view, assess historical contingencies and contexts, and summarize key themes and historical trends.
2. Read secondary sources in a critical manner, search for an argument, and learn how to identify main points and supporting evidence.
3. Learn how to take notes, as well as identify and comprehend reoccurring patterns, trends, and draw conclusions.
4. Learn how to express viewpoints and perspectives on primary and secondary sources.
5. Discuss historical topics intelligently and respectfully within a group setting.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
• Kahoot app (free in App stores)

ASSIGNMENTS and EVALUATION
Attendance:
This is an in-person lecture class. There is no book. Information will be disseminated through PowerPoint sides and class discussions. Therefore, attendance is a vital element of success in this course. Class participation is an essential component of the learning experience in this course and is worth 10% of students’ overall grade. Attendance is mandatory, though students are permitted three excused absences before their grade is impacted. Asking and answering questions and generally engaging with the class on the material and lectures is highly encouraged.

The Instructor will monitor students’ attendance and participation through pop quizzes that will be administered at the beginning of each class period throughout the semester. The quizzes will cover any material from previous lectures, class discussions, or any assigned reading material.

Evaluation:
Research Paper (50%)
This is a History elective, and as such, success in this class will depend heavily upon completion of a research paper that includes citations, footnotes, and a bibliography, as well as primary and secondary sources.

The research paper will be due on Sunday, May 5, no later than 11:59pm, and must be submitted via Blackboard. Papers submitted after the due date/time will receive a (0) zero grade. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without a valid, written, documentation of a university-sanctioned excuse.
**Topic** (5%) – The Instructor **must** approve each student’s topic which may be over any subject of the student’s choosing as long as it falls between 850CE-1500CE. **Students are required to meet with Instructor, either in person or over Teams, to discuss their topic.** This assignment is, in effect, an abstract which shall include the research question and thesis statement. Each day the assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the student’s grade.

**Outline** (5%) – The outline must include the introductory paragraph(s), including the research question and thesis statement, and each item in the outline should be at least 1-2 sentences. Each day the assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the student’s grade.

**Rough Draft** (10%) – Research papers will utilize APA Style. Here a link to UTEP’s guide for using APA: [https://libguides.utep.edu/apa](https://libguides.utep.edu/apa) Each day the assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the student’s grade.

Students are required to review the rough draft with the UTEP Writing Center before submitting for a grade. Students can make an appointment here: [https://www.utep.edu/uwc/appointments/](https://www.utep.edu/uwc/appointments/). The expectation is that it will be at least 80% complete, include strong sentence structure, and be free of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.

**Revised Draft** – while not graded, this is an additional opportunity to receive further feedback on papers before submitting the final draft which represents 50% of the student’s grade.

**Book Reflections** (20% total - 10% each)
The two books chosen can be about any topic that is relevant to the years 850CE-1500CE. There is a suggested reading list below, but students may choose any book as long as it falls within the dates above. However, both Book Reflections choices **must** be approved by the Instructor in writing.

This is **NOT** A book report. The goal is for students to share their own thoughts and reflections about the material they have read. Book Reflections should be a minimum of 2 pages and must be submitted via Blackboard. Each day the assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the student’s grade.

**Pop Quizzes** (10%) 
The pop quizzes, consisting of 10-20 questions, will be administered at the beginning of each class period through the Kahoot app. The quizzes will cover material from lectures and class discussions.

**Extra Credit** (up to 5%) 
Students may earn extra credit by turning in a third Book Reflection. The same parameters of the required Book Reflections apply. It is due Friday, April 26, by 11:59pm. Late submissions will **NOT** be accepted.

**Grading Scale**
- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 or below
Students must complete and submit all coursework via Blackboard only. If students are not familiar with Blackboard, a tutorial is available.

POLICIES & STUDENT CONDUCT
Students with special needs must contact the Instructor during the first two days of class and have documentation from CASS (UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services). Students engaged in University sanctioned activities (sports, etc.) must provide written documentation. If a student foresees non-school related situations that will prohibit them from attending classes, they must contact the Instructor immediately.

Students must submit assignments on the day they are due or lose one letter grade each day the assignment is late. Students will refrain from talking, texting, and doing homework in class. Cell phones may only be used in class for responding to pop quiz questions on the Kahoot app or reading materials for an assignment.

To drop this class, please contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. If coursework cannot be completed for whatever reason, please contact the Instructor immediately. Failure to do so may result in an “F” for the course. If students do not submit assignments or attend class in the first few days, the Instructor will try to reach them twice. If no response is received or the student still fails to attend, they will be dropped from the class.

Students must follow the Student Academic Code of Conduct in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Plagiarism, cheating, or other violations will be dealt with according to these university guidelines. Students in History classes must be particularly attentive to proper citation formats and the obligation to give credit to authors for their intellectual work. This means that if a student uses another person’s idea, information, language, etc., they must “CITE” that person’s work with quotations and a footnote/endnote.

