

The Medieval Mind: An Introduction to Medieval Studies

MW 9:30-10:45

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http://web.me.com/jimcpherson/Medieval_Mind/Medieval_Mind.html

Course Description: This course introduces the thought of the Middle Ages: its philosophy and its theology, its popular ideas, its arts and literature. It is presented as a development through various stages: the Age of Benedict; the Renaissance of the 10-12 centuries; High Medieval culture; the Medieval Autumn.

Requirements: There are three. 1, a weekly response page. This can be e mailed to the above address. One page of response to class discussion or readings; informal. 2. Class discussion: this is an elective and a seminar, so each student is expected to participate in the class discussions. 3. A term project, to be submitted in three stage as specified on the calendar immediately below.

Grading: each weekly response earns a 3, hence 12 weeks X 3= 36. Class discussion will count for 2 X 12. The term project will count for 30 points.

Readings: I have ordered Chaucer, Dante, a history of medieval Europe. Beyond these, readings will be on the

website, online, and in handout form. (Additional primary readings are: Boethius, Augustine, Plotinus, Benedict, Hildegard of Bingen, and a number of primary readings on the Site. In addition, there is a long study guide, which you may find on the Site as well.)

Schedule:

1/21 A. Introduction: The When, Where, Who, What, and Why of Medieval Studies

B. The Medieval Quarry: raw Materials for Medieval Thought

1 /26, 1/28 Founders of the Middle Ages: Benedict,

Boethius, Dionysius, and Gregory

2/2, 2/4 Early Medieval 1:

Alcuin, Rabanus; Talmud and Medieval Judaism

2/9 Early Medieval 2:

Erigena and Mysticism

2/11 Early Medieval 3: Islam; Old English Poetry

2/18 The White Mantle of Churches: Anselm, the Orders, and the 11th Century

2/23, 2/25 12th Century Renaissance: the Cathedral Schools

3/2, 3/4 12th Century Renaissance: The

Victorines and Peter Lombard

3/9 The Franciscan Romance: Francis,

Giotto, and Bonaventure

3/11

Averroes, Avicenna, and Moses Maimonides

3/23 The Dominican Program: Dominic, Albert, Thomas;

3/25

Kabbala and Jewish Mysticism

3/30, 4/1 Gothic Architecture and

Scholasticism

4/6, 4/8 Chivalry and Chaucer

4/13, 4/15 Medieval Autumn: Occam, Nicholas, and the

Apocalypics

4/20, An Introduction to Dante

4/22 A Visit to the Metropolitan Museum

4/27 Dante II

4/29 Medieval Autumn: the 14th Century Mystics and *Piers Plowman*

5/4 A Visit to the Cloisters