The University of Texas at Tyler
HIST 3354 – Medieval Europe

Course Overview and Student Learning Outcomes: This course is an upper-level survey of Europe in the Middle Ages. We will examine the period from 500-1300, focusing on political, economic and social considerations along with the role of the Church. We will explore how Europe was affected by feudalism, the Christian faith and how the common folk lived.

Course Requirements: The course will consist of lectures and discussions; regular attendance and participation are essential. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam and a term paper (approx. 6-8 pages). Each of these will be worth 1/3 of your final grade. The exams will consist of choices of terms (5 out of 10 possible) and essays (1 of 2). The paper will be an analysis of the books by Waley and Lewis. Further instructions for the paper will be given separately.

Grading Policy: Each assignment is worth 100 points for a course total of 300. The grading scale is A=270-300, B=240-269, C=210-239, D=180-209, F=180-0. Make-ups will not be given nor will late papers be accepted, the only exception being officially documented family or medical emergencies.

Final Withdrawal Date:

Required Books:
Bennett and Hollister, Medieval Europe
Waley, The Italian City Republics
Lewis, Dante

Topics and Assignments:
Week 1
Introduction

Week 2
No meeting – Labor Day

Week 3
Roman Greatness and Decline
Readings: Bennett, chs. 1 and 2

Week 4
Post-Roman Europe and the Germanic Kingdoms
Readings: Bennett, ch. 3

Week 5
Byzantium and Islam
Readings: Bennett, ch. 4

Week 6
Charlemagne
Readings: Bennett, ch. 5

Week 7
The Viking Age
Readings: Bennett, ch. 6

Week 8
Midterm Exam

Week 9
Feudal Society
Readings: Bennett, ch. 7

Week 10
The Church
Readings: Bennett, ch. 8

Week 11
The Crusades
Readings: Bennett, ch. 9

Week 12
Knighthood and Chivalry
Readings: Bennett, ch. 10

Week 13
Peasants and Townsfolk
Readings: Waley and Lewis

Week 14
No Meetings – Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15
The Medieval Monarchies
Readings: Bennett, ch. 11 and 12
Term Paper Due

Week 16
Final Exam