

Course Syllabus for GET 3200 Medieval Literary Culture

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I. Basic Information

Course: GET 3200 "Medieval Literary Culture"; cross-listed with MEM 3300 "Castles and Cloisters: An Introduction to Medieval Communities."

INSTRUCTOR: Will Hasty

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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 12:50-2:45pm or by appointment, F2F in Dauer 263a or remotely at <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99165571689?pwd=b3ZiU1k5YVhZMThCOHpsY3lwZ2hRdz09>. In order not to have to wait, schedule an appointment in advance using the above email address.

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 spatial-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

Module #	Module material opens	Discussion Posts and Timeline Post Confirmations Due	Discussion Comments and all other Assessments Due
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Module 1	Monday, August 23, 12:05 am	Friday, August 27, 10:00 pm	Sunday, August 29, 11:59 pm
Module 2	Monday, August 30, 12:05 am	Friday, September 3, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 5, 11:59 pm
Module 3	Monday, September 6, 12:05 am	Friday, September 10, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 12, 11:59 pm
Module 4	Monday, September 13, 12:05 am	Friday, September 17, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 19, 11:59 pm
Module 5*	Monday, September 20, 12:05 am	Friday, September 24, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 26, 11:59 pm
Module 6	Monday, September 27, 12:05 am	Friday, October 1, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 3, 11:59 pm
Module 7	Monday, October 4, 12:05 am	Friday, October 8, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 10, 11:59 pm
Module 8	Monday, October 11, 12:05 am	Friday, October 15, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 17, 11:59 pm
Module 9	Monday, October 18, 12:05	Friday, October 22, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 24, 11:59 pm
Module 10**	Monday, October 25, 12:05 am	Friday, October 29, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 31, 11:59 pm
Module 11	Monday, November 1, 12:05 am	Friday, November 5, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 7, 11:59 pm
Module 12	Monday, November 8, 12:05 am	Friday, November 12, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 14, 11:59 pm
Module 13	Monday, November 15, 12:05 am	Friday, November 19, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 21, 11:59 pm
Module 14***	Monday, November 22, 12:05	deadlines vary	deadlines vary

As a rule, 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 September 24, 12:05 am to September 26, 11:59 pm.

**Test #2 will be available from October 28, 12:05 am to October 31, 11:59 pm.

***Test #3 will be available to take between Thursday, December 9, 12:05 am until Wednesday, December 15, 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 \(de doctrina christiana\)](#)
5. [Boethius, The consolation of Philosophy \(selections\)](#)
6. [The Rule of St. Benedict \(excerpts\)](#)
7. [Life of St. Antony](#)
8. [Bernard of Clairvaux, Liber ad milites Templi \(On the New Knighthood\)](#)
9. [Hildegard von Bingen, selected letters from her correspondence to famous contemporaries \(use VPN server if attempting to access from off campus\)](#)
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). Respond to discussion prompts with at least ca. 2 typescript pages of text (500 words), though ideally your discussions will be between ca. 600-800 word total, which of course should be your own writing. Remember that the discussions are one of your main chances to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings and (as applicable) the other module materials. Try to not to go over 800 words, unless you are carrying through with a tight and organized discourse (i.e. don't ramble). 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. You will be able to see correct answers for these questions only once when you submit the assignment.

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 Timeline posts, by the way.

7. Timeline individual module posts, group presentations, and final individual Timeline synthesis paper: [Click here for information.](#)

V. Grade percentages.

Tests= 25%

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

Comments/Discussions= 25%

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

Group Timeline posts, presentations, and final individual synthesis paper= 15%

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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 Aug 27, 2021	Assignment Module 1 Discussion
Sun Aug 29, 2021	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 1 Assignment Visit: An Ancient Fortification and Temple: Hadrian's Wall and the Pantheon
Fri Sep 3, 2021	Assignment Module 2 Discussion Assignment Module 2 Timeline Post Confirmation
Sun Sep 5, 2021	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 2 Assignment Module 2 Discussion Commentary Assignment Patterns of Monastic Life
Fri Sep 10, 2021	Assignment Module 3 Discussion Assignment Module 3 Timeline Post Confirmation
Sun Sep 12, 2021	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 3 Assignment Lawrence, chapter 4 Assignment Module 3 Discussion Commentary Assignment The Rule Assignment Visit: Lindisfarne and Holy Island -- Northumbria
Fri Sep 17, 2021	Assignment Module 4 Discussion

