

HI 204
History of the Crusades
Spring 2014
TR 11:00-12:30. SMG 208

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This course examines the rise of crusade ideology in the medieval Christian and Islamic worlds, and the evolution of the phenomenon of crusading. But rather than focusing on military campaigns this course will explore the broad spectrum of Muslim-Christian-Jewish relations in the Middle Ages, with the aim of understanding the periodic religious wars as a single facet of a wider-ranging network of social and cultural interactions. We will begin by examining the origins of the crusading idea in Western society; then we will turn to the rise of the first Islamic empire and the development of its cultural traditions. We will then branch into a variety of individual topics that illustrate the complicated relations that bound the medieval Christian, Muslim, and Jewish worlds together and often kept them at each others' throats.

There are three books required, which are available at the BU Bookstore:

1. The Crusades, by Thomas Asbridge. ISBN 978.0060787295.
2. Under Crescent and Cross, by Mark R. Cohen. ISBN 978.0691139319.
3. The Great Caliphs: The Golden Age of the Abbasid Empire, by Amira K. Bennison. ISBN 978.0300167986.

We will also read a good number of primary source materials, some of which will be available online.

Course-Grades will be determined by three exams, each of which has an in-class and a take-home component.

<u>Exam #1</u>	In-class quiz on Thursday, 20 Feb. Take-home essay due on Tuesday, 25 Feb.
<u>Exam #2</u>	In-class quiz on Thursday, 27 March. Take-home essay due on Tuesday, 1 April.
<u>Exam #3</u>	In-class quiz on Thursday, 1 May. Take-home essay due on Tuesday, 6 May.

Each in-class quiz will comprise 30% of each overall exam-grade; the take-home essay will count for 70% of each exam-grade.

There will be NO FINAL EXAM for this course. The dates of the regular quizzes/exams are not negotiable, except in case of emergency.

Email is the best way to reach me. I check my email once a day, but never on weekends.

Please feel welcome to telephone my office, but I recommend that you do not leave voicemail. My service drops messages regularly.

Like all the courses offered in the History Department, this course has no pre-requisites. We do not assume any prior knowledge of Christian, Islamic, or European history on your part – so if you are an absolute beginner on this topic, don't worry.

In fact, from a quick glance at the enrollment roster and your transcripts, the overwhelming majority of you are absolute beginners. I do know a handful of you from previous courses, but most of you seem to have no background to this era of Western history. Here is how this class breaks down, statistically.

Freshmen	15	CAS	50
Sophomores	21	CFA	3
Juniors	31	CGS	1
Seniors	32	COM	26
		MET	1
		SAR	1
		SED	3
		SHA	1
		SMG	12

Office hours: 2:00-3:00, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
4:00-6:00, Mondays.

Important dates to bear in mind:

- 29 Jan** Last day to add classes.
- 20 Feb** Last day to drop a class without receiving a “W” on your transcript.
- 28 Mar** Last day to drop a class, with a “W” on your transcript.
- 9 Apr** Last day to withdraw from the University.

My Schedule for Spring 2014

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00					
9:00		HI 204 (9:30)		HI 204 (9:30)	
10:00		HI 204	Grad students	HI 204	
11:00		HI 214	Grad students	HI 214	
12:00		HI 214 (12:30)	Dept. meeting	HI 214 (12:30)	
1:00					
2:00		Office hour		Office hour	
3:00					
4:00	Office hour				
5:00	Office hour				

Classroom Protocol and Expectations

The Student Academic Conduct Code is in force. You can find it at:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>

Regular attendance in class is expected as a matter of professionalism and basic courtesy. I recognize that circumstances sometimes arise that make it impossible for you to attend class. Consequently, you are allowed to miss three (3) class-meetings; any more than that, however, will result in a penalty of one half-grade for each day (beyond the third) missed, for your overall course-grade.

I am happy to help if you are having any trouble with the course; but please be fair: Let me know as soon as the difficulty starts. Don't wait until you discover that you haven't received the grade you wanted.

Speaking of grades, here is the College's official guideline to faculty:

Avoid grade inflation. Grades should reflect the distribution of effort and success in the class. In undergraduate courses, a useful (unofficial) guideline is that an "A" should mean that the student mastered the material and produced excellent work, "B" that the student understood the material but did not master it or whose work was good but not superior, "C" that there were significant gaps in understanding/accomplishment or that the work was lackluster ("satisfactory" is the term used in the Undergraduate Bulletin), "D" ("low pass") that there was limited understanding/accomplishment or effort, and "F" that there was little understanding/accomplishment or effort. If your distribution of grades is skewed toward the high end, it might imply that either an "A" does not require a high level of achievement in the course or you are demanding too little of your students. "High end" is a median grade of "B" or higher for a 100 to 200 level undergraduate course. A median grade of "B" is common for upper-level undergraduate courses. (In graduate courses "C+" is a failing grade, hence the average grade is higher than in undergraduate courses.)

If a student for good reason could not complete the last stages of your course (e.g., missed the final exam because of illness), you and the student can enter into a contract in which you specify the work that needs to be completed and the date by which it must be handed in to you. That date must be no later than one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the course was offered. An incomplete grade form, available through your departmental administrator, must be submitted with your grade sheet for the course for each "I" grade that you issue.

