

The University of Texas at Tyler  
Spring Semester 2023  
HIST 3354 – Medieval Europe  
Professor: Dr. Edward Tabri  
etabri@uttyler.edu  
Office: CAS 121  
Office Hours: by appointment

**Course Overview and Objectives:**

This course is an upper-level survey of Europe in the Middle Ages. We will examine the period from ca. 500 to 1300, focusing on political, economic and social considerations along with a study of the most significant institution of the period, the Roman Catholic Church.

**Course Requirements:**

The course will consist of lectures and discussions; regular attendance is 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 course grade. The exams will consist of choices of terms from our lecture outlines (5 out of 10 for a total of 25% of the exam grade) and an essay (choice of 1 out of 2 for a total of 75% of the exam grade). The term paper will be based on your analysis of the books by Einhard, Notker and Riché. Further instructions for the paper will be given separately.

**Grading Policy:**

Each assignment is worth 100 points for a course total of 300 points. The grading scale is  
A=270-300  
B=240-269  
C=210-239  
D=180-209  
F=0-180

Make up exams will not be given nor will late papers be accepted, the only exception being officially documented family or medical emergencies. Plagiarism of any sort will result in an F for the assignment. Final Withdrawal Date for the course is Monday, April 1.

**Required Books:**

Backman, *The Worlds of Medieval Europe* (4th ed.)

Einhard & Notker, *Two Lives of Charlemagne*

Pierre Riché, *Daily Life in the World of Charlemagne*

## **Calendar of Topics and Assignments:**

Week 1 (Jan. 10 and 12)

Introduction

Reading: Backman, Preface and Introduction

Week 2 (Jan. 17 and 19)

The Roman Empire

Reading: Backman, chapter 1

Week 3 (Jan. 24 and 26)

The Decline of the Roman Empire

Reading: Backman, chapter 2

Week 4 (Jan. 31 and Feb. 2)

Early Germanic Society

Reading: Backman, chapter 3

Week 5 (Feb. 7 and 9)

The Catholic Church in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

Readings: Backman, chapter 4

Week 6 (Feb. 14 and 16)

The Post-Roman World

Readings: Backman, chapter 5

Week 7 (Feb. 21 and 23)

The Rise of the Frankish Monarchy

Readings: Backman, chapter 6

Week 8 (Feb. 28 and Mar. 2)

Charlemagne's Empire

Readings: Einhard and Notker, Lives of Charlemagne

Week 9 (Mar. 7 and 9)

**Midterm Exam, Thursday, March 9**

Week 10 (March 14 and 16)

Spring Break – No meetings

Readings: Riché, *Daily Life in the Age of Charlemagne*

Week 11 (Mar. 21 and 23)  
The Normans and Europe  
Readings: Backman, chapters 7 and 8

Week 12 (Mar. 28 and 30)  
The Growth of the Medieval Church  
Readings: Backman, chapters 9 and 10

Week 13 (April 4 and 6)  
The Papal Monarchy and the Crusades  
Readings: Backman, chapters 11 and 12  
**Term Paper Due: Thursday, April 6**

Week 14 (April 11 and 13)  
Kings and Kingdoms in Medieval Europe  
Readings: Backman, chapters 13 and 14

Week 15 (April 18 and 20)  
Dante's World  
Readings: Backman, chapters 15 and 16; pages 563-574

Week 16 (April 25 and 27)  
**No Meeting on Tuesday, April 25**  
**Final Exam on Thursday, April 27**

**For all other UT Tyler Policies, see the following link:**  
<https://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>