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HIST 306.01: Medieval World - The Barbarian West, 284 A.D. - 1000 A.D.

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HISTORY 306

Tuesday–Thursday • 11:10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • LA 203

MEDIEVAL WORLD: THE BARBARIAN WEST, 284 A.D. - 1000 A.D.

The principal text that I used for years was J. M. Wallace-Hadrill's *The Barbarian West*. It was a tightly written, magisterial evaluation by an old master who decided rather arbitrarily what students of the period needed to know. It went out of print and I searched in vain for a suitable replacement. Now it is back in print and I want you to read it carefully - in small doses but repeatedly, for it is concentrated - the distillation of a career.

Last year I taught this course with a standard, chronological text that tried to explain everything and was so chock full of names, dates, and details that students threw up their collective hands in despair. History is a story and a story needs a narrator with a perspective. Instead of a text that attempts to tell all, I have this year selected four monographs that tell parts of the story. The following texts will be used in the course - noted "R" for required. The optional text (marked "O") is a chronological treatment for those who need the "whole story."

<i>Two Lives of Charlemagne</i>	R	Lewis G. M. Thorpe (Trans.)
<i>Before France and Germany</i>	R	Patrick J. Geary
<i>How the Irish Saved Civilization</i>	R	Thomas Cahill
<i>The Barbarian West 400-1000</i>	R	J. M. Wallace-Hadrill
<i>Early Medieval Europe 300-1000</i>	O	Roger Collins

Students will be required to write three examinations, two mid-terms and a final. All examinations will involve short-answer identification questions as well as one or two essay responses.

A bibliographical essay (7-10 pages, double-spaced), evaluating the texts and readings, will be required. This analytical essay should include the particular perspectives of the authors or their selections, the documentary material used, its contribution to our discussion and your understanding. Were these writings worthy of your money, interest and time? Did the readings mesh to provide a wider and/or deeper understanding or were they disparate, anecdotal, repetitive, dense or dull? **This essay is due Thursday, December 7, 2000.**

For those of you who need background I recommend a general text on the Middle Ages or Western Civilization. There are many of these in the Mansfield Library.

This syllabus and class handouts will be on regular and electronic reserve in the Mansfield Library, web site - <http://eres.lib.unt.edu> ; course password - Medieval.

CLASS SCHEDULE

T	Sep. 5	Introduction: Where are the Middle Ages and How Did They Get There? Read: Collins: Introduction Wallace-Hadrill: Introduction and Chapter II
Th	Sep. 7	The Roman Empire of the Pax Romana Read: Collins: Chapter I

- T Sep. 12 A World Restored: The Crisis of the Third Century and Diocletian's Response
Read: Collins: Chapter II
- Th Sep. 14 The Emergence of Christianity and the Creation of the Christian Roman Empire
Read: Collins: Chapter III
- T Sep. 19 The Internal Barbarians-Rebellions and Challenges
Read: Collins: Chapter IV
Geary: Chapter I
- Th Sep. 21 Principal Peoples of the Great Migration (Wandering of the Peoples)
Read: Collins: Chapter V
Geary: Chapter II
- T Sep. 26 Germanic Barbarians in the Service of Rome and the Deterioration of the Relationship
Read: Collins: Chapter VI
- Sep. 25 LAST DAY TO ADD/DROP BY DIAL BEAR/CYBERBEAR**
- Th Sep. 28 The Rich Against the Roman State – Transformations and Flux
Read: Collins: Chapter VII
- T Oct. 3 Collapse in the West
Read: Cahill: Chapter I
Collins: Chapter VIII
- Th Oct. 5 Roman Reactions to Western Collapse
Read: Collins: Chapter IX
Cahill: Chapter II
- T Oct. 10 St. Augustine's Response
Read: Cahill: Chapters III and IV
- Th Oct. 12 Another Reaction: Justinian and the Reconquest
Read: Cahill: Chapter VI
Collins: Chapter X
- T Oct. 17 The Barbarian World in the 6th Century
- Oct. 16 LAST DAY TO DROP AND ADD COURSES WITH INSTRUCTOR SIGNATURE OR CHANGE GRADING OPTION**
- Th Oct. 19 Creation of Frankish Kingdom
Read: Collins: Chapter XII
Geary: Chapter III
- T Oct. 24 Film: Kenneth Clark, *The Frozen World*

Th	Oct. 26	FIRST MID-TERM EXAMINATION
T	Oct. 31	Barbarian Conversion to Christianity Read: Cahill: Chapter VII Collins: Chapters XIII and XIV Geary: Chapter IV
Th	Nov. 2	Monasticism and Mission: The Vision of Gregory the Great Read: Collins: Chapter XV Geary: Chapters V and VI
T	Nov. 7	General Election Day - HOLIDAY
Th	Nov. 9	Carolingian Assumption of Frankish Leadership: Charles the Hammer Read: Collins: Chapter XVIII Geary: Chapter VII
T	Nov. 14	Anglo-Saxon England Read: Collins: Chapter XIX Thorps: <i>The Two Lives of Charlemagne</i>
Th	Nov. 16	Charlemagne – The Early Years Read: Wallace-Hadrill: Chapter VI
T	Nov. 21	SECOND MID-TERM EXAMINATION
Th	Nov. 23	Thanksgiving - HOLIDAY
T	Nov. 28	Louis the Pious and the Christian Frankish Empire
Th	Nov. 30	The Carolingian Renaissance
T	Dec. 5	Ruling Structures Read: <i>Selected Capitularies</i> (handout)
Th	Dec. 7	The Vikings and Their Impacts on the First Europe Read: Collins: Chapter XVIII Bibliographical Essay Due in Class
	Dec. 8	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL CLASSES
T	Dec. 12	Alfred the Great and the Making of England Read: <i>Life of King Alfred</i> (handout)
Th	Dec. 14	Review

FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 ~ 10:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m.