Classroom expectations are also based on professionalism and basic courtesy. If you are late to class, or if you need to leave the classroom for any personal reason, please do so with as little disruption to your neighbors as possible. No need to ask permission. The use of laptop computers is fine so long as you use them for class purposes; other students find it distracting if you are watching videos or updating your Facebook page. If I receive any complaints, I will contact you privately and ask you either to change your behavior or to cease bringing the computer to class.

I try to keep an informal atmosphere in the classroom. I invite you to interrupt my lectures whenever you have a question to ask, a contrary opinion to raise, or an example to share. Like most things in life, this course will be more enjoyable and interesting if you become actively involved in it. Above all, don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it. But please be fair: if you're having trouble with the course, let me know as early as possible. Don't ask for special favors after you discover that you haven't scored as well as you had hoped. Students affiliated with the King Center for Learning Disabilities are especially encouraged to talk with me soon and often.

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

You will be expected to have read each week's assignment prior to class on Mondays.

16 Jan	Introduction.		
21 Jan	The Rise of Christianity.	}	
23 Jan	The Rise of Christianity.	}	
28 Jan	The Rise of Islam.	}	Asbridge, ch. 1-2.
30 Jan	The Rise of Islam.	}	Bennison, ch. 1-2.
4 Feb	The Jews.	}	Asbridge, ch. 3-4.
6 Feb	The Jews.	}	Cohen, ch. 1-4.
11 Feb	The Buildup of Tensions.	}	Asbridge, ch. 5-6.
13 Feb	The Idea of Holy War.	}	Bennison, ch. 3-4.
18 Feb	<i>No class today. Special office hour instead.</i>		
20 Feb	In-Class Quiz #1. Take-Home Essay will be distributed.		
25 Feb	The 1 st Crusade, and After.	}	Asbridge, ch. 7-8.
27 Feb	Life in the Crusader States.	}	Cohen, ch. 5.
4 Mar	Madrasas, Yeshivas, and Universities.	}	Asbridge, ch. 9-10.
6 Mar	Arabs, Persians, and Turks.	}	Bennison, ch. 5.
11 Mar	SPRING BREAK.		
13 Mar	SPRING BREAK.		
18 Mar	The 2 nd and 3 rd Crusades.	}	Asbridge, 11-14.
20 Mar	The Professionals Take Over.	}	
25 Mar	The Professionals Take Over.	}	Asbridge, ch. 15-16.
27 Mar	In-Class Quiz #2. Take-Home Essay will be distributed.		
1 Apr	The Spanish Reconquista.	}	Asbridge, ch. 17-18.
3 Apr	The Spanish Reconquista.	}	Cohen, ch. 6-8.
8 Apr	Pope Innocent III.	}	Asbridge, ch. 19-20.
10 Apr	Heretics and Inquistors.	}	Cohen, ch. 9.
15 Apr	Mysticism and Holy War.	}	Asbridge, ch. 21-22.
17 Apr	The Wonder of the World.	}	
22 Apr	The History of the History of the Crusades.	}	Asbridge, ch. 23-end.
24 Apr	MONDAY CLASSES MEET.	}	Bennison, ch. 6.
29 Apr	<i>No class today. Extra office hour instead.</i>		
1 May	In-Class Quiz #3. Take-Home Essay will be distributed.		

Some Useful Websites
Please let me know of any new ones that you discover.

Medieval Christianity

www.bu.edu/people/bpstone/theology	Sources for Christian theology
www.chinstitute.org	Church History Institute webpage
www.doaks.org/byzantine	Website of the Center for Byzantine History
www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook	Collection of primary sources
www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/christian-history	Early Christian documents
www.labrynth.org	Collection of primary sources
www.newadvent.org/cathen	The Catholic Encyclopedia (1910 edn)
www.sscl.org	Society for the Study of the Crusades + the Latin East
www.stg.brown.edu/webs/bible-browser	Hypertext browser through the Bible
www.utm.edu/research/iep	Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
www.vatican.va	The official Vatican website. Read it in Latin!
http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rs/resources	Resources for the study of Christianity and Judaism
http://ceel.wheaton.edu/index	Christian Classics Ethereal Library
http://cedar.evansville.edu/~ecoleweb	Early Christian history encyclopedia
http://matrix.be.edu/matrixwebdata	Medieval women's religious communities
http://orb.rhodes.edu	Everything medieval
http://urban.hunter.cuny.edu/~thead/xtain	Guide to research in medieval Christianity

Medieval Judaism

www.acs.ualgary.ca/~elsegal/talmudmap	Resources on rabbinics and Jewish mysticism
www.columbia.edu/cu/cijs	Center for Israeli and Jewish Studies
www.du.edu/~sward/institut	Jewish-Muslim relations
www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishbook	Primary source collection
www.jewfaq.org	Introductory information about Judaism
http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/jewishhistory	Sources for Jewish history
http://shamash.org/trb/judaism	Everything (I mean, Everything!!) Jewish
www.jewishencyclopedia.com	1906 edition of the Jewish Encyclopedia

Medieval Islam

www.du.edu/~sward/institut	Islamic-Jewish relations
www.hti.umich.edu/relig/koran	Word-searchable Qur'anic text
www.islam.about.com	Introductory information about Islam
www.islamworld.net	Contemporary Islam
www.islamicity.org	Contemporary Islam
www.sharaaz.com	Islamic bookstore
www.unn.ac.uk/societies/islamic	Islamic social history
http://wings.ubuffalo.edu/sa/muslim/isl	Primary sources