

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

HI2021 POWER AND PIETY: Medieval Europe, 1100–1500
ME33PP POWER AND PIETY: Medieval Europe, 1100–1500

HI2021: 30 CREDITS: 11 WEEKS
ME33PP: 15 CREDITS: 6 WEEKS

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Alastair Macdonald: tel. 01224 273927; email: a.j.macdonald@abdn.ac.uk;
office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 11-12 (room 103, Crombie Annexe)

Other members of the teaching team: Jackson Armstrong
(j.armstrong@abdn.ac.uk); Daniel Cutts (d.cutts@abdn.ac.uk); Marie-Luise
Ehrenschtndtner (m.ehrenschtndtner@abdn.ac.uk); Frederik Pedersen
(f.pedersen@abdn.ac.uk)

Discipline Administration

Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
01224 272199/272454
history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

TIMETABLE

For time and place of classes, please see [MyAberdeen](#)

Students can view their university timetable at

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Between 1100 and 1500 western Europe underwent fundamental transformations: new technical, economic and political challenges, fresh developments in religious and intellectual life and catastrophes like wars, diseases and climate change fundamentally shaped European societies for centuries to come. This course offers a thematic survey of medieval western societies, focusing on religion, kingship and conflict resolution, economy and environment, cultural renaissances and intellectual novelties, the emergence of national states and identities and the discovery of new worlds. The lectures introduce these important themes by using the medieval conception of society divided into three classes: those who pray (clergy); those who fight (aristocracy); and those who work (commoners). An important aspect of the course is the examination of primary sources with a view to gaining core historical skills and developing understanding of the medieval period. Tutorials are organised around the investigation of selected primary sources.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

COURSE AIMS: The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of religious, political, economic and social developments in medieval Europe. It will introduce essential knowledge and concepts relating to the period and will familiarise students with appropriate methodologies and techniques for dealing with historical sources, especially primary material.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- outline chronologically the significant developments in medieval Europe;
- offer explanations for these developments;
- search for, and critically appraise, relevant literature;
- undertake critical analysis of primary sources in translation;
- develop interpretations based on primary source materials.

Personal and Transferable Skills: This course is intended to sharpen skills in:

- written and verbal communication (explanation and argument), through written work and in-class discussion;
- independent learning, through reading and preparation for tutorials;
- IT, including word-processing and the use of appropriate online resources;
- documentary analysis, through the study of contemporary primary sources.

Attitudinal Skills: This course is intended to enhance critical appreciation and awareness of:

- the pervasive importance of Christianity in medieval European society;
- the intellectual and spiritual developments within medieval European society;
- the contours of political conflicts in medieval Europe;
- the significance of different social bonds in the middle ages;
- the social, political, cultural and economic effects of warfare and disease;
- the similarities and differences between the Scottish/northern experience and that of the wider European world;
- core developments in the medieval period, thereby providing a historical basis for medieval studies in different disciplines.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Week 1 Introduction to the Course

11-Sep	Introduction: Imagining the Middle Ages	A. Macdonald
13-Sep	The Shape of Europe	A. Macdonald

Week 2 Those Who Pray: Church and Religion

18-Sep	Religious Belief: Communion, Saints, Pilgrimage	M.-L. Ehrenscheidtner
20-Sep	The People and Canon Law	F. Pedersen

Week 3

25-Sep	Holy Men and Holy Women	M.-L. Ehrenscheidtner
27-Sep	Christians and Jews	A. Macdonald

Week 4

2-Oct	Heretics	M.-L. Ehrenscheidtner
4-Oct	The Crusades	J. Armstrong

Week 5

9-Oct	Popes and Councils	M.-L. Ehrenscheidtner
	Those Who Fight: Kings, Aristocrats and Politics	
11-Oct	Nobles, Overmighty and Otherwise	A. Macdonald

Week 6

16-Oct	Royal Power and the Expansion of Government	J. Armstrong
18-Oct	The Growth of Polities, the Making of Nations	J. Armstrong

Week 7

23-Oct	Fire and Sword: Chivalry and Warfare	A. Macdonald
25-Oct	The Anglo-Scottish Wars	A. Macdonald

Week 8

30-Oct	The Hundred Years War	A. Macdonald
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Those Who Work: Society and Economy

1-Nov	The Ties that Bound: Marriage, Family and Kin	F. Pedersen
Week 9		
6-Nov	Hunger and Harvests: The Countryside and the Rural Economy	F. Pedersen
8-Nov	The Black Death	A. Macdonald
Week 10		
13-Nov	Women's Lives	M.-L. Ehrenschtner
15-Nov	Walls and Wallets: Towns and the Urban Economy	F. Pedersen
Week 11		
20-Nov	Markets and Money: Trade and the International Economy	F. Pedersen
22-Nov	Contracting Economy or Expanding Opportunity? The Changing Roles of Men and Women	F. Pedersen

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Tutorials will take place in weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of teaching. These sessions will carefully explore important primary source materials. A separate Tutorial Guide is available on MyAberdeen with detailed guidance on the sources to be used and the questions to be considered. The tutors on the course are Frederik Pedersen and Alastair Macdonald.