The UTEP Library has a full and brief version of the https://libguides.utep.edu/apa, the official guide for citations and references in the historical profession. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action, which can include a variety of things up to suspension and expulsion from the University.

Regarding the use of ChatGPT and other AI platforms, please note that any suspected use of AI-generated content passed off as the student’s own original work will be treated as a violation of academic integrity – an act of plagiarism – and will be reported the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action, which can include a variety of measures up to and including suspension and expulsion from the University.

In addition to proper citation format, avoiding plagiarism and cheating, and other issues, students must be respectful of each other and their opinions. One of the central goals of learning at a university is being exposed to new—even challenging and frustrating—viewpoints. This class must remain open and inclusive of different perspectives, but language and behavior that promotes hateful, violent, racist, homophobic, or discriminatory agendas will absolutely NOT be tolerated. To learn more, see HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

This class includes some difficult topics, such as violence and the violation of the human rights of cultures and peoples. Thus, some conversations will be difficult, and some people may feel
uncomfortable. Some discomfort is not necessarily the same thing as hateful and racist insults based on untrue stereotypes. The medieval era encompasses class-based oppression, racism, misogyny and patriarchal constructs, antisemitism, and stereotyping of Muslims, among other unsettling topics.

Blackboard will be utilized for some parts of class. If for additional conversation and discussion, students must follow ethical best practices. Blackboard is not a public internet venue: all postings are private and confidential. Whatever anyone posts on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and the Instructor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

Students are required to know and abide by the contents of this syllabus. Anything omitted in this syllabus is automatically not allowed unless expressly authorized by the Instructor. Within reason and within the parameters of University procedures, the Instructor reserves the right to make modifications to the syllabus and the policies therein. Students will be notified in a timely manner about any changes.

**NOTE:** All contact with the Instructor should go through Blackboard. Responses can be expected within 24 hours or less. However, the Instructor is not available 24/7, and does not routinely check emails on the weekend. So, if you leave a message after 5:00pm on Friday, you can anticipate a response on Monday.

**Important University Dates – Fall 2023 (UTEP Calendar)**

January 16  Classes Begin  
January 16-19  Late Registration  
January 31  Fall Census Day  
February 16  Graduation Application Deadline  
March 11-15  Spring Break  
March 28  Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline (Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.)  
March 29  Cesar Chavez Day (no classes)  
May 2  Last Day of Classes  
May 3  Dead Day  
May 6-10  Final Exams  
May 11-12  Commencement

**Important University Phone Numbers**

- History Department: 747-5508  
- History T.A. Office: 747-7056  
- Tutoring and Learning Center: 747-5366  
- Counseling Center: 747-5302  
- Police Department: 747-5611  
- Disabled Student Services: 747-5148  
- History Tutoring Center: 747-7060  
- UTEP Writing Center: 747-5112

Last revised January 15, 2024
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan 17)  Introduction and Overview
  • MONDAY – introductions, syllabus, course overview, primary vs.
    secondary sources, timeline and scope of the medieval era, maps

Week 2 (Jan 22 and 24)  Further Defining the Medieval Era
  DUE: both Book Reflections book choices emailed to Instructor –
  Friday, January 26, by 11:59pm
  • MONDAY – paleography, material history, “Dark Ages”
  • WEDNESDAY – Viking and Danish raids, Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

Week 3 (Jan 29 and 31)  Everyday Peasant Life
  DUE: Topic for research paper (research question + thesis statement) –
  Friday, Feb 2 by 11:59pm
  • MONDAY – language, ethnicity, travel
  • WEDNESDAY – marriage/family, social life, food and drink, death

Week 4 (Feb 5 and 7)  Everyday Peasant Life and Medieval Governance
  *both classes will be online
  • MONDAY – health, hygiene, the Plague
  • WEDNESDAY – governance/feudalism, kingship
  (Instructor will email Zoom links for both classes)

Week 5 (Feb 12 and 14)  Medieval Kings
  DUE: Book Reflection 1 – Friday, Feb 16, by 11:59pm
  • MONDAY – Anglo-Saxon kings, William the Conqueror, Norman
    invasion
  • WEDNESDAY – William Rufus, Henry I, Stephen, the Anarchy

Week 6 (Feb 19 and 21)  Medieval Kings
  • MONDAY – Henry II, Richard I, John, Barons Wars
  • WEDNESDAY – Henry III, Edward I, Edward II, Edward III

Week 7 (Feb 26 and 28)  Medieval Kings
  DUE: Outline for research paper – Friday, Mar 1, by 11:59pm
  • MONDAY – Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, Henry IV
  • WEDNESDAY – Wars of the Roses, Edward IV, Princes in the Tower,
    Richard III

Week 8 (Mar 4 and 6)  Mystery of Faith and Medieval Legends
  • MONDAY – pagan influence, the church, medieval papacy,
    saints/hagiography, pilgrimages/shrines, religious relics
  • WEDNESDAY – priestly lives, icons/miracles, blood libel

