SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

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

HI2021: 30 Credits – 12 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: Lisa Collinson (l.a.collinson@abdn.ac.uk); Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner (m.ehrenschwendtner@abdn.ac.uk); Michael Gelting (m.h.gelting@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 also 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. Seminars will be 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 essay work and in-class discussion
• independent learning, through reading and preparation for essay and seminars
• 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic Details</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>Introduction: Imagining the Middle Ages</td>
<td>A. Macdonald</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>17-Sep</td>
<td>Library Session</td>
<td>J. Mackay</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Those Who Pray: Church and Religion</td>
<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>Religious Belief: Confession, Drama, Image</td>
<td>M-L Ehrenschwendtner</td>
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<td>24-Sep</td>
<td>Religious Belief: Saints, Pilgrims and Indulgences</td>
<td>M-L Ehrenschwendtner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>29-Sep</td>
<td>Holy Men and Holy Women</td>
<td>M-L Ehrenschwendtner</td>
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<td>1-Oct</td>
<td>Heretics</td>
<td>M-L Ehrenschwendtner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>6-Oct</td>
<td>Popes and Councils</td>
<td>M-L Ehrenschwendtner</td>
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<td>8-Oct</td>
<td>The Universities and their teachers</td>
<td>M-L Ehrenschwendtner</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Those Who Fight: Kings, Aristocrats and Politics</td>
<td>13-Oct</td>
<td>The Crusades</td>
<td>A. Macdonald</td>
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<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>Royal Power and the Expansion of Government</td>
<td>M. H. Gelting</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>20-Oct</td>
<td>Fire and Sword: Chivalry and Warfare</td>
<td>A. Macdonald</td>
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<td>22-Oct</td>
<td>The Anglo-Scottish Wars</td>
<td>A. Macdonald</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>27-Oct</td>
<td>The Hundred Years War</td>
<td>F. Pedersen</td>
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<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>The Growth of Polities, the Making of Nations</td>
<td>A. Macdonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Those Who Work: Society and Economy</td>
<td>3-Nov</td>
<td>Harnesses and Harvests: The countryside and the Rural Economy</td>
<td>F. Pedersen</td>
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<td>5-Nov</td>
<td>Walls and Wallets: Towns and the Urban Economy</td>
<td>F. Pedersen</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>10-Nov</td>
<td>Markets and Money: Trade and the International Economy</td>
<td>F. Pedersen</td>
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<td>12-Nov</td>
<td>The Ties that Bound: Marriage, Family and Kin</td>
<td>F. Pedersen</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>17-Nov</td>
<td>The Black Death</td>
<td>M. H. Gelting</td>
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<td>19-Nov</td>
<td>Contracting Economy or Expanding Opportunity? The Changing Roles</td>
<td>F. Pedersen</td>
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<td>of Men and Women</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
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<td>24-Nov</td>
<td>Peasants, their work, and revolt</td>
<td>M. H. Gelting</td>
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<td><strong>Conclusion</strong></td>
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<td>26-Nov</td>
<td>The Europeanisation of the North – or the Europeanisation of Europe?</td>
<td>M. H. Gelting</td>
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SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Seminars 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 seminar guide will be made available on MyAberdeen with detailed guidance on the sources to be used and the questions to be considered. The tutors on the course are Lisa Collinson, 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 seminars. For more detail see the seminar schedule 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.


Froissart, Jean, Chronicles, ed. and trans. G. Brereton (Penguin Classics, 1978) [NB: only Dr Macdonald’s and Dr Collinson’s seminar 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 seminar 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**


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


For lengthier treatment of various topics, consult volumes 5, 6 and 7 of *The New Cambridge Medieval History*.

Aside from the general texts noted above, some of the best surveys of the Scottish experience are:


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.**  
**Journal of Ecclesiastical History**  
**Northern History**  
**Nottingham Medieval Studies**  
**Scottish Historical Review**  
**Urban History**  
**English Historical Review**  
**German History**  
**History Ireland**  
**History Today**  
**Irish Historical Studies**  
**Mediaeval Studies**  
**Northern Scotland**  
**Past & Present**  
**Speculum**  
**Viator**

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is based on:

- 1 degree examination, worth 40% of the final mark.
- 1 assessed essay, worth 30% of the final mark.
- Seminar preparation and participation, worth 10% of the final mark.
- 1 source review, worth 20% 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%).

