THE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course description

The German medievalist Eckhard Müller-Mertens once wrote that he could accept only a strictly geographic definition of medieval Germany. Indeed, there was no such thing as Germany in the Middle Ages. No term in medieval German existed for what we now know as "Germany." It was only in the 1500s that the term Deutschland came to be used and the term received its nationalistic ring only in the nineteenth century. The land and the people whose medieval history is to be the subject of this course were known by a great variety of names. Most of the provinces of which modern Germany is made up were incorporated into the Frankish Empire, a process completed only during the reign of Charlemagne (768-814). In 800, Charlemagne adopted the title of "emperor of the Romans," but in the tenth century, the eastern parts of his empire came to be known as the East Frankish kingdom, united since 961 with the Lombard kingdom consisting of northern Italy and augmented by the Saxon conquests of the Slavic territories in the East, across the Elbe River. It was only during the eleventh century that the term regnum Teutonicum ("the kingdom of the Germans") came to be used. German historians have traditionally referred to the medieval history of Germany as the period of the "old empire." The medieval empire was "old" in contrast to the German Empire established in 1871. It is
with this idea in mind that the Nazis called their Germany "the third empire (Reich)," after the medieval and modern one. So what was medieval Germany? What makes it so difficult to represent by the traditional means of Western historiography and so easy to manipulate in the modern political discourse? What were the historical conditions in which German kingship came to represent the earthly vicariate for Christ, the epitome of the State whose main reason to exist was to protect the Church? How were ethnic identities formed and under what circumstances did the Holy Roman (-German) Empire come into being? Above all, this course aims to provide answers to some of these questions. We will explore social and political issues of German medieval history and examine various aspects of daily life and Church organization. Following a chronological order, we will look, each week, at the questions and problems raised by the study of the entire region of Central Europe, and at some of the primary sources from which historians draw their analysis.

**TEXTBOOKS**


**Assignments:**

There is no attendance policy, but you are responsible for attending all lectures and reading the required texts. Class participation may be taken into account to determine the overall grade. The basis for evaluation of performance will be the reading journal and a research paper. Below is a detailed description of these assignments and the corresponding percentages of your final grade. Extra-
credit work will be accepted only for students with active participation in class discussions. If necessary, I will explain the format of the extra-credit option during regular office hours. You are otherwise encouraged to keep in touch with me by e-mail, if you have any questions: I check my mailbox regularly, and promise to answer quickly.

Reading journal. A quick glimpse at the list of weekly topics (see below) will no doubt convince you that this is a course with serious readings. You will be expected to digest a substantial amount of information in a fairly short period of time. The best way to do this is to keep a journal. Before every class meeting, you will post an e-mail message on my address (on top of this syllabus), in which you will discuss briefly the readings for the coming meeting, ask questions and/or make comments, raise issues that need clarification, etc. All e-mails should arrive at least 12 hours before class meetings. Be sure to keep your postings to a reasonable length (175 to 250 words long). I do not want you to spend too much time on them, but I expect you to give an articulate presentation of your thoughts. Needless to say, I also expect you to check on correct grammar and spelling before clicking on "Send." Because the journal is designed to demonstrate your efforts towards an initial understanding of the readings, I must have in time one report for each class meeting, every week (except, of course, week 10). There are only 36 class meetings with required readings (textbook readings are indicated in brackets, followed by online readings, if any, in the weekly topic list below), so journal entries for these days represent 70 percent of your final grade, 1.9 percent for each entry. You can make up a reading report only in extraordinary circumstance such as absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or any other conflict (e.g., jury duty), about which you know in advance of the scheduled assignment. In such cases, you are required to notify me of the conflict before the assignment is due, and if possible at the start of the semester. Be aware that missed reports may result in a substantially lower grade. For further information, consult the attendance policies (Links to an external site.) of the University of Florida.

Research paper. The remaining 30 percent of your final grade will be based on a paper of approximately ten pages (with a minimum of 8 and an absolute maximum of 15 pages). The topic of interest to you may be chosen from a variety of issues pertaining to medieval Germany that we will discuss in class (economic life, society and social structures, ministerials, Crusades, conversion to Christianity, rise and growth of towns, art and literature, costume, chivalry and Minnesang, etc.). The research paper topic is due on the day of the first class meeting of Week 10. Keep in mind that your research must include both primary and secondary sources. You can use the readings for this course, but in addition you need to have at least six sources not listed below. Your relatively complete list of sources to be used for the research paper is also due on the day of the first class meeting in Week 10. You are strongly encouraged to begin
looking earlier for the material for your research paper and to consult with me as early and often as possible. Your research paper must follow the formatting and style rules of the Chicago Manual of Style (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. It should also follow the expectations of a good research paper, with a proper introduction, thesis, body and conclusion, well written in proper formal English with correct spelling and punctuation. A research paper also implies the proper use of footnotes documenting the sources for your facts and ideas. My recommendation is that you write a first draft, which we (you and I) can go over during my office hours.

