Course Description
This course will provide an introduction to Europe during the period 500-1350. Through lectures, discussion, audio-visual material, and the reading of diverse primary sources, students will develop a rich understanding of the people and places, culture and ideas that shaped Europe during the Middle Ages. Although the main focus will be on Western Europe, we will nevertheless also discuss developments in the Byzantine and Islamic worlds and how these affected medieval European culture and society.

Course Goals
1. To develop a general understanding of what happened during the Middle Ages.
2. To gain an appreciation for the ways in which modern biases shape our view of the past.
3. To learn how to analyze diverse genres of primary sources: edicts, hagiography, chronicles, literary texts, etc.
4. To improve reading skills and writing skills, particularly through the critical examination of important secondary articles.

Assignments and Grading
Students’ grades will be based on the following criteria:
1. Class participation (10%)
2. Five ½ to 1-page responses to a secondary article (20% total, 4% each)
3. One 3-page document analysis paper (15%)
4. 10-minute presentation (10%)
5. One 5-page book review (20%)
6. Take-Home Final Exam (25%)

Class Participation
Students are expected to come to class on time having already read the assigned reading. Since you cannot participate if you are not present, more than two unexcused absences will have a detrimental effect on your grade.

Take-Home Final Exam
The Final Exam will consist of two prompts, which you will have four days to answer. The questions will be related to material covered in the course. To answer them well, you will need to
review relevant primary and/or secondary readings discussed in class. The final must be submitted electronically using Pioneerweb.

Response Papers
The response papers are meant to improve your critical reading and writing skills. For five out of the seven secondary readings marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus, you will need to write a ½ to 1-page response. In your response, you need to explain:

1. what question the author is trying to answer;
2. what the author’s thesis is; and
3. how the author tries to prove his or her thesis, noting in particular the sources/types of evidence which the author makes use of.

Furthermore, you should state whether you find the author’s thesis convincing and why you feel the way you do. You may choose to do more than five reading responses; I will only count the top five grades. **Everyone must do the first reading response.** The responses are due in class on the day assigned.

Papers
The two papers are designed to exercise different skills. In the document analysis paper, you will be asked to analyze one or more primary sources and to discuss your interpretation of them in light of contemporary events and ideas. The book review will be based on your in-class presentation. In the paper, you will critique a book by a modern scholar. You will need to demonstrate an understanding of the scholar’s argument, methodology, and process of argumentation. And you will be asked to evaluate your book in light of class readings and the books assigned to other members of your panel.

Presentation
In the 10-minute presentation, you will be asked to explain the argument and methodology of your book. About two days before the presentation, you and the other members of your panel will be required to meet with me to go over the details of the presentation and to discuss the relationship between your respective books. You should prepare for this meeting by discussing with the other panel members what the larger issues and questions of your topic are.

Late Policy
All the due dates are marked clearly on the syllabus. It is your job to take notice of them and to hand in the assignments on time. The late penalty is one letter grade per day. After four days the assignment will receive an automatic F. Failure to hand in any of the major assignments will result in an F in the class.

Accommodations
If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, who is located on the third floor of the JRC (x3702).

