HI 208: sections 602 & 603
An Introduction to (Medieval) History or
The Medieval Origins of the Modern World
http://moodlepilot.ncsu.edu

Dr. Julie Mell, Assistant Professor of History
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(For more information on contacting the instructor, see below.)

Course Prerequisites: None
This course fulfills the requirements of a GER course.

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the history of medieval Europe and an introduction to the discipline of history. In the first unit of the course, students will get an overview of medieval history. We will begin in the late Roman Empire roughly around 300 C.E. and watch the emergence of three new civilizations -- European, Byzantine, and Islamic. We will follow the historical transformations of these three cultures to the threshold of the modern period, c.1450 C.E. Students will learn to narrate the histories of these cultures in regard to politics, economy, demography, religion, cultural and intellectual life, and gender and family. Over the course of the semester, students will collaborate on a group project that narrates the history of Byzantine, European, and Islamic civilizations from their roots in the late Roman Empire to their demise or transformation at the beginning of the early modern period.

In a series of in-depth units on law, power, and love, we will explore the medieval origins of our modern world. Each unit will begin by contrasting a modern institution with its medieval counterpart: trial by jury with trial by ordeal, capitalism with feudalism, and companionate marriage with courtly love. Our purpose is two-fold: (1) to better understand the differences that separate medieval society from our own and, (2) in grasping this historical difference, to pose more clearly the fundamental problem of historical analysis: how did we become what we are today? Through the course, students will gain a better understanding of history as a discipline that analyzes change over time in order to comprehend the present.

Learning Objectives
• Students will learn to narrate the major historical changes in European, Byzantine, and Islamic culture from c.500 to c.1500.
• Students will be able to recognize and understand institutional and cultural structures from medieval Europe that shape our society today.
• Students will be understand better the intellectual discipline of history as a study of change over time and will be exposed to different methods and subfields in the discipline such as political, religious, cultural, institutional, and legal history.
• Students will become familiar and comfortable working with new technologies for communication such as wikis, Moodle Skype, Elluminate and others.

Delivery
The course will be taught entirely on-line in an asynchronous environment. Comprehension of readings will be deepened through a mixture of interactive Power Points and quizzes, films, discussions and response papers. The syllabus is organized around Thursday assignments where students work independently, and may work in advance of the schedule, and Monday assignments where students participate in online discussions.

Expectations: Is this course for me?
Students should expect to spend about 3 to 3-1/2 hours for each class assignment, about 6 to 7 hours per week. Students must complete assignments on time. That means: Discussion posts, quizzes, papers, and nutshell projects must be turned in on time. Be realistic with your self and your time.

The good news: Because this is an online course, students have great flexibility in designing their own work schedule for the course. The course has been designed so that the work rhythms are flexible for students who have many other obligations and responsibilities. But this means you must be organized and disciplined. Thursday units can be completed any time before Thursday, and students can work several weeks ahead. Students can make initial posts to discussions anytime from Friday through Monday and response posts from Sunday to Monday midnight.

The bad news: Because this is an online course, students have more responsibility to be motivated and meet deadlines. Here are some recommended work patterns:

chunk it!
Designate chunks of time in the week when you know you have good energy and when you will not have other obligations that must override the course. You might choose a 3-1/2chunk Sunday evenings and then again Wednesday evenings. Or you might choose chunks of 2-1/2hours on Saturdays, Mondays, and Thursdays.

a little everyday (Remember the fable of the turtle and the hare?)
Designate one consistent hour each day (say an evening hour from 8-9 or your lunch hour, or if you are an early morning riser (ugh) an hour before your day begins to work on the course. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday you would work on the assignments due for Thursday. On Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday you would work on the assignments due for Monday.

Remember! To be successful in an online course, you must devote regular chunks of time to the course, you must be disciplined, and you must engage with your fellow students and instructors.
Login
moodlepilot.ncsu.edu/
For all tech support, contact the NCSU Help Desk at 515-HELP or help@ncsu.edu

Contacting the Instructor:
Dr. Julie Mell
EMAIL: jlmell@ncsu.edu
Home phone: 382-9202
Office: Withers 272, North Campus

Best way to contact the instructor: EMAIL
EMAIL: I will respond to all emails within 48 hours, often sooner during the working week. (If you have an urgent question, pick up the phone and call me at home. But please no calls after 9:30 in the evening.)

Next best way to contact the instructor: VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS
Virtual Office Hours: Thursday evenings 8:30-9:30 pm on Elluminate, Skype or ichat. (You can use which ever you please.) Log in here: http://slms.delta.ncsu.edu:80/join_meeting.html?meetingId=1246038067365

Face-to-face Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays by appointment. (Email 24 hours in advance to schedule an appointment.)

Required Readings and Films

Required Materials for the course are of several types: (1) books, (2) e-reserve readings, and (3) feature films.

(1) Books

Barbara Rosenwein, A Short History of the Middle Ages 3rd edition (University of Toronto Press, 2009)
ISBN: 9781442601048
new $44.95

ISBN: 0-8014-8548-7
new $21.00; used $15.75

ISBN: 978-0-14-044532-9
new $10.00; used $7.50

J. Bédier, The Romance of Tristan and Iseult, trans. Hilaire Belloc, (Dover, 2005). (This version only!)
new $5.95; used $4.50

Books may be purchased on-line and shipped to your home through the North Carolina State University Bookstores (www.fis.ncsu.edu/ncsubookstores) or other on-line suppliers such as Barnes & Noble (www.barnesandnoble.com). Students near campus can also purchase them in the bookstore or borrow them from the reserve desk in D.H. Hill library.

