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Portland State University  
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## HST 354U : Medieval Europe, 300-1100 Fully On-line Course

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### *Course overview*

Drawing upon a combination of primary and secondary historical sources, this course surveys the social, political, intellectual, and religious development of western continental Europe and the Mediterranean from Late Antiquity (ca. 250 C.E.) through the early Middle Ages (to ca. 1100 C.E.), focusing on the interaction and contributions of the three principal cultures--Roman, Judeo-Christian, and Germanic--that shaped it. We will proceed chronologically and thematically, exploring both historical and historiographical debates. Topics will include: how the pluralistic and polytheistic cultures of the Roman empire gradually embraced monotheism; state-formation, affinity groups, and social and gender roles in the late Roman and post-Roman world; the rise of the Carolingian Empire in the eighth century and the development of its successor kingdoms; and the relationship of Christian Europe to its non-Christian neighbors.

### *Course objectives*

- To gain a reasonably broad and deep content knowledge of early medieval history;
- To develop and cultivate proficiency at reading primary sources critically and historically;
- To develop student source analysis and writing skills through a short, primary-source based analytical essay;
- To begin mastering basic analytical and critical skills for reading and assessing secondary source materials and historiographical developments in a field of study;
- To enhance communication skills through regular class discussion of the sources.

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### *Course evaluation*

You will be evaluated according to the following criteria, on a scale of 1000 points.  
Assignment guidelines will be linked below:

- [Participation in on-line discussion groups](#) - 160 points, 20 points/weekly module, divided between individual work and group work.

- [Map quiz](#) - 100 points. Map template will be made available. **This quiz will become active around the third week of the term; see D2L page for details.**
- [Reading Responses](#) - 440 points (4 total). Due periodically throughout the term. See linked assignment guidelines for details.
- Final, comprehensive primary-source based analytical essay (about 8 pp.) - 300 points. | **Guidelines to follow** |

## *Course materials*

The required texts are available for sale at the PSU Bookstore.

- Chris Wickham, *The Inheritance of Rome. A History of Europe from 400-1000* (Viking, 2009)
- Gregory of Tours, *The History of the Franks*, trans. Lewis Thorpe (Penguin, 1974)
- Early Medieval Europe **Primary Source Reader** (University of Toronto Press, 2012). **One copy of this reader will also be available on 2-hour reserve from Millar Library.**

All readings are required unless otherwise noted. Also, please note that several of our readings this quarter are available **on-line** or on [E-reserve \(course reserves\)](#) at Millar Library (at the URLs below). You will need a password to access the readings, which I will make available on the course D2L page.

## *Plagiarism policy*

Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is an intolerable infraction in any setting where ideas are exchanged and discussed. I routinely uncover plagiarized papers each year. Detecting plagiarism is extremely easy. Papers that can be shown to have been plagiarized will automatically receive an “F” grade. Students will be required to resubmit their papers, and will be deducted in their grade an amount appropriate to the late paper policy given in the assignment guidelines. Repeated or particularly egregious offenses may be the cause for additional action. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, you may test yourself at this web site maintained by Indiana University: [http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism\\_test.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html). **Remember, ignorance is no excuse.**

## *Students with disabilities*

Students with disabilities who need additional consideration for the timely completion of any of the course requirements should speak to the instructor at the beginning of the term, and must be registered with PSU’s [Disability Resource Center](#) ([drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu)).

## *E-mail policy*

When contacting the instructor via e-mail, please bear in mind the following:

- E-mail is not ideal for urgent matters. I consider 48-72 hours to be a reasonable period in which to respond to inquiries. I am usually much faster than this, but not always. Please communicate about ordinary course matters using on-line discussion boards.
- I will not, in general, respond to student e-mails received after 5:00 p.m. until the following day(s), nor will I generally respond to student e-mail sent after 5:00 on Friday until Monday morning. Please plan accordingly.

- Please remember to identify yourself and state your query as clearly as possible.
  - I will not fill in students who miss class on the details of a particular lecture or discussion. Please seek that information from your fellow students.
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## Syllabus

### Unit I. Re-thinking the "fall" of Rome | [Reading Guide](#) |

#### Readings:

- Wickham, *Inheritance of Rome*, 3-49
- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*: "From the Latin Panegyrics" and Rutilius Namatianus, "From *His Voyage Home*" (PSR, pp. 1-7, 27-30);
- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*: Orosius, *Histories against the Pagans* (PSR, pp. 8-26)

### Unit II. The many Christianities of Late Antiquity | [Reading Guide](#) |

#### Readings:

- Wickham, *Inheritance of Rome*, 50-108
- Athanasius, [Life of St. Antony](#) (**On-line**) Read chapters. 1-24, 46-47, 51-52, 68-finish; you may skip the introductory matter, in *italics*)
- [The Rule of St. Benedict](#) (ca. 530) (**On-line**);
- Sulpicius Severus, [Life of St. Martin of Tours](#) (**On-line**) (read all)

