

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**