Weeks 3-4

Love, Sex and Religion in the Twelfth Century
Primary Source: *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*

Weeks 5-6

Kingship and Crusade in the Thirteenth Century
Primary Source: Joinville, *The Life of St Louis*

Weeks 8-9

War, Chivalry and Society in the Fourteenth Century
Primary Source: Froissart, *Chronicles*
or
Law and Society in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries
Primary Source: Legal Sources (to be provided)

Weeks 10-11

Religion, Gender and War in the Fifteenth Century
Primary Source: *Joan of Arc. La Pucelle*

READING LIST

Essential Primary Sources

Students must have access to the following primary sources, which will be discussed in tutorials. For more detail see the Tutorial Guide on MyAberdeen, as well as the brief schedule above. In relation to the books, extra copies have been purchased for the library, but it is recommended that students purchase these items. Copies are available at Blackwell's Bookshop on the High Street.

Radice, B., ed., and Clanchy, M. T., rev., *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Penguin Classics, 2003)

Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades*, trans. Caroline Smith (Penguin Classics, 2008)

Froissart, Jean, *Chronicles*, ed. and trans. G. Brereton (Penguin Classics, 1978)
[NB: only Dr Macdonald's tutorial groups will deal with this source in classes – but it is worthwhile reading for all on the course.]

Thirteenth- and Fourteenth-Century Legal Sources. [NB: only Dr Pedersen's tutorial groups will deal with this collection of material in classes. Reading the collection is, however, encouraged for all on the course. It will be made available on MyAberdeen.]

Taylor, C., ed. and trans., *Joan of Arc. La Pucelle* (Manchester Medieval Sources, 2006)

Introductory and General Works

Barber, M., *The Two Cities: Medieval Europe 1050-1320* (1993)

Bartlett, R., *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonisation & Cultural Change, 950-1350* (1993)

Blockmans, Wim & Hoppenbrouwers, Peter, *Introduction to Medieval Europe 300-1550* (2007)

Brady, T. A., Oberman, H.A. and Tracy, D., eds, *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation* (1996)

Breisach, E., *Renaissance Europe, 1300-1517* (1973)

Briggs, C. F., *The Body Broken: Medieval Europe 1300–1520* (2011)

Davies, N., *Europe: A History* (1996)

Hay, D., *Europe in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries* (2nd ed., 1989)

Hollister, C. W. and Bennett, J., *Medieval Europe: A Short History* (2001)

Le Goff, J., *The Birth of Europe* (2005)

Mundy, J. H., *Europe in the High Middle Ages 1150-1300* (2nd ed., 2000)
Rosenwein, B. H., *A Short History of the Middle Ages, vol. 2: From 900 to c.1500* (2nd ed., 2004)
Waley, D. and Denley, P., *Later Medieval Europe, 1250-1520* (3rd ed., 2001)

In addition, the simplest introductions to particular topics are very often provided in encyclopaedias or in historical atlases, many of which provide a brief synopsis to accompany the relevant maps. The following may prove especially useful:

Ditchburn, D., et al., eds, *Atlas of Medieval Europe* (2nd ed., 2007)

For lengthier treatment of various topics, consult the various volumes of *The New Cambridge Medieval History*.

To find useful scholarly works on any medieval theme it is worth your while consulting the **INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL BIBLIOGRAPHY** (available on-line via the University Library) and spending time in the University Library's History Periodicals section. Remember too that in the latest edition of a journal you may just find that article which will enable you to keep one step ahead of your tutor. The following journals are just some of those which regularly include medieval material, and several are available in electronic format:

Economic History Review

French History

History

History Scotland

Innes Review

Journal of Medieval History

J. of Medieval & Early Mod. Studies

Northern History

Nottingham Medieval Studies

Scottish Historical Review

Urban History

English Historical Review

German History

History Ireland

History Today

Irish Historical Studies

Journal of Ecclesiastical History

Mediaeval Studies

Northern Scotland

Past & Present

Speculum

Viator

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on:

- 1 degree examination, worth 50% of the final mark.
- 1 x 2,000 word source review worth 40% of the final mark.
- Tutorial preparation and participation worth 10% of the final mark.

Should you fail the course and still retain your class certificate, you may register for a re-sit. Assessment in the re-sit is by examination only (100%).

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen- Organisations- Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates**. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

SOURCE REVIEW

The Source Review should be **2,000 words** in length and comprises 40% of the final mark for the course. It should be submitted in word-processed format and must be accompanied by a bibliography and foot- or endnotes which conform to standard academic conventions. Students provide an analysis of the historical value of one of the five core primary sources or source collections being used in tutorials (see 'Essential Primary Sources' in the Reading List, above, and the Tutorial Guide on MyAberdeen).

NB: If you choose to write on Joinville's *Life* you only deal with that source and not also with Villehardouin's chronicle, published in the same volume. If you wish to choose your own primary source to analyse you must have approval for this and you should speak to your tutor in the first instance. If it is helpful for you to couch this exercise in terms of an essay-style question the following captures the intention: 'How valuable is x as a historical source?'