Grades.

The following scale will be used in determining your final grade

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Academic honesty:

You must conform to UF’s academic honesty policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of cheating. The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sscr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

If found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment for this course you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the university honor policy, including judicial action and the sanctions listed in 6C1-4.047 of the Student Conduct Code. For serious violations, you will fail the course.
Students with disabilities:

Please do not hesitate to ask for accommodation for a documented disability. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation. Please ask if you would like any assistance in this process.

COURSE WEEKLY TOPICS

Week 1 (08/21-26): Sources

- A history of words: German, Teutonicus, Deutsch [Fuhrmann 19-23; Jeep 265-267]; see the entry "German" in the Online Etymological Dictionary (Links to an external site). Links to an external site.
- A little geography - where was medieval Germany [Fuhrmann 6-16]; see a map of Central Europe, ca. 1180 (Links to an external site). Links to an external site., the German lands on the Ebstorf map (Links to an external site). Links to an external site. of the early 1200s, and a map of present-day Germany (Links to an external site). Links to an external site.
- Problems of historiography [Reuter 1-17 (Links to an external site). Links to an external site.; Jeep 362-364]

Week 2 (08/28-09/01): Sources

- Thietmar of Merseburg, a key source of Ottonian Germany [Warner 1-5, 16-26, 49-62; Jeep 754-755]; see a facsimile of the first page of Thietmar’s Chronicon (Links to an external site). Links to an external site.
- Chronicles: Hermann of Reichenau [Robinson 1-20]
- Chronicles: Berthold of Reichenau [Robinson 20-41]

Week 3 (09/04-08): Carolingian Germany

- Monday, 09/04: Labor Day, no classes
- Franks, the Frankish kingdom, and Carolingian Francia [Reuter 21-44 (Links to an external site). Links to an external site.; Jeep1-2, 12, 96-98, 98-102, 469-470, 472-473]; see a map of the Carolingian Empire (Links to an external site). Links to an
external site.; see a passage from the Salian Law (Links to an external site.), Einhard’s Life of Charlemagne (Links to an external site.), the Capitulary for Saxony (Links to an external site.), the Life of Liutberga (Links to an external site.),Links to an external site.

- The East Frankish kingdom and its constituent parts [Reuter 70-111 (Links to an external site.); Jeep xxxv, 696-697]; see a map (Links to an external site.), on the situation in the years following the Treaty of Verdun; see also the plan of a Benedictine abbey (Links to an external site.), in the library of the St. Gall Abbey (ca. 820)

Week 4 (09/11-15): "The iron century" (882-983)

- Late Carolingian Germany [Reuter 115-147 (Links to an external site.); Warner 68-76 and 78-81; Jeep 87-95, 106, 107, 340-341, 357-358, 463-465, 471-472]; see a map (Links to an external site.) of the Late Carolingian kingdoms; read Ekkehard of St. Gall (Links to an external site.) on his abbey and an English translation (Links to an external site.) of the Hildebrandslied (Links to an external site.) of the Ottonian Empire in ca. 962; see also the plan and reconstruction of the Slavic temple at Gross Raden (Links to an external site.) and; see also the ivory of Otto II and Theophanu (Links to an external site.)

Week 5 (09/18-22): Germany under the Ottonians
- Kingship, patronage, and rebellion [Reuter 183-220 (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.]
- Ottonian society [Reuter 221-236 (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.]
- Ottonian religious life [Reuter 236-252 (Links to an external site.); Jeep 50, 81, 267-268, 374-375, 497-498, 595-605, 643-645]; see the interior of the St. George Church in Oberzell (Links to an external site.), the St. Michael Church in Hildesheim (Links to an external site., built by St. Bernward of Hildesheim), an image of the Benedictine convent of St. Cyriacus in Gernrode (Links to an external site.) and images of Otto II by the Gregory Master (Links to an external site.) and of Otto III in the Aachen Gospels (Links to an external site.); read Dulcitius, (Links to an external site.) a medieval play by Hrosvit of Gandersheim (with Latin text (Links to an external site.)

Week 6 (09/25-29): Ottonian hegemony in Europe

- Ottonian art; see an illumination from the Egbert Psalter (Links to an external site.), another from the Gero Codex (Links to an external site.); see a page from the Bamberg Apocalpyse (Links to an external site.) and images of Otto II by the Gregory Master (Links to an external site.), and of Otto III in the Aachen Gospels (Links to an external site.); read Dulcitius, (Links to an external site.) a medieval play by Hrosvit of Gandersheim (with Latin text (Links to an external site.)
- The Slavs and the eastern frontier [Reuter 253-264 (Links to an external site.; Warner 149-204]
- The Empire [Reuter 265-286 (Links to an external site.); Jeep 39-41, 200-202, 641-643]; see an image of Otto III on the throne (Links to an external site.)

