



SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-2021

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

Dr Frederik Pedersen

Email: f.pedersen@abdn.ac.uk

OFFICE HOURS

By email appointment

COURSE TEAM

Dr Jackson Armstrong (j.armstrong@abdn.ac.uk)

Daniel Cutts (d.cutts@abdn.ac.uk)

Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner (m.ehrenschwendtner@abdn.ac.uk)

Dr Alastair Macdonald (a.j.macdonald@abdn.ac.uk)

DISCIPLINE ADMINISTRATION

Mrs Barbara McGillivray

history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key university policies, which is available on [MyAberdeen](https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies) (<https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies>).

These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful throughout your studies. They contain important information, including what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint, and explain why the University takes your feedback seriously.

These institutional policies should be read in conjunction with the course guide, in which School specific policies are detailed. Further information can be found on the [University's Infohub webpage](#) or by visiting the Infohub.

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

Lecture 1	Introduction: Imagining the Middle Ages	A. Macdonald
Lecture 2	The Shape of Europe	F. Pedersen

Week 2 Those Who Pray: Church and Religion

Lecture 3	Religious Belief: Communion, Saints, Pilgrimage	M.-L. Ehrenschtndtner
Lecture 4	The People and Canon Law	F. Pedersen

Week 3

Lecture 5	Holy Men and Holy Women	M.-L. Ehrenschtndtner
Lecture 6	Christians and Jews	A. Macdonald

Week 4		
Lecture 7	Heretics	M.-L. Ehrenschwendtner
Lecture 8	The Crusades	J. Armstrong
Week 5		
Lecture 9	Popes and Councils	M.-L. Ehrenschwendtner
	Those Who Fight: Kings, Aristocrats and Politics	
Lecture 10	Nobles, Overmighty and Otherwise	A. Macdonald
Week 6		
Lecture 11	Fire and Sword: Chivalry and Warfare	A. Macdonald
Lecture 12	The Anglo-Scottish Wars	A. Macdonald
Week 7		
Lecture 13	The Hundred Years War	A. Macdonald
Lecture 14	Royal Power and the Expansion of Government	J. Armstrong
Week 8		
Lecture 15	The Growth of Polities, the Making of Nations	J. Armstrong
	Those Who Work: Society and Economy	
Lecture 16	The Ties that Bound: Marriage, Family and Kin	F. Pedersen
Week 9		
Lecture 17	Hunger and Harvests: The Countryside and the Rural Economy	F. Pedersen
Lecture 18	The Black Death	A. Macdonald
Week 10		
Lecture 19	Women's Lives	M.-L. Ehrenschwendtner
Lecture 20	Walls and Wallets: Towns and the Urban Economy	F. Pedersen
Week 11		
Lecture 21	Markets and Money: Trade and the International Economy	F. Pedersen
Lecture 22	Contracting Economy or Expanding Opportunity? The Changing Roles of Men and Women	F. Pedersen

NB: All lectures will be recorded and posted online

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Tutorials will take place in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 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.

Weeks 2-3

ALL GROUPS:

Love, Sex and Religion in the Twelfth Century

Primary Source: *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*

Weeks 4-5

FREDERIK PEDERSEN'S GROUPS:

Law and Society in the Thirteenth Century (week 4)

European canon law: Primary Source *The Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council*, 1215 (Available online:

<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/lateran4.asp>)

Law in the community (week 5)

Legal source: *Lovel c. Marton* (Available on MyAberdeen)

OTHER TUTORS' GROUPS:

Kingship and Crusade in the Thirteenth Century

Primary Source: Joinville, *The Life of St Louis*

Week 6

ALL GROUPS: Reading week: no tutorials. NB: lectures continue as normal.

Weeks 8-9

FREDERIK PEDERSEN'S GROUPS:

Women, Sex and Gender in the Fourteenth Century

Primary Source: *The Canterbury Tales*: General Prologue (Portrait of the Wife of Bath, ll. 445-476. Available online:

<http://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/gp-par.htm>), *The Wife of Bath*:

Prologue and Tale (available online:

<http://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/wbt-par.htm>)

OTHER TUTORS' GROUPS:

War, Chivalry and Society in the Fourteenth Century

Primary Source: Froissart, *Chronicles*

Weeks 10-11

ALL GROUPS:

Religion, Gender and War in the Fifteenth Century

Primary Source: *Joan of Arc. La Pucelle*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Small group teaching is compulsory. If you fail to fulfil any of the course requirements (including attendance, engagement or submission of all course assessments by the stated deadline or agreed extension period) you will be contacted and may not be able to continue with the course.

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, in discounted 'bundles'.

Radice, B., ed., and Clanchy, M. T., rev., *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Penguin Classics, 2003) [Essential for all tutorial groups.]

Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades*, trans. Caroline Smith (Penguin Classics, 2008) [NB: Dr Pedersen's tutorial groups will not deal with this source in classes – but it is worthwhile reading for all on the course.]

The *Magna Carta*, 1215 and 1225; The *Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council*, 1215 (Online links provided above) [NB: only Dr Pedersen's tutorial groups will deal with these sources. Reading them is, however, encouraged for all on the course.]

Froissart, Jean, *Chronicles*, ed. and trans. G. Brereton (Penguin Classics, 1978) [NB: Dr Pedersen's tutorial groups will not deal with this source in classes – but it is worthwhile reading for all on the course.]

Chaucer, Geoffrey *The Canterbury Tales* (Online links provided above); print edition available in Penguin Classics (2003) [NB: only Dr Pedersen's tutorial groups will deal with this source. Reading it is, however, encouraged for all on the course.]

Taylor, C., ed. and trans., *Joan of Arc. La Pucelle* (Manchester Medieval Sources, 2006) [Essential for all tutorial groups.]

Secondary Reading: 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

English Historical Review

German History

History Ireland

History Today

Irish Historical Studies

Journal of Ecclesiastical History

Mediaeval Studies

Northern History
Nottingham Medieval Studies
Scottish Historical Review
Urban History

Northern Scotland
Past & Present
Speculum
Viator

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on:

- 1 x 3,000 word essay worth 60% of the final mark.
- 1 x 2,000-word source review worth 40% of the final mark.

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; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long (i.e more than 2,200 words) or too short (i.e. less than 1,800 words). 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 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 therefore not also with Villehardouin's chronicle which is published in the same Penguin 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.

Essay: The essay should be 3,000 words long and comprises 60% of the final mark for the course; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long (i.e. more than 3,300 words) or too short (i.e. less than 2,700 words). The essay must be accompanied by a bibliography and foot- or endnotes which conform to standard academic conventions. A list of essay questions will be placed on MyAberdeen.

INFORMATION FOR ME33PP STUDENTS ONLY

ME33PP students choose an essay question of interest to them, but only after consultation with their tutor or the course co-ordinator. The essay must be of around 2500 words. The course co-ordinator may be able to help with bibliographical research. The submission deadline is listed below.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

HI2021 STUDENTS:

Source Review: Wednesday 4 November 2020, 3pm.

Essay: Wednesday 9 December 2020, 3pm.

ME33PP STUDENTS:

Essay: Friday 11 December, 3pm.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

When uploading assignments, please do the following:

1. Submit a .doc or .docx and include the word-count.
2. Submit by **3pm** on 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 HI2021 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 HI2021 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.