Feedback on all assessment should be timely and normally provided within a maximum of three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) following the deadline for submission of the assessment.

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*  
*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

**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.

**ESSAYS**

You are required to submit one essay (30% of the final assessment), which should be no more than 2,500 words in length (not including the bibliography and references or any tables, graphs, illustrations, etc.). SIGNIFICANT DEVIATION (I.E. MORE THAN 10 PER CENT DEVIATION FROM THE WORD LIMIT) WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE MARK GIVEN TO THE WORK. Essays must include a bibliography and foot- or endnotes that conform to standard academic conventions. The deadline for the essay is **12 noon on Wednesday of Week 10 (18 November 2015)**. You will only be provided with a title.
for your essay – you must design your own bibliography, making use of the research skills you have developed.

The scholarly apparatus used (bibliography and references) should conform to the History Department Referencing guide. This is available on MyAberdeen. It is important to note that your bibliography may only include material that you explicitly reference in the text of your essay. It should consist of at least eight items, although this is very much a minimum and the more you use the more authoritative your essay is likely to be. Your essay must make use of suitable secondary source scholarship, and must also make use of at least two primary sources. If in any doubt about these requirements, or for help in techniques for finding useful sources, consult your tutor.

A list of essay titles will be supplied on MyAberdeen. Only eight students will be allowed to do each essay question, to ease pressure on books. The list of essays for you to sign up to will be made available at the start of week 2 of teaching. Contact the course co-ordinator, as soon as possible, if you want to take on a topic not covered in the list of essay questions.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance and participation (number of seminars)</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Quality of participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Weak</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
If students are prevented from attending a seminar, but have a good cause, lack of contribution for the relevant week will not be penalised. So, if excellent participation is made in seven seminars but one is missed through illness a grade of ‘A1’ will still be awarded. Failure to attend seminars without good cause, however, may lead to loss of the class certificate for the course.

SOURCE REVIEW
The Source Review should be **1,000 words** in length and comprises 20% 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 seminars (see ‘Essential Primary Sources’ in the Reading List, above, and the Seminar Guide on MyAberdeen).

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 is 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 Seminar Guide.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES
- Seminar preparation and participation: Teaching Weeks 3-6, 8-11 (28 September – 27 November 2015)
- Source Review: 12 noon, Wednesday of Teaching Week 7 (28 October 2015)
- Essay: 12 noon, Wednesday of Teaching Week 10 (18 November 2015).
- Degree examination: December examination diet (December 2015)

Written course work (Source Reviews and Essays) will be returned individually by tutors, as soon as possible after submission, with CGS marks and written comments. These consultations will provide an opportunity to discuss general aspects of the course as well as the specific piece of work under review.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The Department requires ONE official electronic copy submitted by the deadline plus ONE paper copy of all assignments with the TurnitinUK receipt, attached as follows:

Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.

Hard Copy: One hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

Please note: Failure to submit both to Turnitin, and also one identical hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to Turnitin will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION

The Degree Examination (40% of the final assessment) will be held in the exam diet in December 2015. In the two-hour paper you will be expected to answer THREE questions, all carrying an equal weight of marks. In section 1 you must answer TWO essay-style questions out of ten 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. In section 2 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 seminar 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. As this is the first time this exam format has been used the course co-ordinator will provide a mock paper which will be available via MyAberdeen. All told, 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.
Past exam papers are useful for the types of question that might crop up in section 1. They can be viewed at: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.

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 suitable seminar 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 Seminar Schedule 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 assessed essay worth 60% of the final mark.
- Seminar preparation and participation worth 10% of the final mark.
- 1 source review worth 30% of the final mark.

Source Review
See guidelines above. ME3PP students can choose to discuss any of the core primary sources discussed in seminar groups, although it is expected that they may wish to focus on those discussed in weeks 7-10. The submission deadline for the Source Review is Monday 16 November, 12 noon.

Essay:
See guidelines above. ME3PP students can choose any of the essay titles listed on MyAberdeen, or they can choose another question of interest to them, but only after consultation with the course co-ordinator. The submission deadline of the essay is Thursday 26 November, 12 noon.

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