

TRENT UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
HIST-205

# Medieval Panorama

**Instructor:** Martin M. Elbl

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**Lectures:** Tuesday, OCA 203, 17:00-18:50 (2 hours)

**Office Hours:** Thursday, 14:00-14:50

**Course Website:** Will be in service by Sep. 10, 2007

**Seminar Groups:** SC W1, Thu., 11:00-11:50

SC W1, Thu., 12:00-12:50

CC C3, Thu., 15:00-15:50

CC C3, Thu., 16:00-16:50

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS IS A PRELIMINARY RELEASE OF THE SYLLABUS. MINOR ADJUSTMENTS DICTATED BY LAST-MINUTE CHANGES AT UNIVERSITY OR DEPARTMENT LEVELS ARE POSSIBLE. ADJUSTED SYLLABI WILL BE HANDED OUT IN THE FIRST LECTURE OF THE FALL TERM.**

*Medieval Panorama* surveys the key social, economic, political and cultural aspects of life in Europe during the Middle Ages, from the decline of the Roman Empire as a centralizing entity to c. 1500. The lectures explore and critique the conventional “turning points” of medieval history and discuss them in the light of current research. Particular emphasis is laid on the interplay between, on the one hand, dominant ideologies, power-holders, and economic interests, and on the other hand the material and spiritual existence of ordinary men and women. The context ranges from food and housing to clothes, tools, weapons, technology, money, wages, prices, labour relations, laws, popular faith, and social conflict. You will have the opportunity to compare competing approaches to historical questions, as well as problems of historical method—of how historians grapple with history. Moreover, you will be exposed to crosscuts between history and economics, political science, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and the natural sciences.

**Required Readings:**

Barbara H. Rosenwein. *A Short History of the Middle Ages*. Second edition. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2004 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> expanded edition of Rosenwein is **mandatory** for this course—the earlier editions are shorter and do not contain the same material).

Patrick J. Geary, ed. *Readings in Medieval History*. Third edition. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2003 (please be aware that all the readings are referenced to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition; if you use another edition of Geary, pages and/or numbers of documents may not coincide with the syllabus).

Work through your assigned readings and think about them before you come to the lectures and seminars. The readings will help you to understand better some of the material presented in class. In some cases, the themes of the lecture do not necessarily coincide with the readings. This is not an oversight, but a deliberate choice, necessary to enable us to cover a balanced spread of material in the available time.

*Please note:* The lectures will NOT duplicate or “go over” material in the readings. On the contrary, all lectures with the exception of the first one presuppose that you have completed the readings assigned for that particular day’s lecture.

**Evaluation Schema:**

First Essay	10%
Research Paper Proposal	5%
Mid-Year Examination	15%
Research Paper First Draft	10%
Research Paper Final	20%
Scheduled Final Examination	20%
Seminar Participation	20% (10% Fall and 10% Spring)

**Due Dates for Written Work:**

First Essay	20 November 2007
Research Paper Proposal	4 December 2007
Research Paper First Draft	26 February 2008
Research Paper Final	25 March 2008

All assignments should be submitted on the due date, either in class or in the office of the instructor/tutorial leader. All other forms of submission are at the student's own risk.

**Essays must include proper notes and bibliography in the correct format.** Late assignments will be marked down by 3 percentage points per calendar day. Assignments that are more than a week past the due date shown in the syllabus will not be accepted. Extensions up to two weeks may be granted for documented reasons, except where this would conflict with Department of History policies. **Please Note: It is departmental policy that essays can not be accepted after the last day of classes in each term, except with the approval of the Department Chair.**

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offense and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to suspension from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's Academic Dishonesty Policy which is printed in the University Calendar. **Note: students in this course may be required to submit their research notes and essay drafts upon request.**

**Seminar Participation Marks:** Seminar participation is evaluated in terms of both attendance and active participation in discussions. Seminars are **compulsory** and more than two (2) unexcused absences per term will carry a penalty of 10% off the participation mark. Make-up assignments in lieu of missed seminars (with a valid reason) should be discussed with the instructor. Please keep in mind that it is against your interest to miss tutorials, which complement and expand the lectures.