The Source Review should not simply be a restatement of what the relevant source or collection contains. You should seek to set the source in context: what is the nature of the source? Who is writing it? What is valuable about this source? What does it reveal about the attitudes and position of its writer(s)? What is the background to the source? Why was it written? You need also to consider the core of the source: what are the most important points made in the source? Above all, and of greatest value to the historian – what does the source reveal about medieval society? For further guidance as to how to approach historical sources, see the leaflet 'Reading Historical Documents' in the Course Materials Folder on MyAberdeen, as well as the Tutorial Guide. In addition, further information about the Source Review, and a template giving guidance on how a review might be constructed, is available on MyAberdeen.

TUTORIAL PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION

It is assumed that students will attend and participate in all tutorials, and performance in these sessions is worth 10% of the final mark. Tutorial assessment will be based on such participation. Students will be awarded a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark for the number of tutorials in which they make a useful contribution and the quality of their contributions, as laid out in the following table:

Attendance and participation (number of tutorials)	Letter	Number	Quality of participation
8	A	1	Excellent
		3	Good
		5	Weak
7	B	1	Excellent
		2	Good
		3	Weak
6	C	1	Excellent
		2	Good
		3	Weak
5	D	1	Excellent
		2	Good
		3	Weak
4	E	1	Excellent
		2	Good
		3	Weak
2 or 3	F	1	Excellent
		2	Good
		3	Weak
0 or 1	G	1	Excellent
		2	Good
		3	Weak

If students are prevented from attending a tutorial, but have a good cause, lack of contribution for the relevant week will not be penalised. So, if excellent participation is made in seven tutorials but one is missed through illness a grade of 'A1' will still be awarded. Failure to attend tutorials without good cause, however, may lead to loss of the class certificate for the course.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

The deadline for the Source Review is **3pm on Wednesday of Week 10 (14 November 2018)**.

Feedback on written course work will be provided by tutors, as soon as possible after submission, with CGS marks and written comments.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

When uploading assignments, please do the following:

1. Submit a .doc or .docx and include the word count.
2. Submit by the due date, no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the Course Coordinator through [My Aberdeen](#).
3. In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 Hlxxxx Essay 1.
4. When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 Hlxxxx Essay 1.

Please note: Failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.

Please note: *Safeassign* text-matching software will be used. However the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right also to submit material to *TurnitinUK* when deemed necessary.

EXAMINATION

The ***Degree Examination*** (50% of the final assessment) will be held in the exam diet in December 2018. In the two-hour paper you will be expected to answer THREE questions, Question 1 and TWO others. In Question 1 you must discuss the historical value of ONE short primary source extract (a 'gobbet'). The skills you will need to do this effectively will be worked on in the tutorial sessions. You should seek not merely to describe the extract and the source it comes from, but also to highlight the usefulness and significance of the extract from the viewpoint of historical analysis. The two remaining questions are chosen from ten essay-style questions that cover important themes dealt with

in the course. Questions will be on issues addressed in lectures, but you must not merely regurgitate lecture notes and should instead seek to advance your own interpretations showing the full extent of your reading as well as your understanding of the issues covered throughout the course. The exam is an opportunity to show your knowledge, understanding, and skills of critical analysis in two spheres: in relation to the middle ages generally; and in relation to the primary sources necessary to gain an understanding of the medieval world.

General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

Past exam papers can be viewed at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/>.

PLEASE NOTE: Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries, when permitted by their Schools to do so. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, to check that there is no extra written material present.

INFORMATION FOR ME33PP STUDENTS

Medical students taking ME33PP as part of the Medical Humanities programme will join the course from Week 7 of teaching and must attend all classes from that point. They will be able to sign up for a suitable tutorial group from the start of the half-session, and they should ensure they have access to the primary sources which will be discussed in weeks 8-11 in their particular groups (see Tutorial Guide on MyAberdeen; consult the course co-ordinator if in doubt). Students are also encouraged to familiarise themselves in advance with medieval history by reading one of the general works noted in the Reading List above (or another introductory secondary textbook).

ASSESSMENT FOR ME33PP (ONLY) IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 x 2,500 word assessed essay worth 90% of the final mark.
- Tutorial preparation and participation worth 10% of the final mark.

Essay:

ME33PP students should choose an essay question of interest to them, but only after consultation with their tutor or the course coordinator. The submission deadline of the essay is **Thursday 22 November, 3pm**.

Good essays should:

- Critically weigh up a range of sources, primary and secondary
- Utilise a suitable scholarly apparatus (Foot- or endnotes and bibliography, properly formatted)

- Avoid a purely narrative approach
- Stick to the topic at hand, avoiding needless and irrelevant detail
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical past
- Be clearly written
- Adopt a sensible structure that enables careful discussion of core themes
- Offer cogent and convincing interpretations of the topic being discussed
- Provide evidence to back-up points of interpretation

Further information and guidance will be provided by your tutor.

Tutorial Preparation and Participation:

See guidelines above. ME3PP students attend only half the tutorials as those on HI2021. They therefore receive double credit for attending and participating in tutorials as laid out in the table above. So a student attending four tutorials and making excellent contributions will achieve a mark of 'A1' for this aspect of the course assessment.