

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 31033 History of Medieval Civilization

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Semester: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A study of the social class structure and Christianity in forming the institutions of medieval civilization, circa 1000-1350 A.D.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the basic forces, ideas, events, and personalities that shaped medieval society.
2. Use basic terminology and recognized the major historical debates about the Middle Ages.
3. Define the term feudalism and describe the feudal system's impact on European development.
4. Describe the economic systems of medieval Europe.
5. Describe the role of the Roman Catholic Church in the development of European society.
6. Describe the causes and effects of warfare in medieval Europe.
7. Interpret documents from the medieval era.
8. Use the World Wide Web as a resource to study history

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will synthesize materials from various sources to complete research projects and construct answers to essay examination questions.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine how events and ideas in medieval society and culture evolved, as well as to determine the contributions of this society to modern society.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will use the essay format for written presentation of research projects. Students will participate in class discussions relating to Medieval European history to enhance their ability to answer essay exam questions.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The Origins of Medieval Society; The Carolingian Empire
- B. The Medieval Catholic Church: The Papacy, Monasticism, Gregorian Reform, The 12th and 13th Century Churches, Heterodoxy, Theological Philosophy and Debate
- C. European Expansion; The Crusades; The Rise of Territorial Monarchies
- D. Spain: The Reconquista and Unification
- E. England: The Norman Conquest, The Plantagenets, The Magna Carta, Expansion into Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, the Birth of Parliament
- F. France: The Capatian Dynasty, Joan of Arc and the Development of French Nationalism
- G. Germany: The Hohenstaufens, Frederick II, The Collapse of the German Empire
- H. Medieval Society and Culture: The 12th Century Renaissance, The Revolution in Law, Origins of the University, Art and Literature in the 12th Century, The Schoolmen, Urban Culture
- I. The Fourteenth Century: Malthusian Crisis and the Black Death, Political and Ecclesiastical Turmoil