**Written Assignments:**

**First Essay:** The essay will be at least six pages long (double-spaced typed pages) (c. 1500 words) and will include **properly formatted notes (footnotes or endnotes) and a bibliography**. The bibliography and notes do **not** count toward the required length of the essay. You are free to choose your own topic, but the material **must** relate only to the lecture themes covered up to Week 2 of the Second Semester. The essay must be analytical, **not** descriptive, and is expected to address a clearly defined and preferably narrow **problem** characterizing a given period, or relating to a specific event, process, or personage. **Due: November 20.**

**Research Paper Proposal:** The purpose of this assignment is to identify each student's personal area of interest, establish a research question **and** an alternative questions, and provide a preliminary bibliography (c. 15 directly relevant sources) for instructor's approval. The students may choose from a list of topics or create their own. The approved question will form the basis of the research paper. *Please note that a research paper will **not be accepted** unless a research question has been properly assigned.* **Due: December 4.**

**Research Paper First Draft:** The draft must come close to a full paper and contain **a) a research question, b) a clear hypothesis, c) a first draft of the discussion, in full sentences and with proper transitions, and d) a conclusion; e) proper documentation, including notes and a full bibliography.** It must be obvious from the draft that the paper will meet the requirements for the research paper (see below). **Due: February 26.**

**Research Paper Final:** The paper must be at least **3,500 words long, analytical** (as opposed to descriptive), and must contain a representative **discussion** of the relevant **secondary literature**, as well as an **original argument** and, where applicable, work with **primary sources**. The argument must be rigorously supported by **evidence**. Bibliographical support: **no less than 15 directly relevant works** (a balanced mix of books and **scholarly** journal articles). **Due: March 25.**

**Office Hours and Contact Information:** Please take maximum advantage of keeping in touch with the instructor by e-mail. Designated office hours are on Thursdays, from 14:00 to 14:50 PM, Lady Eaton College, S114.

**Access to Instruction:** It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (BL Suite 109, 748-1281, disabilityservices@trentu.ca) as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under *Access to Instruction* in the *Academic Calendar*.

# SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, AND TUTORIALS

## I Semester

**Week 1–Sep. 11** Administrative issues (c. 10 mins). Initial lecture, no readings. The Syllabus, the seminar organization, and expectations will be discussed in the seminars. The introductory lecture is considered an essential introduction to the course.

**Introductory Lecture: *First Hour: The Landscape, Climate, and Peoples of Medieval Europe; Second Hour: The Sources of Medieval History***

**Week 2–Sep. 18** **The Late Roman Empire and the “Peripheral” Peoples**  
**Lecture Themes:** Empire—“Benevolent” and “Malevolent”; “Barbarian” Societies and Their Antecedents; Interaction of Germanic, Late Celtic, and Roman Societies; Dynamics of the Eurasian Steppe Populations; Frontier Economies

**Readings** (*all readings, throughout the entire course, are both for the lecture and the seminar, and should be completed before you come to class*): **Rosenwein:** Start reading Chapter 1; **Geary:** (4) Tacitus, *De Germania* (pp. 69-82); (5) Jordanes, *History of the Goths* (pp. 83-117).

**Week 3–Sep. 25** **Structures of Power and Law and the Devolution of Centralized Administration**  
**Lecture Themes:** Imperial “Decline”; Reforms of Diocletian; Reforms of Constantine; Late Imperial Fiscal System and Tax Reform; Administrative Devolution; State and Army; State and Policing; Rural Economy and Settlements; Deurbanization as “Constructive” Destruction in the Late Roman West and East

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Continue reading Chapter 1; **Geary:** (1) *Theodosian Code* (pp. 1-28); (2) Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine; City of God* (pp. 29-60); (3) *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity* (pp. 61-68).

**Week 4–Oct. 2** **The “Age of Migrations” and the “Successor States”**  
**Lecture Themes:** “Invasion” vs. Infiltration; Germanic Troops in the Roman Army; The “Migrations Trigger”: The Huns and Socio-Economic Processes in the Steppe Belt; The Spearhead (Alans, Vandals, Sueves); Franks, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Vandals, and Burgundians; Beyond the “Germanic” Question: African Invasions on the Upper Nile; Christian Kingdoms of Nubia

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Finish reading Chapter 1; **Geary:** (10) Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks* (pp. 139-161); (7) The Tomb of Childeric (pp. 120-128); (8) *Salic Law* (pp. 129-136); (9) Remigius and Avitus, *Letters to Clovis* (pp. 137-138).

**OCTOBER 9: THANKSGIVING MONDAY - NO LECTURE**

**Week 5–Oct. 16** **Christianity in the Romanized Core Lands and Among the “Heathens”**  
**Lecture Themes:** Christianity in the Later Empire; Religion and State Policy; The *Dominate* and the Legalization of Christianity; Missions Beyond the *Limes Romanus*; Conversion and “Tribal” Religions; Near Eastern Cenobitic Movements and the Beginnings of Western Monasticism; The Northern Missions; Christianity and the Slavs

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Start reading Chapter 2; **Geary:** (11) *Life of Saint Balthild* (pp. 162-167); (12) St. Benedict, *Rule for Monasteries* (pp. 168-198); (13) Gregory the Great, *Dialogues* (pp. 199-220).

