

History 335
Crusades and Crusading in the Middle Ages
TR 2:15-4:05pm
Mears 217

Professor John Wei
Mears Cottage 305
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Course Webpage: <https://pioneerweb.grinnell.edu>

Description

This research seminar will introduce students to modern debates and research on the crusades. In the first eight weeks, students will read extensively in the primary sources of the first four crusades and choose a research topic. Class discussion will focus on understanding these written texts as both literary works and historical sources. Weeks 9-14 will be run in a workshop format and will be devoted to students' research projects. We will meet weekly to discuss people's research, as well as for peer review sessions.

Goals

1. To gain an understanding of the crusades in their historical context.
2. To learn how modern Hollywood, colonial, and political depictions/interpretations of the crusades differ from the historical crusades.
3. To learn how historians use primary sources to create narratives about the past.
4. To learn how to read and analyze primary sources by reading and analyzing the primary sources of the first four crusades.
5. To learn how to research and critique secondary literature.
6. To produce a high-quality research paper.

Grading

1. Class participation, including occasional short writing assignments (40%)
2. Annotated bibliography (30%)
3. 20-30 page research paper (30%)

Class Participation

Students are expected to come to class on time, having read and reflected on the assigned material. Approximately once a week, students will be asked to prepare a short (10 minute) presentation on a pre-assigned topic – usually an event during or related to a crusade. To prepare for the presentation, students should consult one or more *printed* secondary sources. In the presentation, students should be sure to explain what their topic is, the primary sources that deal with their topic, and any issues debated in the secondary literature. Along with the presentation, they should create a brief handout summarizing the resources relating to their topic and the printed sources which they consulted. Preparing for the presentation, it is hoped, will not only contribute to meaningful class discussion, but also familiarize students with the main sources and

research tools necessary for compiling an annotated bibliography and writing a research paper on the crusades.

Annotated bibliography

In preparation for writing the research paper you will be asked to submit an annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography should be divided into two sections: one section on primary sources, the other on secondary sources. For each entry, you should provide a brief summary of the source and explain HOW and WHY the entry is relevant to your research question.

Research Paper Guidelines

Grades for the research paper will be based on the following criteria: a clearly formulated and non-trivial thesis, critical thinking and argumentation, mastery of the subject matter, good writing, and correct citation practices. In order to get an A, the research paper will need to excel in each of these areas.

Required Texts

First Crusade: The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres and Other Source Materials, ed. Edward Peters

Shlomo Eidelberg, ed., *The Jews and the Crusaders: The Hebrew Chronicles of the First and Second Crusade*

Baha al-Din, *The Rare and Excellent History of Saladin*, trans. D. S. Richards.

Anna Comnena, *The Alexiad*, trans. E. R. A. Sewter (Penguin Classics)

Jean de Joinville and Geoffrey de Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (Penguin Classics)

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).

Abbreviations

(E) = E-Reserve

(I) = Internet

(J) = J-STOR

(P) = Pioneerweb (Blackboard)

(R) = On reserve in Burling

Weeks 1-8: Common Reading

Thursday
Aug. 27 Introduction, Overview, and Research methods

Just War, Holy War, and Jihad

Tuesday
Sept. 1 Just War and Holy War in the Christian Tradition
(E) Johnson, "Historical Roots and Sources of the Just War Tradition in Western Culture," ch.1 of Kelsay and Johnson, eds., *Just War and Jihad*
(E) Tyerman, *Fighting for Christendom: Holy War and the Crusades*, ch. 5
(I) Augustine, [Letter 185](#) to Boniface – focus especially on chapters 3.12-14, 6.23-24, 8.32-34

Thursday
Sept. 3 Jihad
(E) Donner, "The Sources of Islamic Conceptions of War," ch. 2 of Kelsay and Johnson, eds., *Just War and Jihad*
(E) Bonney, *Jihad*, chs. 1-2

The First Crusade

Tuesday
Sept. 8 Byzantium between Norman and Turk
(P) Orderic Vitalis on the Normans
Alexiad, books 4-6 & 9

Thursday
Sept. 10 The First Crusade and the First Crusaders
Alexiad, books 10-11.7
Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres (pp. 47-101 of *First Crusade*)

Assignment: 10-minute presentations on the First Crusade

Tuesday
Sept. 15 Calling the First Crusade
First Crusade: The Chronicle... pp. 25-46 and 49-53
(J) [Charanis, "A Greek Source on the Origin of the First Crusade"](#)
(J) [Charanis, "Aims of the Medieval Crusades and How They Were Viewed by Byzantium"](#)

Assignment: Succinctly summarize the main argument of Charanis' article on the "Aims of the Medieval Crusaders" and the evidence on which he bases his argument. How strong is his evidence?

