

MDST 300.1 (11039): Introduction to Medieval Studies Fall 2013 (3.0 credits)

Course meets MW 2 pm in KINA 205

Syllabus and Course Policies

Dr Jo Koster

228 Bancroft

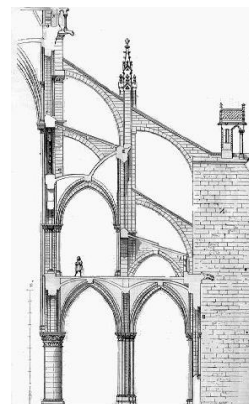
803-323-4557

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Class website: <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj/mdst300.htm>

Other resources: <http://www.winthrop.edu/cas/medieval/default.aspx?id=24684>

Office Hrs.: M-R 4-5, online irregularly, and gladly by appointment

**Course Requirements for MDST 300**

Two midterms, 10% each

Final exam: 20%

Two out of three short papers (4 -6 pp), 10% each

Research Paper (minimum 9 pages excl. biblio.): 20%

Group oral presentation: 10%

Active participation, preparation of quires for collaborative project, etc.: 10%

Required Textbooks

- William R. Cook and Ronald B. Herzman, *The Medieval World View: An Introduction* 3rd Ed. (Oxford 2012). ISBN 978-0-19-537368-4.
- Margaret Wade Labarge, *A Small Sound of the Trumpet: Women in Medieval Life* (Penguin, multiple editions). ISBN 9780807056271.
- Judith M. Bennett, *A Medieval Life: Cecilia Penifader of Brigstock, c. 1297-1344* (McGraw Hill, 1998). ISBN 0072903317.
- John Aberth, *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350: A Brief History with Documents* (The Bedford Series in History and Culture). ISBN 031240087X.
- Michelle Brown, *The World of the Luttrell Psalter*. (The British Library, 2007). ISBN 0712349596.
- 2009 MLA documentation style and presentation is described in the *Prentice Hall Reference Guide* used in first-year writing courses. If you didn't keep this book, make sure you can borrow one if needed.

Syllabus Change Policy

The copy of the syllabus and calendar posted on the website above will be the official one. Check the website frequently for updates.

Attendance/Class Behavior Policy

Attendance is expected. According to University Policy, if you miss 25% of the classes in a course (in a MW class, 7 classes), you cannot receive credit. If you are more than 10 minutes late for class, you will be counted absent. Your final grade will be lowered if you miss 4 or more classes, excused or unexcused; my usual policy is to deduct 3 points from your final grade for each absence beginning with the fourth. If some crisis arises that will require you to miss class, please contact me immediately so that we can discuss alternate arrangements. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off while class is in progress; if

they go off, or if I catch you texting in class, you will be counted absent for the day. The official Winthrop University Attendance Policy and Final Examination policies are listed in the Winthrop University Undergraduate Catalog. You are expected to abide by them.

Tests

I will solicit input from you for the tests in the form of suggestions for essay questions. They must be e-mailed to the class list by the assigned time. I will choose from this list (editing if necessary) to make up the essay portions of the exam, but if the questions are not challenging enough, I will make up my own. So it's up to you to write good questions! Failure to submit questions will hurt your class participation grade.

Please be aware that terminology, dates, and similar information will be tested as well as your knowledge of the contents of the texts you read.

Final Examination

Our final exam will be held on **Monday, Dec. 9 at 3 PM**. Winthrop University policy specifies that personal conflicts such as travel plans and work schedules do not warrant a change in examination time.

Grading Standards

Undergraduates will be graded on the plus/minus system. In this class, A 94-100; A- 91-93; B+ 88-90; B 84-87; B- 81-83; C+ 78-80; C 74-77; C- 71-73; D+ 68-70; D 64-67; D- 61-63; F 0-60. You must turn in all assignments on time to pass the course.

Global Learning Initiative (GLI)

This course participates in the Global Learning Initiative (GLI). The global learning components of this course include discussion of the influence of a wide range of European cultures and social structures and how they have shaped modern thinking; examination of specific historical events (such as the Crusades and the Black Plague) from the perspectives of Western and nonwestern cultures; examination and discussion of art, architecture, music, and other cultural artifacts from a wide variety of medieval sources.

