

TESP 134

Popes, Peasants and Prophetesses

Winter, 2009
TTh 2:15-4:00
Kenna 310

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W 1-12

The "Middle Ages" comprises half of the entire history of Christianity. This period of a thousand years is, not surprisingly, hardly a unity. Even during its greatest period, diversity abounded. According to Henry Adams, "A Church which embraced, with equal sympathy, and within a hundred years, the Virgin, Peter the Venerable, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Dominic, Saint Thomas Aquinas, and Saint Bonaventure, was more liberal than any modern State can afford to be. ... Such elasticity long ago vanished from human thought." This course can only touch on the sometimes disconcerting varieties of experience which scholars sadly lump into the "Middle Ages." We will study not only the theology, but also the church structures, and the popular beliefs of this most misunderstood and underestimated periods of Christian history.

Objectives

- Students will be able to analyze complex and diverse religious phenomena (such as architecture and art, music, ritual, scriptures, theological systems, and other cultural expressions of religious belief). (*complexity; critical thinking*)
- Students will be able to integrate and compare several different disciplinary approaches to a coherent set of religious phenomena. (*complexity of content as well as of method; critical thinking*)
- Students will be able to clarify and express beliefs in light of their critical inquiry into the religious dimensions of human existence. (*reflection; critical thinking*)

Reading 1 and 2 will address objective 1. Reading 1 will address objective 2. All readings will address objective 3.

Required Readings:

F. Donald Logan, *A History of the Church in the Middle Ages* (Logan)
Patrick Geary (ed.) *Readings in Medieval History* (Readings)

Extra Credit Reading:

Maria Rosa Menocal, *The Ornament of the World*

Requirements and Grading:

Timeline:

The timeline can be a document, a webpage or an electronic version. Approximately every two weeks, you will hand your timeline in to be checked. The more complete the timeline, the better the grade. Check the assignments for the dates that the timeline is due.

Exams:

Two exams will be given, a mid-term and a final. **These exams cannot be made up without a medical excuse. Exam will not be given at any other time except for medical reasons.** You must be present for these exams, so please check the dates carefully.

Participation:

The participation grade worth ten percent of the final grade will be based on both the quality as well as the quantity of class contributions. Attendance is assumed in this class, and the exams will be based not only on the readings, but also on the lectures. If you plan on missing more than two or three classes, it would be well to drop this class rather than fail it. Please note that skipping a class or entering or leaving the classroom during class without prior permission will result in the loss of one-half participation grade (e.g. A to A-) for each instance.

Extra Credit: (up to 6 percentage points can be added to your grade for extra credit. Each assignment is worth 2 percentage points)

1) A three page typed review of Maria Rosa Menocal, *The Ornament of the World* by May 26 during class. No late papers will be accepted.

2) February 17, 18 and 20 The Life of St. Clare: A theatrical exploration 8:00 Ð 9:00 Mission Santa Clara. Extra credit for attending this play.

3) February 19 Light for Clare of Assisi: Light for Identity, Community and Humanity: Symposium coordinated by Jean Molesky-Poz, Religious Studies Department, 4:00 - 6:00 in St. Clare's Room, Library and Learning Commons. Extra credit for attending.

Summary of Grading:

Mid term Exams	=	25%
Final Exam	=	35%
Timeline	=	30%
Participation	=	10%

Assignments 1 and 2 will address objective 1. Assignment 1, 2 and 3 will address objectives 2 and 3.

Grading:

A grade of "A" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time
- the student grasps the lectures and the material assigned
- the student can demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts taught in the course
- the student has integrated class material with other knowledge in an original and creative fashion
- the student has consulted sources outside those assigned in class and integrated them into the course in a manner which demonstrates a mastery of the subject

A grade of "B" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time
- the student grasps the lectures and the material assigned
- the student can demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts taught in the course
- the student has integrated class material with other knowledge in an original and creative fashion

A grade of "C" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time
- the student grasps the lectures and the material assigned
- the student can demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts taught in the course

A grade of "D" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time

Disability Accommodation Policy” To request ademic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in the Benson Center, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445.

The schedule of classes will be distributed the first day of class. The class schedule, syllabus and all assignments will be available on ANGEL.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1 (January 5-7)

READ: Introduction to course

ASSIGNMENT: Watch Monty Python and the Holy Grail (on reserve at the library) and read Gary Macy "Demythologizing the Middle Ages," (handout in class). Write a one to two page paper on the theme "Myths about the Middle Ages."

Week 2 (January 12-14)

READ: Logan, chapter 1-2
Readings, nos. 12

Week 3 (January 19-21) **Timeline check January 21**

READ: Logan, chapter 2-3
Readings, no. 13

Week 4 (January 26-28)

READ: Logan, chapters 4-5
Readings, nos. 18 and 19

Week 5 (February 2-4) **Midterm exam: February 4**

READ: Logan, chapter 6-7
Readings, nos. 39 and 28

Week 6 (February 9-11)

READ: Logan, chapters 8-9 **Timeline check February 11**
Readings, no. 23

Week 7 (February 16-18)

READ: Logan, chapter 10-11
Readings, n. 29 and 35

Week 8 (February 23-25) **Timeline check February 25**

READ: Logan, chapters 12-13
Readings, no. 34

Week 9 (March 2-4) **Extra credit due**

READ: Logan, chapter 14-15
Readings, n. 47

Week 10 (March 9-11) **Timeline due March 11**

READ: Logan, chapter 16-17
Readings, no. 56

March 16 9:10-12:10 Final Exam