

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

I. Basic Information

Course: MEM 3300-- "Castles and Cloisters: An Introduction to Medieval Communities"

Instructor: Will Hasty hasty@ufl.edu. This is an online course. Be in touch with me if you would like to set up an appointment to talk in person. I'm in Dauer 263a.



II. Description.

In this online course you will learn how monasteries and castles serve as the hubs of cultural developments in the medieval period. You will become familiar with different fundamental ways in which people "organize" and "orient" themselves (and the people, spaces, and things around them) both in relation to the perceived permanence of the heavenly afterlife, and also in relation to the changeable, transitory, "perishable goods" of spatio-temporal life in this world. While we observe that culture in the Middle Ages (as opposed to the [early] modern period) still operates according to *communal* cultural parameters, according to which the individual self is not yet in a position to claim experiences and things *for itself alone*, we observe innovative new *absolute dispositions of self*, first in the absolute dedication of self to God that is the foremost characteristic of Christian monastic culture, then in the new and different kinds of absolute dedications of self that one observes in courtly-chivalric culture, for example in adventure and love as depicted in court poetry. In readings and course assignments, you will observe how such cultural developments play out in religion, art, architecture, poetry, music, and other ways in which people organize their lives in the medieval period.

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II. Due Dates of Assignments.

<u>Module #</u>	<u>Module material opens</u>	<u>Discussion Posts and Timeline Post Confirmations are Due</u>	<u>Discussion (As</u>
Module 1	Monday, January 8, 12:05 am	Friday, January 12, 10:00 pm	Sunday, J

Module 2	Monday, January 15, 12:05 am	Friday, January 19, 10:00 pm	Sunday, J
Module 3	Monday, January 22, 12:05 am	Friday, January 26, 10:00 pm	Sunday J
Module 4	Monday, January 29, 12:05 am	Friday, February 2, 10:00 pm	Sunday, I
Module 5*	Monday, February 5, 12:05 am	Friday, February 9, 10:00 pm	Sunday, F
Module 6	Monday, February 12, 12:05 am	Friday, February 16, 10:00 pm	Sunday, F
Module 7	Monday, February 19, 12:05 am	Friday, February 23, 10:00 pm	Sunday, F
Module 8	Monday, February 26, 12:05 am	Friday, March 2, 10:00 pm	Sunday,
Module 9	Monday, March 5, 12:05 am (beginning of Spring Break)	Friday, March 16, 10:00 pm	Sunday,
Module 10**	Monday, March 19, 12:05	Friday, March 23, 10:00 pm	Sunday,
Module 11	Monday, March 26, 12:05 am	Friday, March 30, 10:00 pm (Homecoming)	Sunday
Module 12	Monday, April 2, 12:05 am	Friday, April 6, 10:00 pm	Sunday
Module 13	Monday, April 9, 12:05 am	Friday, April 13, 10:00 pm	Sunday,
Module 14***	Monday, April 16, 12:05 am	deadlines vary - see module	deadline

Discussions are due Fridays by 10:00 pm. Discussions posted between Friday 10:00 and Sunday 11:59 are late and will receive only half credit at best. No discussions will be considered after the Sunday deadline. Comments are due by the Sunday deadline.

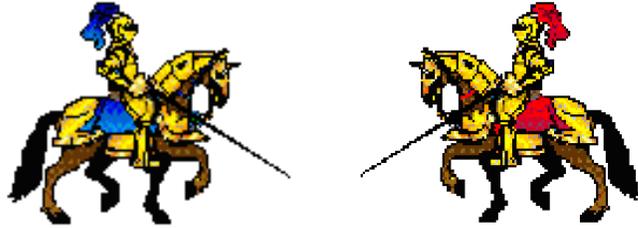
All other assessments and quizzes (i.e. questions on the readings, videos, the "Virtual Visits," etc.) are due by Sunday 11:59.

If you need walk-in help from the UF Computing Helpdesk (392-HELP) with hardware, software, or any e-learning interface issues, make sure you take care of this in a timely way during the work week so that you will be able to submit by the Friday due date. You can receive help by phone from the UF Computing Helpdesk 24/7.

