Whether waged between individuals or kingdoms, for wealth or political power, war was a constant in the medieval European world for more than one thousand years. War could take the form of great conquests on the scale that won Charlemagne an empire or the internal crusade known to history as the Spanish Reconquista, or simply be the means employed to settle differences between two great lords in a quarrel over land. The wars kings waged against one another ranged from relatively small and brief campaigns to the extreme of the Hundred Years’ War, the first true international conflict in Europe. Regardless of the scale, the study of medieval warfare offers rich rewards to those seeking a better understanding of the socio-economic, political, religious, and cultural history of the Middle Ages in Europe.

In this class we will explore different facets of this rich historical legacy, engaging subjects such as chivalry, holy war, technology and logistics, and the ways that medieval authors recorded the conduct of war. Our course will focus on Medieval Europe, but we will also engage in comparative studies involving Eastern warrior cultures, tactics, and technologies.

Required Reading

The following titles (and the I-Clicker) are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore.


La Belle Compagnie. 1381: The Peel Afinity. Shumacher Publishing (December 1, 2007)


Additional Readings indicated by an asterisk (*) are available via Blackboard, as handouts, or as reserve readings.
**Grading:**

Attendance and Participation (I-Clicker): 20%
Primary Source Analysis: 20%
Midterm Examination 25%
Final Exam/Term Paper 35%

**Basic Course Policies:**

**Lecture Attendance, while not mandatory, is strongly encouraged.** You are responsible for all information given as part of any lecture or reading assignment in this course. The Midterm and Final exams will both contain questions requiring a thorough understanding of material presented in lecture. It will be difficult to do well in the course if you do not attend and take good notes, particularly since there is no assigned textbook.

I will give unannounced I-Clicker quizzes periodically on the readings, and missing these quizzes will definitely affect your grade negatively. These quizzes will consist of True/False and Multiple Choice questions, and will not be overly difficult for students familiar with the reading.

**You must notify me of any scheduling problems with either the Midterm or the Final examination by the end of the first week of classes.** I will consider these matters on a case by case basis, but you must realize that you may be unable to continue in the course if you cannot sit for the exams as scheduled.

**General Student Conduct**

- Please turn off all cell phone ringers before class begins. No texting or reading text messages during class.
- Please refrain from reading materials unrelated to our course during class.
- Please do not engage in conversations during lecture; remember that others may be trying to concentrate as they listen and take notes. If you have a question, please ask.
- The lecture hall is an expensive and uncomfortable bedroom. If you are too tired to stay awake during class, please go find somewhere else to sleep.
- If you know you will be leaving class early, please sit near an exit to avoid disturbing the lecturer or other students.
- You may use laptops or tablets only for taking notes, as activities unrelated to the course are distracting to others and will not be tolerated.

**I reserve the right to ban the use of electronic devices at any time for all students.**
Assignments

Primary Source Analysis (Due Wednesday, November 13) – 20%

Write a three to five page essay in which you analyze the complexity of the military situation in the Crusader states as revealed in the excerpts from the *Chronicle* of Matthew of Edessa. Some of the points you might consider are:

- Political infighting among the Christians
- The precarious nature of the Christian holdings
- The role of hubris, and whether related to religious conviction
- Was the protection of the holy places always the primary goal of the Crusaders, according to the *Chronicle*?
- What seemed to be the causes for pitched battle?

Final Exam/Term Paper (Proposal Due Wednesday, November 20) – 35%

Your Final Exam in this course will consist of a five to seven page paper on any subject of interest to you involving medieval warfare between roughly 500 and 1450 ce, so long as the paper engages Medieval Europe, its kingdoms and peoples.

I have designed the weekly reading schedule to provide a closer look at several important themes you may consider in constructing the paper, but it is by no means an exhaustive list. You should make every effort to think about topics you might be interested in pursuing as you read, and to consider the ways you might frame a paper addressing those interests. Feel free to come to my office hours to discuss your paper at any time.

**Your proposal should consist of at least a solid paragraph describing your intended topic and the points you plan to explore in your paper.**

In addition, you should list the primary and secondary sources you plan to use (formatted in the Chicago Bibliographic style; please see the Purdue website listed below for examples).

