

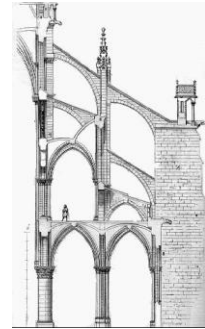
MDST 300.001 Fall 2013

Short Paper Assignment 2

Due: Monday October 21 in turnitin.com

Length: 4-6 pages exclusive of Works Cited Page

You are required to submit 2 out of 3 of the short papers. If you turn in all three, I will drop the lowest grade. This paper counts as 10% of your final grade.



Among your questions for this semester were several having to do with medieval health, medicine, and sexuality, as well as questions about how different cultures and genders viewed the Middle Ages. So this assignment will ask you to think **globally** about medieval culture by looking at a specific issue from several cultures' points of view about it.

You've read chapter 8 of Labarge on the evolution of healing and the gendered nature of that task, and you have the short selections (written by men) from primary documents dealing with the spread of the Black Plague in Aberth. You may also want to watch an excellent short video, "The Black Death," on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xs_uDZXdC6U. Some of the writers illustrated in this video are the ones cited by Aberth. (I would suggest that you concentrate on the introduction and on sections 2, 3, 4, & 5 of Aberth especially for this paper.)

Your task is to write a **thesis-driven** 4-6 page **argument** (exclusive of Works Cited page) that is carefully and correctly documented in 2009 MLA documentation style. The question I'd like you to address is how did various cultural viewpoints (western, Islamic, Byzantine) affect how people reacted to the plague in the Middle Ages? Would it have looked different to a Muslim academic than to, for instance, a woman nursing in a British hospital? How would the attitudes about the practice of medicine (university vs populist, theoretical vs hands-on, male vs female) that Labarge describes have affected how various areas reacted to this pandemic? Strive for what Bull calls "a historian's perspective" as you analyze the material and argue in support of your thesis. And let's pay more attention to editing and execution this time, please?

You're very welcome to bring drafts, outlines, or just ideas for this paper by my office for discussion; that's true of all the papers this semester. My office hours are MTWR 4-5 and by appointment.