* Test #1 will be available from Friday, February 9, 12:05 am to Sunday, February 11, 11:59 pm.

**Test #2 will be available from Friday, March 23, 12:05 am to Sunday, March 25, 11:59 pm.

*** Test #3 will be available to take between ?????????December 7, 12:05 am until December 16, 10:00 pm.



III. Texts.

1. C.H. Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism: Forms of Religious Life in Western Europe in the Middle Ages*. 3rd edition (London: Longman, 2001).
2. Joseph and Frances Gies, *Life in a medieval Castle* (New York: Harper and Row, 1974).
3. Hartmann von Aue, *Arthurian Romances, Tales, and Lyric Poetry* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001)
4. Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*, trans. A.T. Hatto (New York: Penguin Classics, 1980)
4. [St. Augustine, *Christian Doctrine \(de doctrina christiana\)* \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
5. [Boethius, *The consolation of Philosophy* \(selections\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
6. [The Rule of St. Benedict \(excerpts\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
7. [Life of St. Antony \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
[\(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
8. [Bernard of Clairvaux, *Liber ad milites Templi \(On the New Knighthood\)*. \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
9. [Hildegard von Bingen, selected letters from her correspondence to famous contemporaries \(use VPN server if attempting to access from off campus\). \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
10. Occasionally you will be referred to other texts, videos, musical pieces, etc. in the course modules.

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IV. Assignments.

1. **Three Tests.** The three timed tests are the most challenging tasks in this course. You will do best if you familiarize yourself with the module materials as closely as possible. You will

respond to questions in a 60-minute period, with an additional 30 minute review period allowed (i.e. total of 90 minutes), so you will need to make sure you feel in command of the material when you start your test. There will be short answer type questions in which you briefly discuss the significance of passages from the literary texts. There will be true-false, multiple-choice and multiple answer type questions about the content of my module lectures. I will randomly draw some questions from those on the books by Lawrence (*Medieval Monasticism*) and Gies (*Life in a Medieval Castle*) -- these are the questions you have already seen and to which you have already responded, so it should be relatively easy to prepare for this part of the test.

2. [Midterm Project](#) and [Final Project](#). Together with your Group members, you will complete collaboratively a midterm and a final project. Links in the course modules to the Midterm and Final Project provide additional information.

3. Discussions and Comments. Most modules have discussion prompts, which ask you to think both critically and creatively about the texts you are reading and other topics of interest in this course. **You will be graded both for the quality of your thinking and for the quality of your writing**, so might want to consider beginning the textual part of your discussions (and possibly even your comments) in a Word document and working on it there as a draft until you are sure it is ready to submit in the course. You will also be graded for completeness, so make sure you have addressed all parts of the discussion prompt and, as necessary, provided any illustrative visual material (i.e. such as pictures). In most cases you should be able to respond to discussion prompts with about 1-2 typescript pages of text (ca. 300-500 words), which of course should be your own writing. Try to not to go too far over 500 words. All of the aforementioned applies, though to a lesser degree (because they will be briefer), to the comments that you will make on one of your peer's Discussions. Comments have no word-limits, but make sure your comments are substantive, i.e. that you are not merely parroting something in the discussion, but that you are thinking some aspect of the discussion through and showing that you are able to understand and appreciate the implications and add a new perspective, however subtle it might be. **You will not automatically receive full points merely for the submission of discussion and comments; only very good ones will receive full points.** Consult the Discussion and Comment Rubric for details on the grading of Discussions and Comments.

4. Questions on the main secondary Texts: Lawrence's *Medieval Monasticism* and Gies' *Life in a Medieval Castle*

For each reading assignments in these texts (which are indicated in the "to do" lists in the individual modules) you will answer a number of graded content questions. If you do the reading carefully, you should not have much difficulty answering all of these questions correctly. Some questions in the three Tests will be drawn randomly from these study questions, so if you are familiar with these questions and their answers, you will be well prepared for this part of the tests.

5. Virtual Visits. As part of the course you will take "Virtual Visits" to individual sites of interest in this course, particularly sites connected to monasteries and castles. The aim of these visits is to provide some immediate impressions of the sights and sounds associated with these important

historical buildings and their frequently bucolic settings. You should find the questions associated with the Virtual Visits quite straightforward.