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE READING WEEK (Oct. 23): NO CLASSES**

**Week 6–Oct. 30**

**The Mediterranean and “Europe”: Settlement and Coexistence vs. “Reunification” in the Age of Emperor Justinian**

**Lecture Themes:** Byzantium and the Germanic “Successor” States; Sixth-Century Economy, Epidemiology, and Byzantine Reconquest; The Rise of Islam; Byzantium’s North-Eastern Borderlands; Europe’s North-Western Borderlands; East-West Trade Before and After Justinian; The Sixth-Century Turning Point in Global Perspective

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Finish reading Chapter 2; **Geary:** (14) *Laws of Ethelbert* (pp. 221-223); (15) Bede, *History of the English Church and People* (pp. 224-235).

**Week 7–Nov. 6**

**The “Heroic Age” in Song and Reality**

**Lecture Themes:** Angles and Saxons; Jutland and the Southern Baltic Shore; Before Hrothgar: Backtracking from *Beowulf*; Ringenrike (Norway) and the Legend of Veien; The *Nibelungenlied*, the *Hildebrandlied*, and Hollywood’s “Conan the Barbarian”; Rise of the Franks; From Leadership to Kingship: The Merovingians

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Start reading Chapter 3; **Geary:** (6) *Hildebrandlied* (pp. 118-119); (17) *Theodore Penitential* (pp. 262-281).

**Week 8–Nov. 13**

**The Carolingian Empire-Making Dream: “Translatio Imperii”**

**Lecture Themes:** Byzantium, Islam, and Charlemagne; The “Pirenne Thesis” and Its Critics; Disengagement in the Mediterranean; The New Frankish State and Old Estate Economy; The Rise of New Landed Nobility; Carolingian Commerce; Franks, Lombards, and Italian Politics; The Meaning of Imperial Coronation

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Continue reading Chapter 3; **Geary:** (18) Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne* (pp. 282-296); (19) Selected *Capitularies* (pp. 297-320).

**Week 9–Nov. 20**

**Beyond the Pale of States: Marches, Marcher Lords, Traders, and Muslim Colonists**

**Lecture Themes:** Policy and Strategy in the Marchlands; The Frisian Wars; Carolingians and the East: Samo, Slavs, and Statebuilding; Charlemagne, the *Song of Roland*, and the Muslims; Al-Andalus: The Conflicting Societies of Islamic Spain; *Imperium Christianum* under Strain: Viking, Magyar, and “Saracen” Pressure

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Finish reading Chapter 3; **Geary:** (16) King Alfred: Documents and writings (pp. 236-261).

**Week 10–Nov. 27**

**Church and State: Monasticism, Parish Priests, and Missionaries**

**Lecture Themes:** Parish Churches and Their Founders; Private Churches and the Dynamics of Settlement; Missionary Endeavours and Their Aftermath (Ireland, British Isles, Norway, Denmark, Slavic Lands); The Western *Ecclesia* and the Bishops of Rome; The Papacy and Italian Landholder Politics; Cluny and Ecclesiastical Reform

**Readings: Geary:** (20) Cluniac Charters (pp. 321-327); (21) Miracles of Saint Foy (pp. 328-335).

**Week 11–Dec. 4**

**The “Ottonian Renaissance”: An Eastern and Southern “Translatio Imperii”**

**Lecture Themes:** The Implosion of the Carolingian Sphere of Influence; Otto I (962-973) and his Successors; The Ottonians and the Byzantine Connection; The “Service State”, Bishops, and Landholders; Dreams of Reunification; Islam, Byzantium, and German Policy in Italy; Germany, the *Ostmark*, and the Slavs; Foundations of Future Imperial Strategies; The Ottonian Cultural Renaissance

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Start reading Chapter 4 (read pp. 156-162 [the end of the chapter] first); **Geary:** (25) Fulbert of Chartres, *Letter to William* (p. 386); (26) Hugh of Lusignan, *Agreement between Lord and Vassal* (pp. 387-392); (38) Liudprand of Cremona, *A Chronicle of Otto's Reign* (pp. 600-607).

**WINTER HOLIDAYS BREAK**

## II Semester

### Week 1–Jan. 8

#### State Formation and Dependency in the Eastern Outlands

**Lecture Themes:** Poland; Bohemia; Hungary; Prussia and Livonia; Descendants of the “Varangians” and the Early Russian Principalities; Byzantine Cultural and Commercial Policy in East-Central Europe and the Black Sea Area

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Continue reading Chapter 4; **Geary:** (22) St. Anselm, *Proslogion* (pp. 336-349); (23) St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *Sermons on the Song of Songs* (pp. 350-359).

