Fall 2013

Instructor: Professor C.J. Neville
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Office hours: Wed. 11:45-12:45; Fri. 12:45-1:45

This class has been mounted on the Blackboard system, so be sure to check the site regularly for copies of handouts, announcements and various postings relevant to the class.

Class description and format
History 4003 explores several different aspects of life and culture in the medieval West, including popular expressions of religious belief, family life, material culture, concepts of wealth and work, attitudes towards old age, the ill and death, literature and literacy, criminal society. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding the relationship between elite and popular ideas and the different historiographical approaches that scholars adopt in their studies of medieval culture and society.

The class is conducted in the form of a seminar. Regular attendance is strictly required, and attendance will be recorded. Each week, a specific topic is chosen for intense exploration and discussion. One or two students present to the class an oral report on assigned readings relating to the topic; other students participate in a discussion of the same topic based on prepared readings. Students are expected to take part in all such discussions. A formal paper constitutes the written portion of the course workload.

Textbook (required)

The weekly readings assigned for Weeks 4-13 are all available through the Killam Library’s online journals; most of these also appear on the class OWL site under the ‘Readings’ tab. A list of these readings is included below.
Assignments and grades

In assessing grades, the written assignment will carry the principal weight, as follows:

- Outline and bibliography due **Friday 11 October** 10%
- Completed paper, due **Friday 15 or Friday 22 November** (final deadline to be confirmed later in term) 30%

Under no circumstances will an extension be granted to the due date of the essay. Essays submitted after the deadline will be severely penalized; no exceptions. Note that the correct use of grammar and language is one of the criteria used in evaluating the written assignment.

Oral performance in presenting a summary and assessment of assigned readings (2-3 articles each) will constitute 30% of the final grade. The instructor will assign those readings from the reading list below.

General class participation in weekly discussions will constitute the last 30% of the final grade.

**IMPORTANT NOTE.** Attendance in class is strictly required, and the instructor reserves the right to alter the final grade to reflect undue absenteeism. A student who is absent for more than one seminar session without acceptable cause will be adjudged as having failed to meet class requirements.

In summary, then, grades are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay outline and bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar presentations</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Statement re. plagiarism**

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence that may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the university, or even the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of the authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations that deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, all students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

A series of very helpful documents concerning the definition of plagiarism and how to avoid it can be found on the Killam Library Website at the following address: www.library.dal.ca/how/plagiar.htm and www.library.dal.ca/how/avoid.htm (see “Students: Resources for Avoiding Plagiarism”). I strongly recommend that everyone visit these sites as soon as possible: when I grade the research assignment I am going to assume that you are all familiar with their contents. See also the handy student guide to writing papers entitled “Doing History at Dalhousie”, available in the Main Office of the Department of History or online at the Department of History website.

The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer readable format. As a student in this class, you are henceforth required to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit.

See also the handy student guide to writing papers entitled “Doing History at Dalhousie”, available in the Main Office of the Department of History, or online at the Department’s Website.

**Students with disabilities**

Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.
Class programme – HIST 4003
Readings listed on pp. 5-6

Week 1  Introduction to History 4003
Sept 6

Week 2  Topic for discussion: Popular culture in the Middle Ages I
Sept 13  Class readings: Aberth, *Environmental History of the Middle Ages*, Intro., Parts I, II

Week 3  Topic for discussion: Popular culture in the Middle Ages II
Sept 20  Class readings: Aberth, *Environmental History of the Middle Ages*, Part III, Afterword

Week 4  Topic for discussion: Youth and the Family
Sept 27  Class readings: Articles listed below

Week 5  Topic for discussion: Old Age
Oct 4  Class readings: Articles listed below

Week 6  Topic for discussion: The poor and the sick
Oct 11  Class readings: Articles listed below
*Essay outline and bibliography due today*

Week 7  Topic for discussion: Death, Dying and the Dead
Oct 18  Class readings: Articles listed below

Week 8  Topic for discussion: Food and Fasting
Oct 25  Class readings: Articles listed below

Week 9  Topic for discussion: Urban Revolt in Late Medieval Europe
Nov 1  Class readings: Articles listed below

Week 10  No class this week
Nov 8

Week 11  Topic for discussion: Law and Disorder: The Example of Italy
Nov 15  Class readings: Articles listed below
*Completed essay due Monday 13 November* - note MONDAY due date

Week 12  Topic for discussion: Archaeology and Medieval British History
Nov 22  Class readings: Articles listed below

Week 13  Topic for discussion: The Medieval Other
Nov 29  Class readings: Articles listed below
Readings for HIST 4003 – all available online through Killam Library’s e-journal collection or via the class OWL site

**YOUTH AND THE FAMILY**


**OLD AGE**


**THE POOR AND THE SICK**


**DEATH, DYING AND THE DEAD**


Elizabeth A. R. Brown, ‘Authority, the Family and the Dead in Late Medieval France’, *French Historical Studies* 16:4 (Fall, 1990), 803-32.
FOOD AND FASTING


URBAN REVOLT IN LATE MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Lia B. Ross, ‘Anger and the City: Who was in Charge of the Paris Cabochien Revolt of 1413?’, in Albrecht Classen, ed., *Urban Spaces in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age* (Berlin, 2009), 433-62.*** [see note at end about accessing this item]


LAW AND DISORDER – THE EXAMPLE OF ITALY


ARCHAEOLOGY AND MEDIEVAL BRITISH HISTORY
James Graham-Campbell and John Sheehan, ‘Viking Age Gold and Silver from Irish Crannogs and Other Watery Places’, *Journal of Irish Archaeology* 18 (2009), 77-93.


**THE MEDIEVAL OTHER**


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For this item, type the title of book into Dalhousie Library search box, with ‘Books and More’ in the drop-down menu; choose the Novanet copy (ebook), choose the essay from the Table of Contents; download ebook. NOTE: You will have access to the downloaded book for only 7 days.