**Your Final Exam paper (Due Noon, March 22nd) must meet the following requirements:**

- Use of at least one primary source. A very helpful place to look for material (or just browse), is *De Rei Militari* at [http://deremilitari.org/](http://deremilitari.org/). You can find loads of sources there.
- Use of at least two secondary sources (you may consider both the DeVries and the WWH as secondary sources).
- Direct quotes of material (avoid quotes longer than three lines (block quoting) unless necessary, and then be sure to analyze the material if you do.)
• All original material not of your own creation should receive a citation. The exception would be anything considered common knowledge, and this would include my lectures in this course. You should cite material that you use from the text. When in doubt, cite!

   Paper Format Requirements for all Assignments:

   Margins: 1” all sides.

   Font: 12 pt. Times or equivalent. *No sans-serif fonts* are acceptable.

   Spacing: Double-spaced throughout.

   Citation Style: Chicago or Turabian. This is a footnoted style, and I am requiring it because footnoting is standard for historians. For a convenient and easy-to-use guide, go to the Purdue website at [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/) for examples of any kind of reference you might need. Footnoting is not difficult, and you may find you actually enjoy it as it gives you a means to comment on portions of your paper where you do not wish to add text to the body directly. At any rate, knowing how to use this style will make writing research papers much easier.

   Bibliography: On separate last page, in Chicago (Turabian) style.

   **Schedule of Lectures**

   **Week One**
   **The Legacy of the Ancients**

   Monday, Sept 30
   Introduction to the Course

   Wednesday, Oct 2: The Roman Legions
   Read: War in World History (Hereafter WWH,) Chapter 4

   **Week Two**
   **A New Way of War**

   Monday, Oct 7: The Gathering Storm: The Eastern Horsemen
   Read: WWH, Chapter 6
   Read:

   Wednesday, Oct 9: The Barbarian West
   Read: WWH, Chapter 7
Week Three:
The Carolingian Moment

Monday, Oct 14  The Campaigns of Charlemagne


You can skim the chapters not directly related to war, but the whole piece is short and interesting.


Wednesday, Oct 16:  Vikings and War in the Post-Carolingian World

Read: DeVries, Chapters 1 and 2

You can skim these; get a feel for the arms and armor in use and how they changed over time.


Week Four:
The First Normandy

Monday, Oct 21  1066

Read: DeVries, Chapter 8;

Examine the Bayeux Tapestry at this link: http://www.bayeuxtapestry.org.uk/BayeuxContents.htm

OR

The David Wilson color volume on reserve at AAA Library (Highly Recommended.)

Wednesday, Oct 23  The Great Heavy Cavalry Debate

Read: DeVries, Chapter 3

Week Five:
Feudalism and War

Monday, Oct 28  Feudal Society

Wednesday, Oct 30  Midterm Examination

Week Six:
Holy War

Monday, Nov 4  The Crusades

Read: *Bernard Bachrach, “Some Observations on Administration and Logistics of the Siege of Nicaea”;

Revised 09/25/2013
Wednesday, November 6:  Counter-Crusade: The Age of Salah-al-Din  
**Read:** WWH Chapter 11  
*Ibn-Al-Athir, “Saladin Takes Jerusalem”

**Week Seven:**  
**Technology**

Monday, Nov 11:  The Siege  
**Read:** *Sean McGlynn, “Storm, Sack, and non-Combatants” in By Sword and Fire (151-194);  
DeVries, Chapters 4 and 6

Wednesday, Nov 13:  War at Sea  
**Your Source Analysis is Due Today.**  
**Read:** DeVries, Chapters 11 and 12  
**Read:** *Sánchez de Valladolid, Fernán. Gran Crónica De Alfonso XI (Excerpt), “Battle in the Straits.”

**Week Eight:**  
**The Warrior Elite - West**

Monday, Nov 18:  Chivalry and War  

Wednesday, Nov 20:  “In Harness,” Sean Hayes, Northwest Fencing Academy  
**Your Paper Proposal is due today.**  
**Read:** WWH, 221-229; Begin Peel Affinity

**Week Nine:**  
**The Warrior Elite - East**

Monday, Nov 25:  Guest Lecture, Prof. Andrew Goble: “The Samurai”

Wednesday, Nov 27:  Guest Lecture, Prof. Andrew Goble, “The Battle of Kawanakajima”

**Read:** Continue Peel Affinity

**Week Ten:**  
**Twilight of Chivalry**

Monday, Dec 2:  1346  
**Read:** *Christopher Allmand, “War and the non-combatant in the Middle Ages.”  
*Froissart, Chronicles (Excerpt)
Papers due by Noon, Dec. 11th