Intellectual Honesty/Student Code of Conduct

If you weren't aware there was a [Student Conduct Code](http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf), well, now you know, and you're all bound by it as Winthrop students. It states, "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" (<http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

Two kinds of intellectual honesty issues happen most frequently: plagiarism and cheating. **Plagiarism** is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end of the source's use and a listing in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. In this class, plagiarized material will receive, at minimum, a grade of '0' on the work submitted, and may lead to failure of the class or even more serious consequences, because plagiarism is also a violation of section V, "Academic Misconduct," under the Winthrop Student Conduct Code (<http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/Judicial/judcode.htm>). The English Department has prepared *The Correct Use of Borrowed Information*

to explain plagiarism (see www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm.) Ignorance or failure to consult this material is no excuse. Neither is the argument that material in cyberspace "belongs to us all" and can be freely appropriated without appropriate citation.

Cheating occurs when you submit work for a grade that you did not complete yourself. It can involve anything from copying a classmate's assignment (or the assignment of a student who took the class previously) to dishonesty on a test to copying answers from the Internet or books when you were supposed to do the work yourself. If I catch you cheating, you will fail the course.

Intellectual honesty is a subject on which I am "hard core," so please don't test my compassion (or my abilities to discover skulduggery). You will not enjoy the consequences. Really, it's not worth it. Just do the work.

Correct Use of Borrowed Information/Documentation Policy

- Please review the Correct Use of Borrowed Information at <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/plagiarism.htm>. You are responsible for reviewing the Code of Student Conduct in your Student Handbook and the description of plagiarism in *The Prentice-Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage* and handling source materials correctly. In this course, the penalty for plagiarism is a grade of zero on the assignment and possibly an F in the course, with a report to the Student Judiciary System if the infraction is extensive.
- All papers must be documented following the 2009 MLA parenthetical documentation style. This is explained in the *Prentice Hall Reference Guide* and in many other handbooks. You are responsible for following it.
- Any material taken from a source (your textbook, something from the library, something from the Internet, etc.) must be documented. The *MLA Handbook* covers Internet documentation; you can access these special forms at <http://www.mla.org> or through the Writing Center home page (<http://www.winthrop.edu/wcenter>).

Turnitin.com

We will be using www.turnitin.com this semester, and I will provide you with more information about those shortly. Student tutorials for using turnitin.com are available at <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/studentTIIinstructions.htm>.

Late Paper/Assignment Policy

You may turn in one of your short papers late (meaning 24 hours from the due time) as long as you inform me at least a day in advance that you are taking this extension (e-mail is the best way to do this). Otherwise, late papers will be marked down considerably for their tardiness. Under no circumstances will I accept a paper more than 72 hours after its due date. Because the research paper is due so late in the semester, I can't give extensions on it.

Duplicate Submission of Papers

You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance. This is to conform to the Student Code of Conduct, §V, which states: "Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to ... presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the professors involved." (Student Code of Conduct §V: <http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/Judicial/judcode.htm>).

Instructor Accessibility

You can expect me to be available as a resource from which to draw and to obtain feedback. I am very responsive to email questions as long as I know who the email is from and have all information necessary to provide a complete answer. Please be sure to “sign” your emails as oftentimes email names are confusing at best (e.g., brownb1@winthrop.edu could be Bob Brown or Beth Brown). Please make sure to speak slowly and comprehensibly if leaving a voicemail so that I can decipher the name, message, and return phone number as well. My office number is a landline; you cannot leave texts on it.

What you cannot expect of me is to be available 24/7. While I do check my email and voicemail regularly, including weekends (if I am in town), I do not necessarily check them more than once a day or late in the evenings. Therefore, if you procrastinate on an assignment, you may not have the information you need to complete the assignment appropriately. Please plan your time accordingly to maximize the probability that you will receive a response in time for it to be useful.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Office of Disability Services, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me so that I am aware of your need for accommodations well before the first assignment for which you are requesting accommodation. I will be happy to work with you to meet your learning needs. You must go through this “official” process to receive accommodation for a disability.

Safe Zones Statement

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. I expect that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment and to do their best to make it that way.