### Week 2–Jan. 15

#### The Search for Political/Ideological Structure (Public Order and Disorder Through Private and Ideological Means)

**Lecture Themes:** Agrarian Economy from c. 1000; The Roots of Great Landed Families; Manorialism; “Feudalism(s)”; Early Chivalry; Kingship, Lordship, and Aristocracy, Private Power and Public Administration; *Incastellamento*, Forts, and Urban Towers; Peace of God; Truce of God; Urban Leagues

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Finish reading Chapter 4 (particularly pp. 147 and following); **Geary:** (24) Guibert of Nogent, *Memoirs* (pp. 360-385); (27) Galbert of Bruges, *The Murder of Charles the Good* (pp. 393-406).

### Week 3–Jan. 22

#### The Restless Expansion I: Norman Adventurers, Iberian Rebuilders, and the Heirs of Charlemagne

**Lecture Themes:** The Norman Conquest of England; Northmen in the South–Norman State-Building in the Mediterranean; The Early German “Drang nach Osten”; Resistance and Christian Reconquest in al-Andalus

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Start reading Chapter 5 (read pp. 185-186 first, and then match chapter content and lecture themes at your discretion); **Geary:** (48) *Domesday Book* (pp. 758-765).

### Week 4–Jan. 29

*Please Note: This lecture comprises two different themes, presented respectively in the first and second hour. Material from the second half of this lecture may be partly carried over into Feb. 5 lecture, depending on the progress and needs of the seminar groups.*

#### The Restless Expansion II: The First Crusade and Other Encounters Between Christianity and Islam

**Lecture Themes: First Hour:** The Middle East and Seljuq Newcomers; Byzantium, the Komnenoi, and the Crusaders; The First Crusade; The Later Crusades; Crusade and *Jihad*; Christendom, Crusading, and Non-Christians in Eastern Europe

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Continue reading Chapter 5; **Geary:** (28) *Four Accounts of the First Crusade* (pp. 407-442).

#### Religious Impulses of the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries (Faith, Monasticism, Monastic Reforms, Social Control)

**Lecture Themes: Second Hour:** Sacramentalism; Dogma and Doctrine; Intellectual and Popular Responses; Cults of Relics and Saints; Church and Morality: Marriage, Concubinage, Prostitution

### Week 5–Feb. 5

*Please Note: This lecture comprises two different themes, presented respectively in the first and second hour. Material from the second half of this lecture may be partly carried over into Feb. 12 lecture, depending on the progress and needs of the seminar groups.*

#### The First True “Renaissance”? Urban Development, Economic Expansion, and Intellectual Horizons in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries

**Lecture Themes: First Hour:** Mediterranean and Northern Europe; Cities, Lords, and Manufacturing; Commercial Empires; Intellectual Trends and Business Practices; Intellectual Exchanges Between Islam, Judaism, and Christian Europe; Cathedral Schools, Law Teachers, Notaries, and the First Universities

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Finish reading Chapter 5; **Geary:** (55) Giovanni Scriba, *Genoese Commercial Contracts* (pp. 813-814).

### **Capetians, Plantagenets, Emperors, and Popes**

**Lecture Themes: *Second Hour*:** Roman Church and “Holy Roman Empire”; Christendom, Papal Authority, and Top-Down Reform; Canon Law; The “Investiture Controversy” and its Interpretations; Henry IV (Germany); Frederick I Barbarossa;

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Be sure you have finished Chapter 5 by now; **Geary:** (39) Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV: Investiture Controversy (pp. 608-634); (40) *Concordat of Worms* (p. 635); (41) Otto of Freising, *The Deeds of Frederick Barbarossa* (pp. 636-645).

**Week 6–Feb. 12**

*Please Note: This lecture comprises two different themes, presented respectively in the first and second hour*

### **“Heresy” and Containment (Reformers, Break-Aways, Friars, and Inquisitors)**

**Lecture Themes: *First Hour*:** Critical Thought (in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam); Intellectual and Popular “Heresies”; Cathars; Albigensian Society; Waldensians; St. Francis; Franciscans; Dominicans; Establishment of Inquisitional Procedures

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Start reading Chapters 6 and 7 (you should have them completed by Week 7 of this term); **Geary:** (29) Canons of the Fourth Lateran Council (pp. 443-469); (30) Rule of St. Francis (pp. 470-473); (31) Testament of St. Clare (pp. 474-477); (32) Canonization of St. Dominic (pp. 478-489); (33) *Defense of Mendicants* (pp. 490-492).