### Unit III. Identity formation and ethnic plurality : Barbarian polities | [Reading Guide](#) |

#### Readings:

- Wickham, *Inheritance of Rome*, 111-149
- Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*, Book I (skim chs. 7-17) and Book II (omit chs. 32-34); Book III, chs. 1-14, 18, 31 (pp. 161-75, 180-83, 187-89); Book IV, chs. 1-3, 13-21 and 26-31 (pp. 197-98, 207-17, 219-27); Book V, Prologue and chs. 6-11 (pp. 253-54, 263-67); Book VI, chs. 5, 40 (pp. 329-33, 371-74); Book IX, chs. 38-43 (pp. 524-39)
- *Salic Law* (481-511 C.E.) (excerpts) ([Course reserves](#))

### Unit IV. The Carolingians: renewal of Empire | [Reading Guide](#) |

#### Readings:

- Wickham, *Inheritance of Rome*, 375-426;
- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*, "The Elevation of Pepin the Short"; "The Reanointing of Pepin in 754"; "The Donation of Constantine"; "Pope Stephen Scolds Charlemagne"; "Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne*"; "The Capitulary on the Saxon Territories"; "The General Capitulary for the Missi from 802" (PSR, pp. 31-80);

- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*, "Dhuoda's Advice to Her Son" (**PSR**, pp. 81-89);
- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*: "Five Poems of Alcuin"; "Alcuin's Dialogue with Young Prince Pepin"; "Freculf Dedicates His Book"; "Gottschalk and the Predestination Controversy"; "Popular and Learned Beliefs: Two Specimens"; "Ratramnus and the Dog-Headed Humans" (**PSR**, pp. 90-118)

Unit V. Order and ritual in a stateless society : the consolidation and reorganization of power after Charlemagne | [Reading Guide](#) |

Readings:

- Wickham, *Inheritance of Rome*, 427-452;
- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*: "Thegan's *Life of Louis*"; "The *Ordinatio Imperii* of 817"; "The Vision of the Poor Woman of Laon"; "The Astronomer's Account of the Rebellions"; "The Final Days and Death of Louis the Pious" (by the Astronomer) (**PSR**, pp. 119-156);
- Examine: *Early Medieval Europe Reader*, "The Treaty of Verdun (843)" (**PSR**, pp. 157-58);
- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*, "The Annals of Xanten"; "The Annals of Saint-Vaast"; "Abbo's Account of the Siege of Paris"; "The Wandering Monks of Saint-Philibert"; "A Judicial Dispute in the Loire Valley" (**PSR**, pp. 160-179);
- Heinrich Fichtenau, *Living in the Tenth Century*, chap. 2 (pp. 30-49) (**E-Reserve**)

Unit VI. Islamic, Scandinavia, and Byzantine Europe | [Reading Guide](#) |

Readings:

- Wickham, *Inheritance of Rome*, 255-347;
- Anders Winroth, "Networks of Trade," chap. 7 in *The Conversion of Scandinavia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012), pp. 85-101 ([Course reserves](#))
- Olivia Remie Constable, ed., *Medieval Iberia. Readings from Christian, Muslim and Jewish Sources* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997): "Accounts of the Muslim Conquest"; "The Treaty of Tudmir"; "Christian Resistance in the North" (pp. 28-42) (**E-reserves**);
- Liudprand of Cremona, [Embassy to Constantinople](#) (**On-line**)

Unit VII. Peasants and Aristocrats at the Millennium | [Reading Guide](#) |

Readings:

- Wickham, *Inheritance of Rome*, 203-231, 508-551
- *Early Medieval Europe Reader*, "The Polyptique of Saint-Germain-des-Prés"; "The Polyptique of the Church of Marseilles"; "Agobard of Lyons and the Popular Belief in Weather Magic"; "Of Bread and Provisions"; "St. Riquier (Centula): Its

- Precious Goods" (**PSR**, pp. 180-204);
- Rodulfus Glaber, *The Five Books of the Histories*, ed. and trans. John France, Book IV (pp. 170-215) (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989) (**E-reserve**);
- Raimbaud, archbishop of Arles, "[Letter to the Clergy of Italy concerning the Truce of God](#)" (**On-line**)

Unit VIII. Negotiating authority: the slow recovery of monarchy and the beginnings of ecclesiastical reform | **Reading Guide** |

Readings:

- Uta-Renate Blumenthal, *The Investiture Controversy. Church and Monarchy from the Ninth to the Twelfth Century*, chaps. 3-4 (pp. 64-98, 106-127) (**Course reserves**);
- Helgaud of Fleury, *A Brief Life of King Robert the Pious*, trans. P. Buc (**Course reserves**);
- "The Synod of Orléans, 1022," in *The Birth of Popular Heresy*, trans. R. I. Moore (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1975), pp. 12-15 (**Course reserves**);

Letters and documents of Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV (**all on-line at**):

- (1) The "[Dictatus Papae](#)" of Gregory VII (March 1075);
- (2) [Letter of Pope Gregory to Henry IV](#) (December 1075);
- (3) [Henry IV's reply to Gregory VII](#) (January 1076);
- (4) [Gregory VII's anathematization of Henry IV](#) (February 1076);
- (5) [Gregory's letter concerning Henry IV's penance at Canossa](#) (1077);
- (6) Pope Gregory's [Letter to Bishop Hermann of Metz](#) (March 1081)