

Course Syllabus

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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 <hasty@ufl.edu>.

Office hours: Wednesdays 6th & 7th periods (12:50-2:45), or by appointment.

Dauer 263a; or if you call (352-273-3780) or email (hasty@ufl.edu) ahead and arrange with me, I can meet you online.

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
Module 1	Monday, January 6, 12:05 am	Friday, January 10, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 12, 11:59 pm

Module 2	Monday, January 13, 12:05 am	Friday, January 17, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 19, 11:59 pm
Module 3	Monday, January 20, 12:05 am	Friday, January 24, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 26, 11:59 pm
Module 4	Monday, January 27, 12:05 am	Friday, January 31, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 2, 11:59 pm
Module 5*	Monday, February 3, 12:05 am	Friday, February 7, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 9, 11:59 pm
Module 6	Monday, February 10, 12:05 am	Friday, February 14, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 16, 11:59 pm
Module 7	Monday, February 17, 12:05 am	Friday, February 21, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 23, 11:59 pm
Module 8	Monday, February 24, 12:05 am	Friday, February 28, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 1, 11:59 pm
Module 9	Monday, March 9, 12:05	Friday, March 13, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 15, 11:59 pm
Module 10**	Monday, March 16, 12:05 am	Friday, March 20, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 22, 11:59 pm
Module 11	Monday, March 23, 12:05 am	Friday, March 27, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 29, 11:59 pm
Module 12	Monday, March 30, 12:05 am	Friday, April 3, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 5, 11:59 pm
Module 13	Monday, April 6, 12:05 am	Friday, April 10, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 12, 11:59 pm
Module 14***	Monday, April 13, 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 February 5, 12:05 am to February 7, 11:59 pm.

**Test #2 will be available from March 19, 12:05 am to March 21, 11:59 pm.

***Test #3 will be available to take between Monday, April 19, 12:05 am until Wednesday, April 28, 10:00 pm.

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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 \(de doctrina christiana\)* \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
5. [Boethius, *The consolation of Philosophy* \(selections\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
6. [The Rule of St. Benedict \(excerpts\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
7. [Life of St. Antony \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)
8. [Bernard of Clairvaux, *Liber ad milites Templi \(On the New Knighthood\)*.](#)
[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)
9. [Hildegard von Bingen, selected letters from her correspondence to famous contemporaries \(use VPN server if attempting to access from off campus\). \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

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.](#)

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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 Jan 10, 2020	Assignment Module 1 Discussion due by 10pm
Sun Jan 12, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 1 due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: An Ancient Fortification and Temple: Hadrian's Wall and the Pantheon due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 17, 2020	Assignment Module 2 Discussion due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 2 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Jan 19, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 2 due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Patterns of Monastic Life due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 2 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 24, 2020	Assignment Module 3 Discussion due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 3 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Jan 26, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 3 due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 4 due by 11:59pm
	Assignment The Rule due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Lindisfarne and Holy Island -- Northumbria due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 3 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 31, 2020	Assignment Module 4 Discussion due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 4 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm

Date	Details
Sun Feb 2, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 5 due by 11:59pm Assignment Lawrence, chapter 6 due by 11:59pm Assignment Visit: Cluny Abbey -- Burgundy due by 11:59pm Assignment Module 4 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 7, 2020	Assignment Module 5 Discussion due by 10pm
Sun Feb 9, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 8 due by 11:59pm Assignment Lawrence, chapter 9 due by 11:59pm Assignment Test 1 due by 11:59pm Assignment Visit: Fontenay Abbey -- Burgundy due by 11:59pm Assignment Visit: Tintern Abbey -- Wales due by 11:59pm Assignment Module 5 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 14, 2020	Assignment Module 6 Discussion due by 10pm Assignment Module 6 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Feb 16, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 11 due by 11:59pm Assignment Lawrence, chapter 12 due by 11:59pm Assignment Medieval Music due by 11:59pm Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Monk due by 11:59pm Assignment Visit: Sinagoga de Samuel Halevi Abulafia -- Toledo due by 11:59pm Assignment Visit: The Mesquita -- Córdoba due by 11:59pm Assignment Module 6 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 21, 2020	Assignment Module 7 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Feb 23, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 1 due by 11:59pm Assignment Lawrence, chapter 13 due by 11:59pm Assignment Lawrence, chapter 14 due by 11:59pm Assignment Lay of Hildebrand due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	due by
Assignment	Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Knights	11:59pm
Assignment	Visit: Chepstow Castle -- Wales	due by 11:59pm
Assignment	Midterm Group Project	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 28, 2020	Assignment Module 8 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 8 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Mar 8, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 3	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Patterns of Chivalric Life	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 8 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 13, 2020	Assignment Module 9 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 9 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Mar 15, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 4	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 6	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Damsel	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Beaumaris Castle -- Angelsey, Wales	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 9 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 20, 2020	Assignment Module 10 Discussion	due by 10pm
Sun Mar 22, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 7	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 8	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Test 2	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Castel Sant' Angelo -- Rome	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 10 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 27, 2020	Assignment Module 11 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 11 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Mar 29, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 9	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives": The Peasant	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
Assignment	Visit: Burg Trifels -- Pfälzer Wald-Forest of the Palatinate due by 11:59pm
Assignment	Module 11 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 3, 2020	Assignment Module 12 Discussion due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 12 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sun Apr 5, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 10 due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Alcazaba of Almería -- Almería due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Alhambra -- Granada due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 12 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 10, 2020	Assignment Module 13 Discussion due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 13 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 10pm
Sat Apr 11, 2020	Assignment Module 13 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 12, 2020	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Minstrel due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Wildenburg -- Odenwald due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 17, 2020	Assignment Module 14 Timeline Post Confirmation due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 14 Discussion due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 19, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 12 due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Castillo de San Marcos -- Florida due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 14 Discussion Commentary due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 24, 2020	Assignment Final Group Project due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Individual Timeline Synthesis Discussion due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 26, 2020	Assignment SONGS Extra Credit #1 due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 29, 2020	Assignment Test 3 due by 11:59pm
	Assignment