

Course Syllabus

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I. Basic Information

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

Instructor: Will Hasty <hasty@ufl.edu>

Office hours in Zoom on Wednesdays 9th & 10th periods (4:05-6:00 pm), or by appointment, at <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94494333647> ([Links to an external site.](#))

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, August 31, 12:05 am	Friday, September 4, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 6, 11:59 pm
Module 2	Monday, September 7, 12:05 am	Friday, September 11, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 13, 11:59 pm
Module 3	Monday, September 14, 12:05 am	Friday, September 18, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 20, 11:59 pm

Module 4	Monday, September 21, 12:05 am	Friday, September 25, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 27, 11:59 pm
Module 5*	Monday, September 28, 12:05 am	Friday, October 2, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 4, 11:59 pm
Module 6	Monday, October 5, 12:05 am	Friday, October 9, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 11, 11:59 pm
Module 7	Monday, October 12, 12:05 am	Friday, October 16, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 18, 11:59 pm
Module 8	Monday, October 19, 12:05 am	Friday, October 23, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 25, 11:59 pm
Module 9	Monday, October 26, 12:05 am	Friday, October 30, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 1, 11:59 pm
Module 10**	Monday, November 2, 12:05 am	Friday, November 6, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 8, 11:59 pm
Module 11	Monday, November 9, 12:05 am	Friday, November 13, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 15, 11:59 pm
Module 12	Monday, November 16, 12:05 am	Friday, November 20, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 22, 11:59 pm
Module 13	Monday, November 23, 12:05 am	Dates vary: see module page	Dates vary: see module page
Module 14	Dates vary: see module page	Dates vary: see module page	Dates vary: see module page

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 October 2, 12:05 am to October 4, 11:59 pm.

**Test #2 will be available from November 5, 12:05 am to November 8, 11:59 pm.

***Test #3 will be available to take between Monday, December 14, 12:05 am until Thursday, December 17, 11:59 pm.

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)
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](#).

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. TimelineJS Projects. You will work collaboratively with the other members of your Group on a Timeline using [TimelineJS \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Details will be provided after Groups are formed at the beginning of the second week of the course.

[Accessibility score: Low Click to improve](#)

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%

TimelineJS Project= 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	
Sun Sep 6, 2020	Assignment Module 1 Discussion	due by 10pm
	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 Sep 11, 2020	Assignment Module 2 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 2 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Sep 13, 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 Sep 18, 2020	Assignment Module 3 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 3 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Sep 20, 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 Sep 25, 2020	Assignment Module 4 Discussion	due by 10pm

Date	Details	
	Assignment Module 4 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 5	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2020	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 Oct 2, 2020	Assignment Module 5 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 8	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 4, 2020	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 Oct 9, 2020	Assignment Module 6 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 6 Discussion	due by 10pm
Sun Oct 11, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 11	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 12	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Medieval Music	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Assignment Midterm Group Project - Submit here	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Knights	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Monk	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Chepstow Castle -- Wales	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
	Assignment Module 7 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 1	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 18, 2020	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 13	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lawrence, chapter 14	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Lay of Hildebrand	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 23, 2020	Assignment Module 8 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 8 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Oct 25, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 2	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 3	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Assignment Patterns of Chivalric Life	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 8 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 30, 2020	Assignment Module 9 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 9 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 4	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 6	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 1, 2020	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 Nov 6, 2020	Assignment Module 10 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 7	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Gies, chapter 8	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 8, 2020	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 Nov 13, 2020	Assignment Module 11 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 11 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm

Date	Details	
Sun Nov 15, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 9	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives": The Peasant	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Alcazaba of Almería -- Almería	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Burg Trifels -- Pfälzer Wald-Forest of the Palatinate	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 11 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 20, 2020	Assignment Module 12 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 12 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Sun Nov 22, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 10	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Alhambra -- Granada	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Module 12 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 1, 2020	Assignment Module 13 Discussion	due by 10pm
	Assignment Module 13 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 10pm
Thu Dec 3, 2020	Assignment Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Minstrel	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Wildenburg -- Odenwald	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 5, 2020	Assignment Module 13 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 7, 2020	Assignment Module 14 Discussion	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Assignment Module 14 Timeline Post Confirmation	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 9, 2020	Assignment Gies, chapter 12	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Visit: Castillo de San Marcos -- Florida	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 11, 2020	Assignment Module 14 Discussion Commentary	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 13, 2020	Assignment Final Group Project - Submit here	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Individual Timeline Synthesis Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Thu Dec 17, 2020	Assignment Test 3	due by 11:59pm

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Calendar						
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30 August 202030 Previous month	31 August 202031 Previous month	1 September 20201	2 September 20202	3 September 20203	4 September 20204 Today	5 September 20205
6 September 20206 Click to view event details	7 September 20207	8 September 20208	9 September 20209	10 September 202010	11 September 202011 Click to view event details	12 September 202012
13 September 202013 Click to view event details	14 September 202014	15 September 202015	16 September 202016	17 September 202017	18 September 202018 Click to view event details	19 September 202019
20 September 202020 Click to view event details	21 September 202021	22 September 202022	23 September 202023	24 September 202024	25 September 202025 Click to view event details	26 September 202026
27 September 202027 Click to view event details	28 September 202028	29 September 202029	30 September 202030	1 October 20201 Next month	2 October 20202 Next month Click	3 October 20203 Next month

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 October 20204Next monthClick to view event details	5 October 20205Next month	6 October 20206Next month	7 October 20207Next month	8 October 20208Next month	to view event details 9 October 20209Next monthClick to view event details	10 October 202010Next month