

Spring 2022

HIST 860 X The Church in the Middle Ages

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

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Course Taught ONLINE, with synchronous meetings
at 1:00 to 3:00 pm Central Time, on the following Tuesdays:

Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, Mar. 15, Mar. 29, Apr. 19, May 3

Course Description:

In this course, we will focus on the life and experience of the average Christian, including devotional practices and other aspects of popular piety. As context, we will be inquiring into the social, cultural, and economic history of the so-called middle ages, though our focus will be primarily on the western (Latin) Church in Europe. The course covers the late patristic period through the "high middle ages." [Prerequisite: HIST 501 ("History 1")]

Student Learning Outcomes:

As a result of the course, students will gain a broad understanding of the period leading up to the Protestant Reformation, as well as a deeper appreciation for the faith of the average believers who were not in positions of authority. Students will have an opportunity to explore the idea of incorporating medieval practices into their own spiritual lives, and will have the benefit of correcting several popular, but incorrect, myths about the Church and society in the middle ages. Writing assignments will give the students an opportunity to practice research skills.

Course Requirements:

Research paper and one short essay. Participation in all online synchronous discussion sessions. Presentation of research to the class. Grades will be based on the writing assignments and presentations, with participation component.

Class Schedule - Tentative Topics:

2/1/22 - Introduction & Overview of Medieval Society (Europe)

2/15/22 - Music, Art, and Architecture

3/1/22 - Piety, Prayer, and Pilgrimage

3/15/22 - Monastics and Friars, Mendicant Spirituality

3/29/22 - Mystics and Mysticism

4/19/22 – Research Papers DUE

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4/19/22 - Chivalry and "Romance" Literature (King Arthur and the Holy Grail)
with Research Presentations

5/3/22 - The Late Middle Ages: It's the End of the World (As We Know It)
with Research Presentations

5/10/22 – Final Essays DUE (graduating seniors will be due a bit earlier)

Required Textbooks (prices according to Amazon, as of October, 2021):

Aquilina and Bailey, *The Grail Code*
978-0829421590 - \$15.95

Birch, *Pilgrimage to Rome in the Middle Ages*
978-0851157719 - \$24.95

Butcher, *St. Hildegard of Bingen, Doctor of the Church: A Spiritual Reader*
978-1612613703 - \$16.00

Hansen, *The Spolia Churches of Rome*
978-8771242102 - \$29.95

Petry, *Late Medieval Mysticism (Library of Christian Classics Series)*
978-0664241636 - \$14.00

Southern, *The Making of the Middle Ages*
978-0300002300 - \$25.00

Stark, *God's Battalions*
978-0061582608 - \$15.46

Stark, *The Victory of Reason*
978-0812972337 - \$13.69

Talbot, *Francis of Assisi's Sermon on the Mount*
978-1640601727 - \$19.99

Other Required Readings and Materials:

Selected Primary Sources, accessed online or by PDF

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Note: Regarding Accommodations for Disabilities

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is committed to providing the most accessible learning environment as possible for students with disabilities. Should you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers in the academic setting, please contact Student Access to move forward with the established accommodation process (email: student.access@garrett.edu; phone: 847- 467-5530). If you already have established accommodations with Student Access, please let me know as soon as possible, preferably within the first two weeks of the term, so we can work together to implement your disability accommodations. Disability information, including academic accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential under FERPA regulations.