Date	Details
	Assignment Module 4 Timeline Post Confirmation
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 5
Sun Sep 19, 2021	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 6
	Assignment Module 4 Discussion Commentary
	Assignment Visit: Cluny Abbey -- Burgundy
Fri Sep 24, 2021	Assignment Module 5 Discussion
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 8
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 9
Sun Sep 26, 2021	Assignment Module 5 Discussion Commentary
	Assignment Test 1
	Assignment Visit: Fontenay Abbey -- Burgundy
	Assignment Visit: Tintern Abbey -- Wales
Fri Oct 1, 2021	Assignment Module 6 Discussion
	Assignment Module 6 Timeline Post Confirmation
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 11
Sun Oct 3, 2021	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 12
	Assignment Medieval Music

Date	Details
	Assignment Module 6 Discussion Commentary
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Monk
	Assignment Visit: Sinagoga de Samuel Halevi Abulafia -- Toledo
Fri Oct 8, 2021	Assignment Module 7 Timeline Post Confirmation
	Assignment Gies, chapter 1
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 13
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 14
Sun Oct 10, 2021	Assignment Midterm Group Project
	Assignment Monastic Timeline Group Presentations
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Knights
	Assignment Visit: Chepstow Castle -- Wales
Fri Oct 15, 2021	Assignment Module 8 Discussion
	Assignment Module 8 Timeline Post Confirmation
	Assignment Gies, chapter 2
	Assignment Gies, chapter 3
Sun Oct 17, 2021	Assignment Module 8 Discussion Commentary
	Assignment Patterns of Chivalric Life

Date	Details
Fri Oct 22, 2021	Assignment Module 9 Discussion
	Assignment Module 9 Timeline Post Confirmation
Sun Oct 24, 2021	Assignment Gies, chapter 4
	Assignment Gies, chapter 6
	Assignment Module 9 Discussion Commentary
Fri Oct 29, 2021	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Damsel
	Assignment Visit: Beaumaris Castle -- Angelsey, Wales
	Assignment Module 10 Discussion
Sun Oct 31, 2021	Assignment Module 10 Discussion Commentary
	Assignment Gies, chapter 7
	Assignment Gies, chapter 8
Fri Nov 5, 2021	Assignment Test 2
	Assignment Visit: Castel Sant' Angelo -- Rome
	Assignment Module 11 Discussion
Sun Nov 7, 2021	Assignment Module 11 Timeline Post Confirmation
	Assignment Gies, chapter 9
	Assignment Module 11 Discussion Commentary

Date	Details
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives": The Peasant
	Assignment Visit: Burg Trifels -- Pfälzer Wald-Forest of the Palatinate
Fri Nov 12, 2021	Assignment Module 12 Discussion
	Assignment Module 12 Timeline Post Confirmation
Sun Nov 14, 2021	Assignment Gies, chapter 10
	Assignment Module 12 Discussion Commentary
	Assignment Visit: Alcazaba of Almería -- Almería
	Assignment Visit: Alhambra -- Granada
Fri Nov 19, 2021	Assignment Module 13 Discussion
	Assignment Module 13 Timeline Post Confirmation
Sun Nov 21, 2021	Assignment Module 13 Discussion Commentary
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Minstrel
	Assignment Visit: Wildenburg -- Odenwald
Sun Dec 5, 2021	Assignment SONGS Initiative Extra-Credit Opportunities
Sun Dec 12, 2021	Assignment Courtly-Chivalric Timeline Presentations
	Assignment Final Group Project
	Assignment Individual Timeline Synthesis Discussion

Date

Details

Wed Dec 15, 2021 Assignment [Test 3](#)
