

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

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Mears Cottage 210  
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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**

Christopher Tyerman, *The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction*, 2005.

## **Required Texts**

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

*The Jews and the Crusaders: the Hebrew chronicles of the First and Second Crusades*, trans. Shlomo Eidelberg.

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

## **Weeks 1-7: Common Reading**

### **The First Crusade**

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|---------|---|
| Jan. 19 | Calling the First Crusade<br><i>First Crusade: The Chronicle...</i> pp. 25-46 and 49-53<br><a href="#">Charanis, "A Greek Source on the Origin of the First Crusade"</a><br><a href="#">Charanis, "Aims of the Medieval Crusades and How They Were Viewed by Byzantium"</a> |
| Jan. 21 | The Deeds of the Franks<br>Fulcher of Chartres, Book 1<br><a href="#">Munro, "A Crusader"</a>   |
| Jan. 26 | A Greek Perspective: <a href="#">Anna Comnena, <i>The Alexiad</i> (books 4-6, 9-12)</a>   |

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  
2. [Brand, "The Byzantines and Saladin, 1185-1192: Opponents of the Third Crusade"](#)

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](#)  
2. [Queller, "Some Arguments in Defense of the Venetians on the Fourth Crusade"](#)

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](#)
  2. [Queller, "The Fourth Crusade: The Neglected Majority"](#)

## 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**