EUROPE IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES
MWF 3–4pm — Buchanan B208 — Michaelmas Term, 2013

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Office Hours: MWF 4–5pm or by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES
This course will explore political, cultural, social and economic history from late antiquity to the end of the early Middle Ages, particularly in western Europe, but with mention of Byzantium, the Middle East, and eastern/northern Europe. Themes to be explored include the continuity of Roman institutions and traditions, systems of government, the use of the written word, and the evolution of Christian belief and practice. Heavy emphasis on reading primary sources and their analysis. Students will learn the major characters, realms, events and historical forces of the period, be able to discuss intelligently the context and significance of assigned primary sources, critically summarise and assess scholarly literature on particular points, and argue cogently regarding the material presented in the lectures and readings.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
Peter Brown, The World of Late Antiquity (NY & London: Norton, 1989 [1971]).

OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK
Barbara Rosenwein, A Short History of the Middle Ages, vol. 1 (Toronto: UTP, 2009).

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES
Available online through the UBC Library portal.
Excellent, well-written chapters covering the period 500–1000, by a variety of experts.

Available online through the UBC Library portal.
Like the above, but covering the period 200–600.

The International Medieval Bibliography, searchable database of articles covering the period 400–1500, online through UBC Library portal.
Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages & Renaissance: another searchable database of articles covering the period 400–1700, online through UBC Library portal.

READINGS
Students are responsible for all assigned readings. These will supplement the class lectures but are not a substitute for attending class. Assigned readings will average about 100 pages per week. Readings can be completed during the week for which they are assigned, but note that the reading responses are due most Fridays.

EVALUATION
Listed by Weight

Final Exam (40%): in the main, this will consist of: (a) several primary source passages from the assigned reading, which students will need to identify and explain the significance of; (b) a list of about 5 essay questions, of which students will answer two. [December, exact date TBA]
Wikipedia Article (25%): students will prepare a Wikipedia article about an approved early-medieval topic. Length will be 1500 to 3000 words. Further particulars for this assignment will be provided in a separate document by the instructor. [Topic choice due date: 5pm, Tuesday, Oct 1; standalone article due at end of class, Oct 18; implementation of article by 5pm, Nov 4]

Reading Responses (15%): students will **handwrite** short (1 page, 400 word **maximum**) responses to the weekly primary source readings, based on a question the instructor will announce in class the week before; the question will also be posted on the course website on the Monday of the week they are due. These will be due on the Friday following the announcement of the question. They will be marked for completion only, i.e. students who write a satisfactory response will receive full marks for that response. Students who do not write the response will not receive the mark. There will be 9 responses assigned, of which students must complete at least 8 (each worth 1.875%) to receive the full 15%. [Due dates marked on class schedule below]

Mid-term Test (15%): essentially an in-class ‘practice’ for the final exam, it will have exactly the same format, but be much shorter. It will cover all readings and material assigned to Oct. 4 inclusive. Only one essay will be required, and students will only need to choose one primary source (out of 2 presented) to identify and explain. **[Friday, Oct. 11]**

Discretionary (5%): in class participation, especially in discussion. This can comprise students asking the instructor questions, answering the instructor’s questions, and/or responding to other students’ comments.

**PRACTICALITIES**

Submitting Essays: The primary source essay should be submitted at the end of class on the listed due date. Requests to submit the same day to the instructor’s office may be considered if submitted in writing a minimum of 24 hours before the end of said class. Penalty for lateness will be 10% per day. Unless given special, written permission by the instructor, students may not submit essays electronically. All essays **must** have the following statement on the cover-page, signed and dated by the student:

> This essay is the result of my own work and includes nothing which is the work of others, or the outcome of work done in collaboration. It has not been previously submitted for assessment in any other class. I am aware of the U.B.C. policy on academic misconduct


(SIGNATURE) (DATE)

Typed Name

Submitting Responses: These must be submitted **HANDWRITTEN** (so that you can get practice in this dying art!), on the Friday of the relevant week. Penalties for lateness will be 10% of the completion mark per day.

Mid-term Test: There will be no rewrites for this test. If students miss this test without a valid reason, they will receive a mark of 0. If a student misses this test with a valid reason, the mark for the test will be rolled into their final exam, which will therefore be weighted as 50% of their final mark.

Special Accommodations: Please note that requests for special dispensations for whatever reason (e.g. recalculation of marks) will not be considered official unless submitted as a signed, written request, addressed to the instructor, delivered to the History department office.

Attendance & Classroom Policies Attendance will not be taken by the instructor, but frequent absences will obviously weigh against a good participation mark, deprive you of the chance to get the response question early, on Fridays, and of the content of lectures for which they are responsible. Needless to say, students should come to class to listen to and discuss the course material. Disruptive (understood in the broadest sense) students will be asked to leave.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS AND EVALUATION DATES**

**Week 1, Sept. 4–6: Introduction**

**Topics:** Periodisation, the idea of ‘the Dark Ages’; sources of late-antique and early-medieval history.


**Week 2, Sept. 9–13:**

*Topics:* The (later) Roman world: its character and function. The beginnings of Christianity.