6. Video material and questions. This course employs some additional video material to complement and embellish the module topics. Students are responsible for watching the videos carefully, and then responding as necessary to any associated questions or tasks. Figures, events, artistic works, etc. that you see in the videos would be entirely appropriate material to use for your MyHistro Timeline posts, by the way.

7. Timeline entries and posts in MyHistro, and final Timeline synthesis paper: [Click here for information.](#)



V. Grade percentages.

Tests= 25%

Projects= 20% (10% each for Midterm and Final Project)

Comments/Discussions= 30%

Questions on readings in Lawrence and Gies/Virtual Visits/Questions on Videos= 15%

Timeline entries, posts, and final synthesis paper= 10%

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VI. Grading Scale.

A 93

A- 90

B+ 87

B 83

B- 80

C+ 77

C 73

C- 70

etc.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Jan 12, 2018	Module 1 Discussion due by 10pm	
Sun Jan 14, 2018	Lawrence, chapter 1	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: An Ancient Fortification and Temple: Hadrian's Wall and the Pantheon	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 19, 2018	Module 2 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 2 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Jan 21, 2018	Lawrence, chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
	Patterns of Monastic Life	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 26, 2018	Module 3 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 3 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Jan 28, 2018	Lawrence, chapter 3	due by 11:59pm
	Lawrence, chapter 4	due by 11:59pm
	The Rule	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Lindisfarne and Holy Island -- Northumbria	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 2, 2018	Module 4 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 4 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Feb 4, 2018	Lawrence, chapter 5	due by 11:59pm
	Lawrence, chapter 6	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Cluny Abbey -- Burgundy	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 9, 2018	Module 5 Discussion	due by 10pm
Sun Feb 11, 2018	Lawrence, chapter 8	due by 11:59pm
	Lawrence, chapter 9	due by 11:59pm
	Test 1	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Fontenay Abbey -- Burgundy	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Tintern Abbey -- Wales	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 16, 2018	Module 6 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 6 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Feb 18, 2018	Lawrence, chapter 11	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Feb 25, 2018	Lawrence, chapter 12	due by 11:59pm
	Medieval Music	due by 11:59pm
	Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Monk	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Sinagoga de Samuel Halevi Abulafia -- Toledo	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: The Mesquita -- Córdoba	due by 11:59pm
	Gies, chapter 1	due by 11:59pm
	Lawrence, chapter 13	due by 11:59pm
Lawrence, chapter 14	due by 11:59pm	
Lay of Hildebrand	due by 11:59pm	
Module 7 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 11:59pm	
Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Knight	due by 11:59pm	
Visit: Chepstow Castle -- Wales	due by 11:59pm	
Fri Mar 2, 2018	Module 8 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 8 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Mar 11, 2018	Gies, chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
	Gies, chapter 3	due by 11:59pm
	Patterns of Chivalric Life	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 16, 2018	Module 9 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 9 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Mar 18, 2018	Gies, chapter 4	due by 11:59pm
	Gies, chapter 6	due by 11:59pm
	Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Damsel	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Beaumaris Castle -- Angelsey, Wales	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 23, 2018	Module 10 Discussion	due by 10pm
Sun Mar 25, 2018	Gies, chapter 7	due by 11:59pm
	Gies, chapter 8	due by 11:59pm
	Test 2	due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Castel Sant' Angelo -- Rome	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 30, 2018	Module 11 Discussion	due by 10pm
Sun Apr 1, 2018	Gies, chapter 9	due by 11:59pm
	Terry Jones "Medieval Lives": The Peasant	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 6, 2018	Module 12 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Module 12 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Apr 8, 2018	Gies, chapter 10	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
Fri Apr 13, 2018	Visit: Alcazaba of Almería -- Almería due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Alhambra -- Granada due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 13, 2018	Module 13 Discussion due by 10pm
	Module 13 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Apr 15, 2018	Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Minstrel due by 11:59pm
	Visit: Wildenburg -- Odenwald due by 11:59pm