Thursday
Sept. 17 Carving out Crusader Kingdoms
Alexiad, books 11.8-14
(E) Al-Athir
(J) [Riley-Smith, "The Motives of the Earliest Crusaders and the Settlement of Latin Palestine, 1095-1100"](#)

Assignment: 10-minute presentations on the Crusader states

The Second Crusade

Tuesday
Sept. 22 The Loss of Edessa and Calls for a Crusade
(R) Odo of Deuil, *The Journey of Louis VII to the East*, Books 1-2
(E) Otto of Freising, *Deeds of Frederick Barbarossa*, 63-81
(I) [Conrad's Letter to Pope Eugenius III](#)
(E) Rowe, "The Origins of the Second Crusade"
(E) Ferzoco, "The Origin of the Second Crusade"

Thursday
Sept. 24 What happened during the Second Crusade?
(R) Odo of Deuil, *The Journey of Louis VII to the East*, Books 3-7
(E) Otto of Freising, *Deeds of Frederick Barbarossa*, 101-111
(E) John of Salisbury, *Memoirs of the Papal Court*
(E) John Kinnamos, *Deeds of John and Manuel Comnenus*
(E) William of Tyre, *A History of Deeds Done Beyond the Sea*

Assignment: 10-minute presentations on the Second Crusade

The Jewish Experience

Tuesday
Sept. 29 The First Crusade: *Jews and the Crusaders*, 15-115

Thursday
Oct. 1 The Second Crusade, Blood Libel, and the Rise of Anti-Semitism
1. *Jews and the Crusaders*, 117-33
2. (J) [Ocker, "Ritual Murder and the Subjectivity of Christ"](#)

Assignment: 10-minute presentations on blood libel and anti-semitism
1. (J) [Langmuir, "Thomas of Monmouth: Detector of Ritual Murder"](#)
2. (J) [McCulloh, "Jewish Ritual Murder: William of Norwich, Thomas of Monmouth, and the Early Dissemination of the Myth"](#)
3. Robert Chazan, *Medieval Stereotypes and Modern Antisemitism* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997)
4. Dan Cohn-Sherbok, *The Crucified Jew: Twenty Centuries of Christian Anti-Semitism* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans, 1997)
5. Anna Sapir Abulafia, *Christians and Jews in the Twelfth-Century Renaissance* (New York: Routledge, 1995)

The Later Crusades

Tuesday
Oct. 6 The Kingdom of Jerusalem and the Rise of Saladin
1. [Itinerary of Richard I](#) 1-20
2. *The Rare and Excellent History* 17-113

Thursday
Oct. 8 England and France during the Third Crusade
1. (I) [Richard of Devizes](#)

2. (I) [Deeds of Philip Augustus](#) (read years 8-10)

Tuesday
Oct. 13 Richard the Lionhearted in the Holy Land

1. (I) [Itinerary of Richard I](#) 62-63, 77-80, 91-166, 199-286
2. *The Rare and Excellent History* 118-245

Assignment: 10-minute presentations on the Third Crusade

Thursday
Oct. 15 Richard the Lionhearted in the Holy Land continued

Fall Break: Oct. 17-25

Crusades Outside the Holy Land

Tuesday
Oct. 27 Definition of the Crusades and the Theaters of War
 (E) Housley, *Contesting the Crusades*, chs. 1 and 5

Thursday
Oct. 29 The Fourth Crusade

1. (E) Background reading from *The Papal Monarchy* on the papacy and the Holy Roman Empire
2. Villehardouin
3. (J) [Queller, "Some Arguments in Defense of the Venetians on the Fourth Crusade"](#)

Research and Workshop Meetings Weeks 9-14

Friday, Nov. 6: Annotated Bibliography Draft Due

Thursday, Dec. 3: 8 Page Draft Due

Thursday, Dec. 17: Final Paper Due, Final Annotated Bibliography Due