Expectations

1. While this is a 300-level survey class, we have to cover a great deal of material in about 14 weeks. So the reading level is steady. You can't just "cram" every few weeks for an exam; it is essential that you keep up. If you do not appear to be doing so, I will institute reading quizzes, which you will probably not enjoy. The day's reading should be completed before you come to class.
2. Most of you carry cell phones; so do I. Turn them off while you are in class; if your electronics disrupt class, you will be counted absent for the day (see attendance policy). If you need to leave your phone on for an emergency reason, let me know about it in advance, and set it to “vibrate.”
3. I do not read minds. If you have questions about the materials or about assignments, ask me. If you don't tell me there's a problem, I'll assume that you're fine.
4. Check your e-mail frequently. I will use the class e-mail list after our first meeting so that we can communicate with each other and will use it to keep you posted on any changes in schedule, etc. Do this before you come to class.

5. The class will have a listserv e-mail list for discussion, posting exam questions, review material, etc. If you do not have an e-mail account, go to 15 Tillman immediately to sign up for free e-mail and to the ACC to register so that you can print out in the labs. You may also use off-campus e-mail accounts (e.g. Hotmail, Yahoo, Gmail) to access this discussion list. You can get access to the Web for free in any of the campus computing labs, in Dacus Library, and at many public libraries if you do not have any other way to reach the web. You must have a working campus e-mail account by August 29. If you do not check this account, then set it to forward to the e-mail account you check regularly. You are responsible for all messages sent to the class via the listserv.

6. Evidence that you care about your writing, such as appointment slips from the Writing Center, influences me favorably. Yes, this is a hint.

7. Excuses offered in advance are more likely to earn leniency than those offered after the fact.

8. Failure to plan or manage time wisely on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.

Goals

In MDST 300, students will study the forms and systems that governments, organizations, and individuals created to address problems and challenges from the fifth through the fifteenth centuries. Students will study factual and chronological information, read texts written in the period, examine objects, structures, ceremonies and performances, and review a range of theoretical approaches to various issues that shaped global culture and society during the time. Students will be encouraged to view these issues from a variety of disciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives, which allows them to understand this era both broadly and deeply.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students in MDST 300 will

1. engage in introductory examination of various material and conceptual aspects of European culture from the fall of the Roman Empire to the beginning of the Renaissance;
2. begin to analyze medieval culture through multiple disciplines key to its understanding, especially history, religion, the arts, literature, and archaeology, using relevant materials and period documents;
3. begin to demonstrate their understanding of cultural issues in the period from an interdisciplinary perspective, enabling them to synthesize a variety of social and cultural practices within the broad context of an entire society; and
4. begin to recognize and articulate both the continuities and discontinuities between the worldviews of medieval culture and those of our own culture.
 - a. Examine problems, issues, and choices that confront citizens of the world.
5. By the conclusion of the semester, students will have acquired sufficient knowledge to carry out future work in the field of Medieval Studies.

University Learning Competencies (<http://www.winthrop.edu/academic-affairs/secondary.aspx?id=15731>)

This class supports the four Winthrop University Learning Competencies in the following ways:

Competency 1: Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems.

You will develop your abilities to reason logically, evaluate and use evidence, and solve problems through the readings, discussions, and papers in this class. You will develop your abilities to seek out and assess relevant information from multiple viewpoints to form well-reasoned conclusions. You will reexamine your individual critical thinking processes, including the strengths and weaknesses of various arguments.

Competency 2: Winthrop graduates are personally and socially responsible.

You will demonstrate that you value integrity and perceive moral dimensions both through thoughtful and informed class discussion and writing and through your mastery of the correct use of borrowed information when you present material that is not your own. You will show that you take seriously the perspectives of others, practice ethical reasoning, and reflect on experiences as part of our discussions and assignments.

Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.

You will demonstrate that you comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of your disciplines and lives by studying how the many cultures, viewpoints, and practices of the Middle Ages have shaped our twenty-first century lives, and demonstrate that understanding in your writing assignments and class discussions.

Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.

You will demonstrate the ability to create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of your voice and the impact of your communication, you will demonstrate that you can successfully express and exchange ideas through class discussions, presentations, and written work.

Reading Schedule

See <http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj/mdst300/calendar.htm>. This is the official calendar, so keep up with it! All due dates, assignments, exams, etc. will be posted here as well.



"A couple more sieges and I'll go into political commentary."