History 335
Crusades and Crusading in the Middle Ages
MW 2:15-4:05
ARH 223

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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 seven 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 8-13 will be devoted to special topics
and students’ research projects. A different student/group of students will be responsible for
structuring class discussion in the remaining weeks and assigning (short) readings for the rest of
the class. This exercise will help students become familiar with their classmates’ research area
and teach them how to understand and frame their own research within a broader context.

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
Grading will be based on class participation (50%) and the research paper (50%), which should
be 20-30 pages.

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.

Attendance Policy
Missing more than two days of class will result in an F.
Class Wiki
Your participation grade includes your contributions to the class wiki. For each of the first seven weeks, you will have to contribute one, 50-100 word entry to the class wiki in Pioneerweb. Each entry must have a bibliography section, where you provide the full citation information of one book or article – which does not have to be in English – relevant to your topic. Make sure that your citations are correctly formatted according to the guidelines of the Chicago Manual of Style for bibliography entries. Links to web pages are welcome, but cannot be substituted for printed resources.

Research Paper Guidelines
In order to facilitate the research process and ensure the timely submission of the paper, you will be required to submit a series of preliminary documents throughout the semester. Within the first two weeks (before Jan. 30), you will email me with a two-sentence description of a topic that you are interested in. You will then meet with me before turning in a one-page proposal at the beginning of the seventh week (March 7), which will describe your topic and the primary sources that you will use in your research. Along with the paper proposal, you will also submit a preliminary bibliography. After Spring break you will turn in an updated bibliography and a two-page essay summarizing the historiography on your topic (March 30). One week later (Apr. 6) you will need to submit a one-page summary of your main argument. An eight-page draft is due in the twelfth week (Apr. 20), the full draft (20-30 pages) in the fourteenth week (May 4), and the final version (20-30 pages) on May 15.

Optional Texts

Required Texts


*Arab Historians of the Crusades*, trans. and ed. Francesco Gabrieli.

Weeks 1-7: Common Reading

**The First Crusade**

Jan. 19 Calling the First Crusade
*First Crusade: The Chronicle...* pp. 25-46 and 49-53
Charanis, “A Greek Source on the Origin of the First Crusade”
Charanis, “Aims of the Medieval Crusades and How They Were Viewed by Byzantium”

Jan. 21 The Deeds of the Franks
Fulcher of Chartres, Book 1
Munro, “A Crusader”

Jan. 26 A Greek Perspective: *Anna Comnena, The Alexiad* (books 4-6, 9-12)
Jan. 28  Muslim Perspectives: Arab Historians of the Crusade 3-35

The Second Crusade
Feb. 2  The Loss of Edessa and Calls for a Crusade
      Arab Historians 36-55
      Otto of Freising, Deeds of Frederick Barbarossa, 63-81 (E-Reserve)
      Odo of Deuil, The Journey of Louis VII to the East, Books 1-2 (Reserve)
      Conrad’s Letter to Pope Eugenius III

Feb. 4  What happened during the Second Crusade?
      Otto of Freising, Deeds of Frederick Barbarossa, 101-111 (E-Reserve)
      Odo of Deuil, The Journey of Louis VII to the East, Books 3-7 (Reserve)
      Arab Historians 56-84

The Jewish Experience
Feb. 9  The First Crusade: Jews and the Crusaders, 15-115

Feb. 11 The Second Crusade
      Jews and the Crusaders, 117-33
      Letters of St. Bernard
      Berger, “The Attitude of St. Bernard Towards the Jews”
      Ocker, “Ritual Murder and the Subjectivity of Christ”

The Third Crusade
Feb. 16 The Rise of Saladin
      1. Arab Historians 87-208
      2. Itinerary of Richard I, pp. 1-20

Feb. 18 The abortive Crusade of Frederick Barbarossa
      1. Itinerary of Richard I, pp. 21-38

Feb. 23 Richard the Lionhearted in the Holy Land
      1. Richard of Devizes
      2. Arab Historians 208-252

The Fourth Crusade
Feb. 25 The Venetians in the Fourth Crusade
      1. Geoffrey de Villehardouin

Mar. 2 Conquest of Constantinople: Robert of Clari, chapters 61-80
Paper Topics Due

Mar. 4  The Papacy and the Fourth Crusade
  1. Letters of Innocent III

Research and Special Topics
Weeks 8-14
Possible Topics
  Economics of Crusading
  Crusader Legal Status
  Crusader States
  Christian-Muslim Interaction in the Crusader States
  Military Orders
  Crusading in Medieval Literature

Mar. 30  Bibliography and Historiographical Summary Due
Apr. 6   Argument Due
Apr. 20  8 Page Draft Due
May 4    Full Draft Due
May 15   Final Version Due