Week 7 (10/02-10/06): Henry II and Thietmar of Merseburg: the emperor and the chronicler

- The last Ottonian? [Warner 205-234]; see a portrait of Henry II (Links to an external site.) near one of the entrances into the Cathedral of Bamberg and an image of his coronation (Links to an external site.) in a Regensburg sacramentary
- The first Salian? [Warner 235-385; Robinson 58-64]
Week 8 (10/09-13): Germany under the Salian emperors

- Expansion, demographic and economic growth, and their problems [Fuhrmann 23-30; Jeep 582, 410-414]; see a grant of market and coinage for the bishop of Osnabrück (Links to an external site.)(952) and another of privileges to the Jewish community of Speyer (Links to an external site.)(1084)
- Salian society [Fuhrmann 31-38; Jeep 142-144, 224-226, 342-343, 660-672, 687-689, 727-728]
- Salian religious life [Robinson 64-98]; see an image of the Benedictine abbey of Maria Laach (Links to an external site.) (Palatinate), and visit the Speyer Cathedral (Links to an external site.), the crypt (Links to an external site.) of the Salian emperors

Week 9 (10/16-20): The Investiture Controversy

- The "priestly king" Henry III [Fuhrmann 38-46; Jeep 83-84, 309-311]; see the Golden Evangeliary (Links to an external site.) (Echternach Abbey and an image of the imperial palace (Links to an external site.) in Goslar
- The Church reform [Fuhrmann 46-50; Jeep 344-345, 701-702] Henry IV [Fuhrmann 51-58; Robinson 99-131 and 245-254]; read the Song of Anno (Links to an external site.) (Annoled (Links to an external site.) (Annolied, (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) and Lampert of Hersfeld's (Links to an external site.) account of the "coup of Kaiserswerth"; see a plan (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) and a picture (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) of the Harzburg Castle, built by Henry IV, as well as an image of Otto of Northeim's castle at Hanstein (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) (Dictatus Papae (Links to an external site.) (1075); see the Castel Sant'Angelo (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) in Rome and visit the Hirsau Abbey (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Week 10 (10/23-27): The Investiture Controversy and its long-term consequences (research paper topic and list of sources due on Monday, 10/23)
The rise of communes [Fuhrmann 77-81; Jeep 81-82, 116-118, 320, 474-475]; see a genealogy (Links to an external site.) of the late eleventh- to thirteenth-century Welf family; see Christian (Links to an external site.) and Jewish (Links to an external site.) accounts of the 1096 pogrom in Mainz; see an illumination (Links to an external site.) in the Chronicle of Ekkehard of Aura showing Henry IV handing over the royal insignia to Henry V; visit the sites of the reformed abbeys of Kastl (Links to an external site.) and Baumburg (Links to an external site.) (Bavaria); and see Frederick I’s charter of privileges for Lübeck (Links to an external site.) (1188)

Climax and consequences of the Investiture Controversy (Canossa and its aftermath); [Fuhrmann 58-77 and 81-95; Robinson 132-244 and 254-337; Jeep 140-141, 399-401] ; see the Concordat of Worms (Links to an external site.) (see also a facsimile of the imperial privilege (Links to an external site.) )

The Investiture Controversy until Frederick Barbarossa [Fuhrmann 98-109 and 116-134]; visit the Trifels Castle (Links to an external site.), the ruins of the Hohenstaufen stronghold at Oppenheim (Links to an external site.), and the Stahleck Castle (Links to an external site.) founded in 1135 above Bacharach by Count Hermann; see an illumination (Links to an external site.) in the manuscript of Ekkehard of Aura’s Chronicle showing the wedding of Henry V and Matilda (1114)

Week 11 (10/30-11/03): Twelfth-century Germany

Economic growth [Jeep 153, 321-322]; read a grant of craft guild (Links to an external site.) to the fishermen of Worms (1106/7), a grant of mining rights (Links to an external site.) to the Corvey abbey, and Henry IV’s imposition of tolls on craftsmen at Koblenz (Links to an external site.) (1104); see a map (Links to an external site.) of the eleventh- to thirteenth-century Ostsiedlung (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.); visit the Cistercian abbeys of Kamp (Links to an external site.) and Walkenried (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)
site.; read a biography of Count Wiprecht of Groitzsch (Links to an external site.).