*Readings:* BWLA, chs. 1–4, pp. 11–59; WIR, ch. 2, pp. 21–49.

Pliny the Elder, Natural History, bk. 3, introduction and chs. 1 & 6 + bk. 37, ch. 77 (online); Cassius Dio, Roman History, XXXVIII.35–46 (course website); Cicero, De Inventione, bk. 1, chs. 1–7 (online); Pliny the Younger, Letters, X.96 & 97 (online); Passion of Perpetua and Felicity, in GR.

*Assessment:* Reading response #1, on primary sources for this week.

**Week 3, Sept. 16 & 20:**

*Topics:* Christianity and the Roman world. The ‘fall’ of the Empire in the West.

*Readings:* WIR, chs. 3–4, pp. 50–108.

Augustine, On Christian Doctrine, in GR; Jordanes, in GR.

*Assessment:* Reading response #2, on primary sources for this week.

**Week 4, Sept. 23–27:**

*Topics:* Italy and the Papacy.


Paul the Deacon, History of the Lombards, i-Liv (pp. 1–7), I.xxivii (pp. 49–52), II.iv-v (pp. 56–61), II.xxviii (pp. 81–83) (online); Pope Gregory I, Letters, I.24, III.61, IV.23, VI.6, XI.37 (course website); Liber Pontificalis, cc. 60–86 (Agapitus to Sergius), in Davis, The Book of Pontiffs (Liverpool, 2000), pp. 55–89 (course website).

*Assessment:* Reading response #3, on primary sources for this week.

**Week 5, Sept. 30 – Oct. 4:**

*Topics:* Merovingian Francia & Germany. Culture and belief before the Carolingians.

*Readings:* WIR, Ch. 5, pp. 111–129; Ch. 8, pp. 170–202.


*Assessment:* Topic choice for Wikipedia article by Oct 1. Reading response #4, on primary sources for this week.

**Week 6, Oct. 7–11:**

*Topics:* Byzantium


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1 Classes suspended Sept. 18 for the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada National Event.
Assessment: Mid-term test, Friday, Oct 11.

**Week 7, Oct. 16–18:**

**Topics:** Visigothic and Islamic Spain.

**Readings:**
- WIR, ch. 6, pp. 130–140; ch. 14, pp. 338–347; ch. 20, pp. 500–505.

Assessment: Standalone version of Wikipedia article due Oct 18.

**Week 8, Oct. 21–25:**

**Topics:** Islam and Outer Europe

**Readings:**

Assessment: Reading response #5, on primary sources for this week.

**Week 9, Oct. 28 – Nov. 1:**

**Topics:** Anglo-Saxon England and Ireland.

**Readings:**
- Bede, History of the English Church and People, in GR; Bede, On Genesis, preface and bk. 1.1–8, trans. Kendall, pp. 65–78 (course website); The Ruin, Anglo-Saxon poem (online); Penitential of Theodore, in GR.

Assessment: Reading response #6, on primary sources for this week.

**Week 10, Nov. 4–8:**

**Topics:** Carolingians I: Politics and Government. Class in the Rare Books library (inside I.K. Barber) on Nov. 8th.

**Readings:**
- WIR, ch. 16, pp. 375–404.
- Einhard, Life of Charles the Great in GR; Selected Capitularies, in GR.


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2 No classes on Monday, Oct. 14, for the Canadian Thanksgiving holiday.
Week 11, Nov. 13–15:
Topics: Carolingians II: Culture and Learning
Readings: WIR, ch. 17, pp. 405–426; McKitterick, 'The Carolingian Renaissance of Culture and Learning', in Story, Charlemagne: Empire and Society, pp. 151–166 (course website)
St Benedict of Nursia, Rule for Monasteries, in GR; Walafrid Strabo, Visio Wettini, trans. Pollard (course website); Dhuoda, Handbook (Liber Manualis), in GR.
Assessment: Reading response #7, on primary sources for this week.

Week 12, Nov. 18–22:
Topics: Economy and Society in the Early Middle Ages.

Assessment: Reading response #8, on primary sources for this week.

Week 13, Nov. 25–29:
Topics: Post-Carolingian Europe; overview and review.
Readings: WIR, ch. 18, pp. 427–452.

Vision of Charles the Fat, trans. Dutton (course website); Hincmar of Rheims, On the Governance of the Palace, trans. Herlihy (course website); Liutprand of Cremona, Chronicle of Otto’s Reign, in GR.
Assessment: Reading response #9, on primary sources for this week.

Exam: date TBA

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3 No classes on Monday, Nov. 11, for the Remembrance holiday.