

## Course Syllabus MEMS 3300 Spring 2022

### I. Basic Information

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

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### 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.

### 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	Wednesday, January 5, 12:05 am	Sunday, January 16, 11:59 pm	Sunday, January 16, 11:59 pm
Module 2	Monday, January 17, 12:05 am	Friday, January 21, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 23, 11:59 pm
Module 3	Monday, January 24, 12:05 am	Friday, January 28, 10:00 pm	Sunday, January 30, 11:59 pm
Module 4	Monday, January 31, 12:05 am	Friday, February 4, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 6, 11:59 pm
Module 5*	Monday, February 7, 12:05 am	Friday, February 11, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 13, 11:59 pm
Module 6	Monday, February 14, 12:05 am	Friday, February 18, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 20, 11:59 pm

Module 7	Monday, February 21, 12:05 am	Friday, February 25, 10:00 pm	Sunday, February 27, 11:59 pm
Module 8	Monday, February 28, 12:05 am	Friday, March 4, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 13, 11:59 pm (end of Spring Break)
Module 9	Monday, March 14, 12:05 pm	Friday, March 18, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 20, 11:59 pm
Module 10**	Monday, March 21, 12:05 am	Friday, March 25, 10:00 pm	Sunday, March 27, 11:59 pm
Module 11	Monday, March 28, 12:05 am	Friday, April 1, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 3, 11:59 pm
Module 12	Monday, April 4, 12:05 am	Friday, April 8, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 10, 11:59 pm
Module 13	Monday, April 11, 12:05 am	Friday, April 15, 10:00 pm	Sunday, April 17, 11:59 pm
Module 14***	Monday, April 18, 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 11, 12:05 am to February 13, 11:59 pm.

\*\*Test #2 will be available from March 25, 12:05 am to March 27, 11:59 pm.

\*\*\*Test #3 will be available to take between Thursday April 21, 12:05 am until Wednesday April 27 at midnight.

### III. Texts.

1. Online access via UF Library (use VPN Server (Links to an external site.) if off-campus): C.H. Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism: Forms of Religious Life in Western Europe in the Middle Ages*. 4th edition (London: Longman, 2001) (Links to an external site.).

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.)
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)*. (Links to an external site.)
10. Occasionally you will be referred to other texts, videos, musical pieces, etc. in the course modules.

#### 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.**

In their online interactions in this course, students are expected to abide by all applicable sections in the LLC Netiquette Guidelines (Click here for review).

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 Projects. You will work collaboratively with the other members of your Group on a Timeline. Click here for details on the Timeline assignments. Groups are formed at the beginning of the second week of the course.

V. Grade percentages.

Comments/Discussions= 25%

Tests= 25%

Questions on readings in Lawrence and Gies/

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

Virtual Visits/Questions on Videos= 15%

TimelineJS Project= 15%

VI. Grading Scale.

A 93

A- 90

B+ 87

B 83

B- 80

C+ 77

C 73

C- 70

etc.