Helpful Hints on book orders!
• Students regularly report that prices for new books are better at Barnes & Noble. Barnes & Noble will ship for free if you spend more than $25.
• Used books are widely available on Amazon.com, but one usually pays an additional $3.99 for each book shipped unless they fall under Free Supersaver Shipping. Service can vary widely depending on the supplier.
• As you are ordering, pay careful attention to the ISBN numbers, editions, and translators or editors for the book to make sure that you are buying the book the instructor designated for the course.

(2) e-reserve

Short readings available on e-reserve are marked on the course schedule with an (e) before the title. To access e-reserves, go to the home page for NCSU, click on NCSU Libraries, and from the library home page, click on My Course Reserves.

Need help? Call the D.H. Hill Reference Desk at (919) 515-2935 or toll free at (877) 601-0590.

(3) Films

Two films are required viewing for the course. Students are responsible for getting their hands on a copy of the film to view.
Here are the full citations for the films and some suggestions for ways to view them.

IMPORTANT: our first film comes up quickly in the semester! Get your hands on "12 Angry Men" as soon as possible.

"12 Angry Men"
United Artists; story and screenplay by Reginald Rose; produced by Henry Fonda and Reginald Rose; directed by Sidney Lumet. Originally produced as a motion picture in 1957. Published: Santa Monica, CA: MGM Home Entertainment Inc., c2001. Description: 1 videodisc (ca. 96 min.): sd., b&w; 4 3/4 in.

"Pride and Prejudice"
Focus Features presents; in association with Studiocanal; a Working Title production; produced by Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Paul Webster; screenplay, Deborah Moggach; directed by Joe Wright. Published: Universal City, CA: Universal Studios Home Entertainment, [2006] Description: 1 videodisc (129 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in.

Ways for viewing films:
• **Local Video Stores**: Both films should be available at any video store. Remember to plan ahead to make sure you have access by the date of the discussion.
• **On-line video ordering service**: Use an on-line video ordering service such as Netflix (www.Netflix.com) or Blockbuster (www.blockbuster.com). The cheapest plans cost about $5.00 per month and provide 2 films per month.
• **Media Center**: Students near campus can watch the films in the Media Center of D.H. Library.
• **Tripsaver**: Students not near campus can borrow a copy from the library through Tripsaver. Visit the Library homepage and click on Tripsaver or follow this link: www.lib.ncsu.edu/distance/delivery.html

Course Requirements:

• **Lectures and Quizzes (1% each; total of 15%)**
Quizzes will be due each Thursday. Most of the quizzes in the course are integrated into interactive lectures. These lecture-quizzes (marked on the syllabus calendar as LEC-Z) are designed to simulate the Socratic method in a face-to-face course. They will help students assimilate and digest the reading material. Several quizzes will be open book Moodle quizzes designed to help students pull out the essential material from the readings.

• **Group Project: "Medieval History in a Nutshell" (35%)**
Over the course of the semester, students will work in groups of three to produce their own creative narrative of medieval history. These projects replace the traditional mid-term and final exams. The instructor will give detailed feedback with a temporary grade at the mid-term. Groups will have the opportunity to respond to the instructor's feedback in the second half of the semester. The final grade will go up or down as a consequence of the group's response to the instructor's feedback. A 5% portion of the final grade will be made
by peer review, that is, the group partners will grade each other on their participation and co-operation in the project. For further guidelines, see the course page on Nutshells.

- **Discussions (25%)**
  Students will participate in weekly online discussions. Postings are due by Sunday and Monday. Students must participate in all discussions. Feedback will be given at particular junctures throughout the semester. For more information, see the grading rubric for discussions.

- **2 papers (12.5% each)**
  Students will write two short papers during the semester. Papers will be about 2-1/2 pages long. The papers will give students an opportunity to make a formal statement about their observations emerging from the readings and discussions in the in-depth units. For more information, see the grading rubric and paper topics.

**Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>93-91</td>
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<td>A-/B+</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>86-84</td>
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**Policies**

**Attendance**
The equivalent for attendance in an on-line course is regular participation and timely completion of assignments. The university’s definition of excused absences will be applied in cases where work could not be submitted on time: [www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/pols_regs/REG205.00.4.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/pols_regs/REG205.00.4.php)

IMPORTANT! The History Department automatically drops students who have not attended the first two classes. On-line means participating and completing all assignments for the first full week of class: (1) the Monday partner interview and
wiki timeline and (2) Thursday LEC-Z for chapter 1 of Rosenwein, *A Short History of the Middle Ages*.

**Academic Integrity**
It is the understanding and expectation of the instructor that the student's signature on any test or typed name on any written assignment means that the student neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. The University policy on academic integrity can be found in the Code of Student Conduct:
www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php

**Students with disabilities**
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services Office at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653 AND notify the instructor about the nature of the special needs. For more information on NC State's policy regarding working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.1).