Required Texts

**Abbreviations**

(E) = E-Reserve
(I) = Internet
(J) = J-Stor
(P) = Pioneerweb

**Schedule**

**Friday**
Aug. 28    Introduction

**Week 1: The End of the Roman World**

**Monday**
Aug. 31    The Roman World

**Wednesday**
Sept. 2    Christianity and the Roman Empire

**Friday**
Sept. 4    Barbarian Invasions

**Weeks 2-3: The Emergence of Three Civilizations: Latin Christendom, Byzantium, Islam**

**Monday**
Sept. 7    The Roman Legacy in the East: Byzantium

**Wednesday**
Sept. 9    Western Monasticism

**Friday**
Sept. 11   Catholicizing the West

**Monday**
Sept. 14   The Rise of Islam

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text/Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Al-Andalus</td>
<td>Rosenwein 167-71</td>
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<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Christians in Al-Andalus – PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td>(J) *Safran, “Identity and Differentiation in Ninth-Century Al-Andalus”</td>
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<td><strong>Weeks 4-5: The Carolingian World</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>The Early Carolingians</td>
<td>Bennett 97-104</td>
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<td>Sept. 21</td>
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<td>(J) *McKitterick, “The Illusion of Royal Power in the Carolingian Annals”</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Charlemagne</td>
<td>Bennett 104-18</td>
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<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Einhard’s <em>Life of Charlemagne</em></td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>The Carolingian Renaissance</td>
<td>Notker 94-102</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
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<td>(J) Trompf, “The Concept of the Carolingian Renaissance”</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Carolingian Society – PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<td>Sept. 28</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Decline of the Carolingians and the Vikings</td>
<td>Bennett 119-28</td>
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<td>Sept. 30</td>
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<td>(I) <em>Agobard, On the Division of the Empire</em></td>
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<td>(I) <em>Annals of Xanten</em></td>
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<td>Rosenwein 258-62</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>The Holy Roman Empire</td>
<td>Bennett 139-44</td>
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<td>Oct. 2</td>
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<td><strong>Document Analysis Assignment Due</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week 6: Post-Carolingian Chaos?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Castles and Castellans</td>
<td>Rosenwein 213-19, 221-22</td>
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<td>Oct. 5</td>
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<td>(J) Bisson, “Feudal Revolution”</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Peace of God and Truce of God</td>
<td>Rosenwein 219-21</td>
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<td>Oct. 7</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Public Order and Dispute Resolution – PRESENTATIONS</td>
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Towards a New European Order

Week 7: The Growth of Papal Monarchy

Monday    Reforming the Church
Oct. 12    Bennett 201-207, 240-46
           Rosenwein 281-85

Wednesday Law and the Growth of Bureaucracy
Oct. 14    Bennett 246-49
           Rosenwein 366-70
           (E) Excerpts from Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Consideration*

Friday    The Struggle for Power in Medieval Italy
Oct. 16    Bennett 250-60
           Rosenwein 374-378

----------------------Oct. 16-25: Fall Break----------------------

Week 8: Monetizing Society

Monday    The Agricultural and Commercial Revolutions
Oct. 26    Bennett 156-74
           Rosenwein 277-79

Wednesday Poverty and Heresy
Oct. 28    Bennett 186-201, 207-13
           Rosenwein 395-409

Friday    Life in Medieval Towns and Villages – PRESENTATIONS
Oct. 30    (I) William Fitz Stephen’s Description of London

Week 9: Europe’s External and Internal Frontiers

Monday    Medieval Iberia
Nov. 2     (J) *Lourie, “A Society Organized for War: Medieval Spain”
           (J) Fletcher, “Reconquest and Crusade in Spain c.1050-1150”

Wednesday Islam, Byzantium, and the Crusades
Nov. 4     Bennett 225-28
           Rosenwein 286-303

Friday    Pluralistic Societies – PRESENTATIONS
Nov. 6     (E) Bartlett, “Race Relations on the Frontiers of Latin Europe”
Week 10: New Learning
Monday Nov. 9  Cathedral Schools and Universities Bennett 307-19

Wednesday Nov. 11  Scholasticism Rosenwein 313-20
(I) Gratian, *Causa 29* (Noonan’s Translation)

Friday Nov. 13  New Learning – PRESENTATIONS

Week 11: The Emergence of the State
Monday Nov. 16  Nobles and Knights Peters 314-20
Rosenwein 384-94, 473-76

Wednesday Nov. 18  England and France in Comparative Perspective Bennett 128-32, 266-83
Rosenwein 304-308, 350-54, 371-74, 378-83

Friday Nov. 20  Aristocratic Society – PRESENTATIONS

Weeks 12-13: The Waning of the Middle Ages
Monday Nov. 23  Mongols and the East Rosenwein 414-27
(J) *Fletcher, “The Mongols: Ecological and Social Perspectives”*

Wednesday Nov. 25  Class Cancelled

Friday Nov. 27  Thanksgiving Break: No Class

Monday Nov. 30  Philip the Fair and Boniface VIII Bennett 262-64, 283-86
Rosenwein 455-59

Wednesday Dec. 2  The End of the Capetians and the beginning of the Hundred Years’ War Bennett 347-56
Rosenwein 512-24
(J) *Rogers, “The Military Revolutions of the Hundred Years’ War”*
Friday Dec. 4 Black Death
Bennett 321-36
Rosenwein 483-91

Week 14: Some Modern Perspectives on the Middle Ages
Monday The Christian Middle Ages
Dec. 7 (J) John Van Engen, “The Christian Middle Ages as an Historiographical Problem”

Wednesday The Birth of Europe
Dec. 9 (J) Richard E. Sullivan, “The Carolingian Age: Reflections on its Place in the History of the Middle Ages”
(J) Ross Balzaretti, “The Creation of Europe”

Friday Dec. 11 End of Course Evaluations; Review

Thursday, Dec. 17: Take-Home Final Exam Due

Christians in Al-Andalus

Carolingian Society

Public Order and Dispute Resolution
Pluralistic Societies

Town and Village Life

New Learning

Aristocratic Society