Week 9 (Mar 11 and 13)  SPRING BREAK (no classes)

Week 10 (Mar 18 and 20)  Mystery of Faith and Medieval Legends
  DUE: Book Reflection 2 – Friday, March 22, by 11:59pm
• MONDAY – monasteries, medieval orders, women
• WEDNESDAY – sagas, flat earth, King Arthur, other legends

Week 11 (Mar 25 and 27) Law and Justice
• MONDAY – Alfred the Great, Doomsday Book, Magna Carta
• WEDNESDAY – expulsion of the Jews, laws and punishment, Inns of Court, women

Week 12 (Apr 1 and 3) Architecture and Infrastructure
DUE: research paper rough draft – Friday, Apr 5, by 11:59pm
• MONDAY – Roman and Norman influence, Gothic cathedrals, royal/noble tombs
• WEDNESDAY – castles, walled cities, other structures

Week 13 (Apr 8 and 10) Art, Music, Literature
• MONDAY – media, themes, styles
• WEDNESDAY – Anglo-Saxon, Romanesque, Early Medieval, Gothic art

Week 14 (Apr 15 and 17) Warfare
DUE: research paper revision – Friday, Apr 19, by 11:59pm
• MONDAY – empires/nationalism, weapons
• WEDNESDAY – opposing sides, contemporary depictions

Week 15 (Apr 22 and 24) Warfare
DUE: extra credit – Friday, Apr 26, by 11:59pm
• MONDAY – crusades
• WEDNESDAY – Knights Templar, chivalry

Week 16 (Apr 29 and May 1) Medieval Elements in Today’s World
• MONDAY – the university system, monarchy, religion
• WEDNESDAY – architecture, art, literature, inventions, culture

May 2 Dead Day – no classes

May 5 DUE: Research Paper – no later than 11:59pm
(Late papers will NOT be accepted without a valid written, documented, University-approved excuse.)

SUGGESTED READING LIST – Book Reflections

Medieval Queenship
She-Wolves
The Greatest Knight
The White Ship
Saints and Sinners

John Carmi Parsons
Helen Castor
Thomas Asbridge
Charles Spencer
Eamon Duffy

Last revised January 15, 2024
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Light Ages . . . Medieval Science</td>
<td>Seb Falk</td>
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<td>Furta Sacra</td>
<td>Patrick J. Geary</td>
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<td>To Be the Neighbor of Saint Peter</td>
<td>Barbara H. Rosenwein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miracles and Pilgrims</td>
<td>Ronald C. Finucane</td>
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<td>Living with the Dead . . . Middle Ages</td>
<td>Patrick J. Geary</td>
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<td>Travels with a Medieval Queen</td>
<td>Mary Taylor Simeti</td>
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<td>The Anarchy</td>
<td>Creighton and Wright</td>
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<td>Under Crescent and Cross</td>
<td>Mark R. Cohen</td>
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<td>Magna Carta</td>
<td>David A. Carpenter</td>
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<td>A Great and Terrible King</td>
<td>Marc Morris</td>
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<td>Westminster Abbey: A Church in History</td>
<td>David Canadine</td>
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<td>The King’s Mother</td>
<td>Malcolm Underwood</td>
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<td>A Journal of the Plague Year</td>
<td>Daniel Defoe</td>
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<td>Marco Polo . . . Discovery of the World</td>
<td>John Larner</td>
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<td>King John</td>
<td>Stephen Church</td>
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<td>The Empress Matilda</td>
<td>Marjorie Chibnall</td>
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<td>The Anglo Saxons</td>
<td>Marc Morris</td>
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<td>Bankers to the Crown</td>
<td>R. Kaeuper</td>
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<td>The Song of Simon de Montfort</td>
<td>Sophie Ambler</td>
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<td>The Crusades</td>
<td>Jonathan Riley-Smith</td>
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<td>Years of Wonder: A Novel of the Plague</td>
<td>Geraldine Brooks</td>
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<td>For Honour and Fame: Chivalry . . .</td>
<td>Nigel Saul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard the Lionheart</td>
<td>John Gillingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Book of Margery Kempe</td>
<td>Margery Kempe</td>
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Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement

As members of the University of Texas at El Paso community, we acknowledge that we are meeting on unceded Indigenous land. We would like to recognize and pay our respects to the Indigenous people with long ties to the immediate region: the Lipan, Mescalero, and Chiricahua Apache; Piro; Manso; Suma; Jumano; Ysleta del Sur Pueblo; Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe; and Tortugas Pueblo. We also acknowledge the nations whose territories include present day Texas: the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Miakan-Garza Band, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, and the peoples of Chihuahua and northern Mexico from whom many of our students descend, such as the Rarámuri, Tepehuan, Wixarrika and Nahuaatlaca peoples. Finally, we recognize all of the Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories here in the Paso del Norte region. The University of Texas at El Paso honors your history and cultures, and we seek greater awareness of the many ways in which your legacy can guide us in fruitful partnerships and mutually fulfilling relationships.