### **Morality, Society, Sex, and Gender**

**Lecture Themes: *Second Hour*:** Sex and Marriage; Sex and the Confession; Formal and Informal Norms of Conduct; Women, Work, and Religion; Homosexuality

## **UNIVERSITY-WIDE READING WEEK (Feb. 19): NO CLASSES**

**Week 7–Feb. 26**

### **Kingship and the State I: England and Germany (Contrasts and Comparisons)**

**Lecture Themes:** Institutional Structures of the English Monarchy; Crown and Barons; Magna Carta—Freedoms or Privileges?; “Parliamentary” and Electoral Institutions; Frederick II; The German Interregnum; Lords, Barons, and Imperial Towns in Germany; Rudolf of Habsburg; Germany and Italy; Germany and East-Central Europe

**Readings:; Geary:** (49) *Dialogue of the Exchequer* (pp. 766-775); (50) *Magna Carta* and related documents (pp. 776-793); (51) Royal Courts of England, *The Huntingdonshire Eyre of 1286* (pp. 794-797).

**Week 8–Mar. 4**

*Please Note: This lecture comprises two different themes, presented respectively in the first and second hour*

### **Kingship and the State II: France and the Iberian Peninsula (State-Building and “Empire”-Building)**

**Lecture Themes: *First Hour*:** Louis VI, Philip II Augustus; St. Louis; Consolidation of the French Monarchy; Crown and Great Feudatories; Taxation and Popular Consent; The Catalan-Aragonese Crown: Empire-Building in a “Federal” Kingdom; Castile and Portugal: Reconquest, Crown Authority and “Interstitial” Society

**Readings: Geary:** (44) Joinville, *Life of St. Louis* (pp. 686-704); (45) “*Enquêts*” of King Louis (pp. 705-715).

### **High Culture, Faith, Institutionalization of Upper-Level Learning, and University Life**

**Lecture Themes: *Second Hour*:** Universities and their Organization; Teaching Methods; Neoplatonism and Faith; Aristotelian Learning; The Heritage of Jewish and Muslim Aristotelianism; The University and Society

**Readings: Geary:** (34) St. Bonaventure, Siger of Brabant, St. Thomas Aquinas (pp. 493-523).

**Week 9–Mar. 11**

**War, Plague, State, and Ideology**

**Lecture Themes:** The Early Stages of the Hundred Years' War; War, Economy, and Society; The Black Death and Psychology; The Great Schism and Religious Contention; Europe's Minorities (Jews, Enclave Populations, and Marginal Social Groups)

**Readings: Rosenwein:** Start reading Chapter 8 now and complete it within two weeks at most;

**Geary:** (46) Jean Froissart, *Chronicles* (pp. 716-741); (42) *Autobiography of Charles IV* (pp. 646-662); (43) *Golden Bull* (663-685).

**Week 10–Mar. 18**

**The Late Medieval “Crisis” (Perceptions, Interpretations, and Data)**

**Lecture Themes:** Historians and the “Crisis of Feudalism”; Late Medieval Economy (Regional Variations); The Hierarchical Church, the Papacy as International Broker, and Papal Finance; Indulgences; New “Heresies”, Popular Uprisings, and Revolutionary Movements

**Readings: Geary:** (57) Florentine *Catasto* (pp. 824-835); (52) A Medieval English Village (pp. 798-800); (36) Marsilius of Padua, *Discourses* (pp. 545-566); (56) Catherine of Siena, *Dialogues* (pp. 815-823).

**Week 11–Mar. 25**

**The Waning of the Middle Ages and the “Transition to Modernity” I**

**Lecture Themes:** The End of the Hundred Years' War; Diplomatic Games and Balance of Power; Institutional Practices, Business and Warfare in the Earlier Fifteenth Century; The City State as “Republic” or “Tyranny”; New Concepts in “International” Relations

**Readings: Geary:** (47) Trial of Joan of Arc (pp. 742-757); (37) Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe* (567-599).

**Week 12–Apr. 1**

**The Waning of the Middle Ages and the “Transition to Modernity” II**

**Lecture Themes:** The Early Renaissance; European Economy in the Later Fifteenth Century; Intellectual Discovery and Social Practice; State Finance and Warfare; The Origins of the Reformation; Europe and the Ottoman Empire; Europe United and Divided

**Readings: Geary:** (58) Gregorio Dati, *Diary* (pp. 836-851).

**The Final Examination will be held at the time and place designated by Trent University, during the scheduled Examination Period.**