

# Course Syllabus

## MEM3300 - Castles & Cloisters: An Introduction to Medieval European Communities

### Fall 2022

[Jump to Today](#) [Edit](#)

#### I. Basic Information

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

Instructors: Instructors: Valerie Hampton <valerie.hampton@ufl.edu>

#### 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.

...

#### 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, August 24, 12:05 am	Friday, September 2, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 4, 11:59 pm

Module 2	Monday, September 5, 12:05 am	Friday, September 9, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 11, 11:59 pm
Module 3	Monday, September 12, 12:05 am	Friday, September 16, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 18, 11:59 pm
Module 4	Monday, September 19, 12:05 am	Friday, September 23, 10:00 pm	Sunday, September 25, 11:59 pm
Module 5*	Monday, September 26, 12:05 am	Friday, September 30, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 2, 11:59 pm
Module 6	Monday, October 3, 12:05 am	Friday, October 7, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 9, 11:59 pm
Module 7	Monday, October 10, 12:05 am	Friday, October 14, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 16, 11:59 pm
Module 8	Monday, October 17, 12:05 am	Friday, October 21, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 23, 11:59 pm
Module 9	Monday, October 24, 12:05	Friday, October 28, 10:00 pm	Sunday, October 30, 11:59 pm
Module 10**	Monday, October 31, 12:05 am	Friday, November 4, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 6, 11:59 pm
Module 11	Monday, November 7, 12:05 am	Friday, November 11, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 13, 11:59 pm
Module 12	Monday, November 14, 12:05 am	Friday, November 18, 10:00 pm	Sunday, November 20, 11:59 pm
Module 13	Monday, November 21, 12:05 am	Friday, December 2, 10:00 pm	Sunday, December 4, 11:59 pm
Module 14***	Monday, November 21, 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 29, 12:05 am to October 2, 11:59 pm.

\*\*Test #2 will be available from November 3, 12:05 am to November 6, 11:59 pm.

\*\*\*Test #3 will be available to take between Thursday, December 8, 12:05 am until Wednesday, December 14, 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 \(de doctrina christiana\)\* \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
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.

. . .

### 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%

...

#### VI. Grading Scale.

A 93

A- 90

B+ 87

B 83

B- 80

C+ 77

C 73

C- 70

etc.

## Course Summary:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
Fri Sep 2, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 1 Discussion</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 1</a>
Sun Sep 4, 2022	Assignment <a href="#">Module 1 Discussion Commentary</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: An Ancient Fortification and Temple: Hadrian's Wall and the Pantheon</a>
Fri Sep 9, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 2 Discussion</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 2 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
Sun Sep 11, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 2</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Patterns of Monastic Life</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 2 Discussion Commentary</a>
Fri Sep 16, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 3 Discussion</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 3 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 3</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 4</a>
Sun Sep 18, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">The Rule</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Lindisfarne and Holy Island -- Northumbria</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 3 Discussion Commentary</a>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
Fri Sep 23, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 4 Discussion</a> Assignment <a href="#">Module 4 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
Sun Sep 25, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 5</a> Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 6</a> Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Cluny Abbey -- Burgundy</a> Assignment <a href="#">Module 4 Discussion Commentary</a>
Fri Sep 30, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 5 Discussion</a>
Sun Oct 2, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 8</a> Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 9</a> Quiz <a href="#">Test 1</a> Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Fontenay Abbey -- Burgundy</a> Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Tintern Abbey -- Wales</a> Assignment <a href="#">Module 5 Discussion Commentary</a>
Fri Oct 7, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 6 Discussion</a> Assignment <a href="#">Module 6 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
Sun Oct 9, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 11</a> Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 12</a>

Date	Details
	Quiz <a href="#">Medieval Music</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Monk</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Sinagoga de Samuel Halevi Abulafia -- Toledo</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 6 Discussion Commentary</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: The Mesquita -- Córdoba</a>
Fri Oct 14, 2022	Assignment <a href="#">Module 7 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 1</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 13</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Lawrence, chapter 14</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Knights</a>
Sun Oct 16, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Chepstow Castle -- Wales</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Group Monastic Timeline Presentation</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Lay of Hildebrand</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Midterm Group Project</a>
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 8 Discussion</a>
Fri Oct 21, 2022	Assignment <a href="#">Module 8 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
Sun Oct 23, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 2</a>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 3</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Patterns of Chivalric Life</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 8 Discussion Commentary</a>
Fri Oct 28, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 9 Discussion</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 9 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 4</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 6</a>
Sun Oct 30, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Damsel</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Beaumaris Castle -- Angelsey, Wales</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 9 Discussion Commentary</a>
Fri Nov 4, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 10 Discussion</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 10 Discussion Commentary</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 7</a>
Sun Nov 6, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 8</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Test 2</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Castel Sant' Angelo -- Rome</a>
Fri Nov 11, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 11 Discussion</a>

Date	Details
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 11 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 9</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Terry Jones "Medieval Lives": The Peasant</a>
Sun Nov 13, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Burg Trifels -- Pfälzer Wald-Forest of the Palatinate</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">VR-Ready Visit to the Heidelberg Castle in the Palatinate (Pfalz)</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 11 Discussion Commentary</a>
Fri Nov 18, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 12 Discussion</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 12 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 10</a>
Sun Nov 20, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Alcazaba of Almería -- Almería</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Alhambra -- Granada</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 12 Discussion Commentary</a>
Fri Nov 25, 2022	Assignment <a href="#">Module 13 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
Fri Dec 2, 2022	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 13 Discussion</a>
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">SONGS Initiative Extra-Credit Opportunities</a>
Sun Dec 4, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Terry Jones "Medieval Lives" : The Minstrel</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Wildenburg -- Odenwald</a>

Date	Details
Wed Dec 7, 2022	Assignment <a href="#">Module 13 Discussion Commentary</a>
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Module 14 Discussion</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Module 14 Timeline Post Confirmation</a>
Fri Dec 9, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Gies, chapter 12</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">Visit: Castillo de San Marcos -- Florida</a>
	Quiz <a href="#">VR-Ready Visit to the Schoenenbourg fort on the Maginot Line in Alsace</a>
Sun Dec 11, 2022	Assignment <a href="#">Individual Timeline Synthesis Discussion</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Final Group Project</a>
	Assignment <a href="#">Group Courtly-Chivalric Timeline Presentation</a>
Wed Dec 14, 2022	Quiz <a href="#">Test 3</a>