

## **Burning Questions: MDST 300, Fall 2013**

### **Chivalry/Knighthood (throughout)**

- How far did the notions of chivalry spread?
- Did everyone have a horse?
- How did knights become knights? How were they chosen? (4) Were they the equivalent of local militia (city army) or more like Special Forces?
- How/where did knights get trained? What kinds of weapons did they use? How was armor made? Did they use martial arts?
- What constituted a declaration of war?
- How often did nobles fight each other? And why? (2)
- How did jousts come about? And why? (3)
- What were the significant battles that took place?
- What was the life of a military man like?
- How did people with no lord or protector survive? (2)
- Could people go on quests for any reason?

### **Medieval Medicine (connected to paper 2)**

- What were medical practices like? Surgical practices? (3)
- What was the average lifespan? (3) What was the average height?
- How did society in the East and the West combat the Plague? (2)

### **Medieval Religion (throughout)**

- What happened to non-believers? What happened if you disagreed with the Pope? Were there religious rituals outside the Church?
- Why was religion/the Church such a huge deal during this time? (3) How far-reaching were the Church's powers?
- Did everyone attend Church?
- Role of the Bible and how it was spread
- How did one become Pope?
- How reliant were people of all castes on the Church for education?
- What were Church services like?

### **Medieval Women (especially when we look at Labarge and Bennett)**

- How did the veneration of the Virgin Mary affect the lives of women in the Church?
- Who were some famous secular and non-secular women from this period and what were their contributions?
- What were ladies in waiting?
- How empowered were women? How much say did they have in daily affairs and in affairs of state?
- Were there really chastity belts and were they a huge deal?

### **Medieval Marriage (especially when we look at Labarge)**

- How common was marriage? (2)

- At what age did marriage usually come about?
- How did they treat sex before marriage? What about polygamy?
- Were all marriages arranged? (2) Were any based on love? (3)
- What was meant by handfasting?
- Were relationships closed?

### **Medieval Society (throughout)**

- What was the class structure? (3)
- Who were the richest individuals?
- Was there social mobility and how was it accomplished? (3) How did they see social roles?
- What was the merchant class like and how was trade handled?
- What jobs were there for men and for women? What professions? (3)
- How were peasants treated compared to servants? (3)

### **Medieval Life (throughout, and highlighted in Labarge and Bennett)**

- What was day-to-day life like? (2)
- What were the family structures?
- What was life like on a farm?
- What breeds of livestock (especially horses) were common? Were the animals smaller than they are today?
- How did they view animals domestically/religiously/livelihood?
- What crops were grown in fields and gardens?
- How many children did the average woman have?
- What were family dynamics like?
- What were social occasions like? What called for social occasions?
- What was sanitation like? Were there laws covering sanitation? (3)

### **Medieval Art & Aesthetics (throughout, and connected to paper 3 and group projects)**

- Who were the taste-makers of the period?
- Was clothing different for different social classes?
- What sorts of perfumes, cosmetics did they use? (2)
- Did they have underclothing? How was clothing made? (2)
- What sorts of textiles were manufactured?
- What were the art and the lifestyles of the peasantry like?
- During the Crusades, what were art and life like?
- How did artists make paint?
- How were books made? (2)
- How was the Book of Kells constructed/written?
- How much did music vary between areas?
- What musical instruments did they use?
- Was violence part of entertainment and play?
- Did *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* portray any aspects of medieval life accurately?
- What are some folk tales or stories from this period that we know today?

- What legends were spawned during the era?
- What did they have for literature? What did they read?
- What's the deal with King Arthur? (2)

### **Medieval Castles and Housing (esp. Sept. 23 & 25)**

- Were castles as common as they look in Hollywood?
- What was life like inside castles?
- Were castles all that useful?
- What were the inner workings and chambers of castles like?
- Differences between castle life in Ireland, England, and Italy
- What were homes like in this time?
- During the Crusades, what were art and life like?

### **Medieval Law and Order (throughout, highlighted in Bennett)**

- Who were the authority figures? How did they enforce authority?
- What were the punishment standards?
- What kinds of discrimination were there? Was there racial discrimination?
- Who was the 'badass' of the Middle Ages? Who stands out the most? The greatest warrior?
- The social norms about torture and imprisonment
- How did the courts and criminal justice work? (2)
- What about the laws concerning sexual misconduct? Could nobles get away with anything? Were men ever convicted for crimes against women?
- What made the difference (crime-wise) between being burned at the stake, getting your head chopped off, or being tortured to death?

### **Medieval Nobility and Rule (throughout)**

- What do some of the noble families' crests look like?
- What was the role of heraldry?
- Did they believe in the "divine right of Kings"? If a royal family died out, how was a new king chosen?
- Were kings and lords generally seen as cruel or were they revered? How capable were the nobility?
- In terms of the lives of common people, what was the king's most significant action?
- What was international diplomacy like?
- When did monarchs in the modern sense appear?
- How autonomous were lords?
- Marriage practices among the nobility

### **Medieval Food & Drink (especially in group presentations)**

- Food, baking, wine, beer. I want to know it all! (3)
- Were there any fast food places?
- What was traveling food like?
- Did they use modern silverware?
- Did kids drink wine and beer?

### **Medieval Schooling, Fun, & Games (especially in group presentations)**

- What are the basic elements of Latin?
- What were children taught in school? Is there a difference between the education of rich and poor?
- What did children do for fun? (2)
- What did adults do for fun?

### **Witchcraft (in Labarge and in group presentations)**

- Why did they believe in witches?
- Did witch hunters exist?
- Were witches burned at the stake?

### **Miscellaneous (throughout)**

- What major treasures were found from this period?
- What was the most common way to travel?
- What were the Scots like in this period?
- What were some major discoveries during this time? (2)
- What kinds of technology did they have? (2)
- Did any of the Doctors ever visit the Middle Ages? **Yes. The Sixth Doctor visited the Middle Ages in the audiobook *Leviathan*. He commented that it was “an interesting period in its way but in increasingly small doses.”** *The early Elizabethan period is supposed to figure in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary episode. But that’s just gossip.*
- What marks the end of the Middle Ages? (2)