

Medieval History 101: scheme of work

Module Description

This module delves into the captivating world of medieval Europe, exploring a period of profound transformation (5th - 15th centuries). We will journey through a dynamic era marked by the rise and fall of empires, the emergence of powerful institutions, and the blossoming of art, culture, and intellectual thought.

Weekly Topics

- 1. The Early Middle Ages (5th - 10th Centuries):**
 - The fall of the Roman Empire and the emergence of new kingdoms.
 - The rise of feudalism and its impact on social structures.
 - The spread of Christianity and the role of the Church.
 - The invasions of Vikings, Magyars, and Muslims.
- 2. The High Middle Ages (10th - 13th Centuries):**
 - Renewal and reform within the Church: The Cluniac movement and Gregorian reforms.
 - The flourishing of trade and commerce: The growth of towns and the rise of a merchant class.
 - The development of universities and the emergence of intellectual movements like Scholasticism.
 - The Crusades: Motivations, consequences, and their lasting impact.
- 3. The Late Middle Ages (13th - 15th Centuries):**
 - The Black Death: Devastation, societal changes, and its long-term effects.
 - Political and social unrest: The Hundred Years' War, peasant revolts, and the rise of nation-states.
 - The Great Schism and the challenges faced by the Church.
 - Cultural and artistic developments: The emergence of Renaissance ideals.

Learning Outcomes

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the major political, social, economic, and religious developments in medieval Europe.
- Analyse the rise of feudalism, the Church's influence, and the Black Death's impact on society.
- Evaluate the significance of the Crusades, the growth of trade, and the emergence of universities.

- Critically examine primary and secondary sources to understand historical events and interpretations.
- Develop strong analytical, research, and communication skills through essays, presentations, and class discussions.

Assessment: Medieval History Assignment: Unveiling the Past

This assignment aims to develop your critical analysis and communication skills by exploring a primary source from the Medieval era and presenting your findings to a specific audience.

Assessment Criteria:

- Source Selection (10%): Relevance and appropriateness of the chosen source to the Medieval period.
- Depth of Analysis (20%): Demonstration of a thorough understanding of the source's content, origin, and form.
- Presentation Style (30%): Effectiveness in tailoring the presentation to the chosen audience (language, visuals, engagement).
- Written Analysis (40%): Clarity of explanation, comprehensive analysis of the source, and justification of chosen presentation methods.

Additional Resources

- A comprehensive reading list will be provided, including primary sources, scholarly works, and online resources.
- Students are encouraged to visit the university library and explore relevant museum collections and exhibitions.

Instructor: Professor Annie Jones

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (or by appointment)

This module brief provides a concise overview of the course content, learning objectives, and assessment methods. You can customise it further by adding:

- **Required textbooks:** Specifying the core readings for the course.
- **Guest lectures (optional):** Inviting guest speakers to share their expertise on specific topics.
- **Field trips (optional):** Organising visits to relevant historical sites and museums.