- Church [Fuhrmann 109-116; Jeep 83, 358-359, 419, 435-436, 441-443]; read the biographies of Hildegard of Bingen (Links to an external site.), (with a portrait (Links to an external site.)) and Herrad of Landsberg (Links to an external site.); read a synopsis (Links to an external site.), and the preface (Links to an external site.) of Hildegard’s Scivias (with an illumination (Links to an external site.)); visit the abbeys of Siegburg (Links to an external site.), St. Blasien (Links to an external site.), Hirsau (Links to an external site.), and Springiersbach (Links to an external site.), as well as the convents of Disibodenberg (Links to an external site.), and Eibingen (Links to an external site.); see a portrait of St. Norbert of Gennep (Links to an external site.).

- Landfrieden

**Week 12 (11/06-10): Germany under the Staufen emperors**

- Frederick Barbarossa [Fuhrmann 135-157; Jeep xxxvi, 155-157, 237-240, 732-734]; see an image of the emperor (Links to an external site.) from a Vatican manuscript and the decisions of the Diet of Roncaglia and the stipulations of the Peace of Constance (Links to an external site.); see a map (Links to an external site.) of the Empire under Barbarossa’s rule, a map (Links to an external site.) of twelfth-century Italy, and the map (Links to an external site.) of the emperor’s Italian expeditions.

- From Henry VI to Frederick II - empire and papacy in the struggle for supremacy [Fuhrmann 157-186; Jeep 241-245, 348-350]; see the gold seal (Links to an external site.) of Henry VI following his proclamation in Palermo (1194); read three love songs (Links to an external site.) written by the emperor in Old German with an English translation (Links to an external site.) of one of them; see an image (Links to an external site.) of Frederick II and an image (Links to an external site.) of the battle of Bornhöved (1227) and read about the emperor’s encounter (Links to an external site.) with the Ayyubid sultan al-Kamil in...
Week 13 (11/13-17): Land and lordship

- Demographic growth and agriculture [Jeep 163-164]; see Henry VII's attempts to enforce serfdom (Links to an external site); read a brief description of the eastward colonization (Links to an external site), (to the Polish lands); visit the Cistercian monasteries of Alzelle (Links to an external site), (near Dresden), Doberan (Links to an external site), in Mecklenburg, Oliwa (Links to an external site), near Gdansk (Poland), Lubiaz (Links to an external site), in Silesia (Poland), and Lehnin (Links to an external site), (near Potsdam)
- Fiefs and church property. Ministerials and communes [Jeep 195, 196-197, 346, 434-435, 523-524, 804-805]; see a presentation of the Welf family (Links to an external site), and an unusual biography of Henry the Lion (Links to an external site), (or the serious (Links to an external site), one); see a portrait of Otto the Child (Links to an external site), the first duke of Brunswick; see the tombstone of Siegfried III of Eppstein, Archbishop of Mainz (Links to an external site), (Links to an external site), ; read Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa's regulation of priestly rights of inheritance (Links to an external site), (1169), the imperial precaria of 1241 (Links to an external site), (Links to an external site), and a presentation of the "Mirror of the Saxons" (Links to an external site), (Sachsenspiegel); see a representation of the Heerschilddordnung (Links to an external site), (Links to an external site), in the "Mirror of the Saxons"; see an image of the Scharfenberg (Links to an external site), Castle
near Annweiler; visit the imperial cities of Haguenau (Links to an external site.), Wimpfen (Links to an external site.), and Gelnhausen (Links to an external site.); visit the episcopal towns of Schaffhausen (Links to an external site.), Colmar (Links to an external site.), Feutchtwangen (Links to an external site.), and Wetzlar (Links to an external site.).

- Commercial expansion; see the Hamburg and Lübeck treaty (Links to an external site.) and their coinage agreement (Links to an external site.) (1241) and their coinage agreement (Links to an external site.) (1255); see also the regulations of the master butchers of Tulln (Links to an external site.) (1237), the rules of the toll-collectors in Bingen (Links to an external site.), (1178), a collection of Heller (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.), and a map of the trade routes across Europe (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.), ca. 1200

**Week 14 (11/20-24): The thirteenth-century expansion**

- Church and heresy [Jeep 8-9, 45-46, 52, 144, 161, 199-200, 514-515]; see a presentation of the Beguine (Links to an external site.) movement; see also a biography of St. Elizabeth of Thuringia (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.), and a biography of Albertus Magnus (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.).
- Wednesday, 11/22 and Friday 11/24: Thanksgiving, no classes

**Week 15 (11/27-12/01): A new society**

- Thirteenth-century German literature; read the Prologue to Gottfried of Strasbourg’s Tristan (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.); see also a presentation of Minnesang (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.); read the Falkenlied (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.); see a digital version of the Codex Manesse (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.), in Heidelberg and a Minnesang competition (Links to an external site.)
Week 16 (12/04-08): Late medieval German culture (research paper due on Wednesday, 12/06)

- Conclusion: German Middle Ages