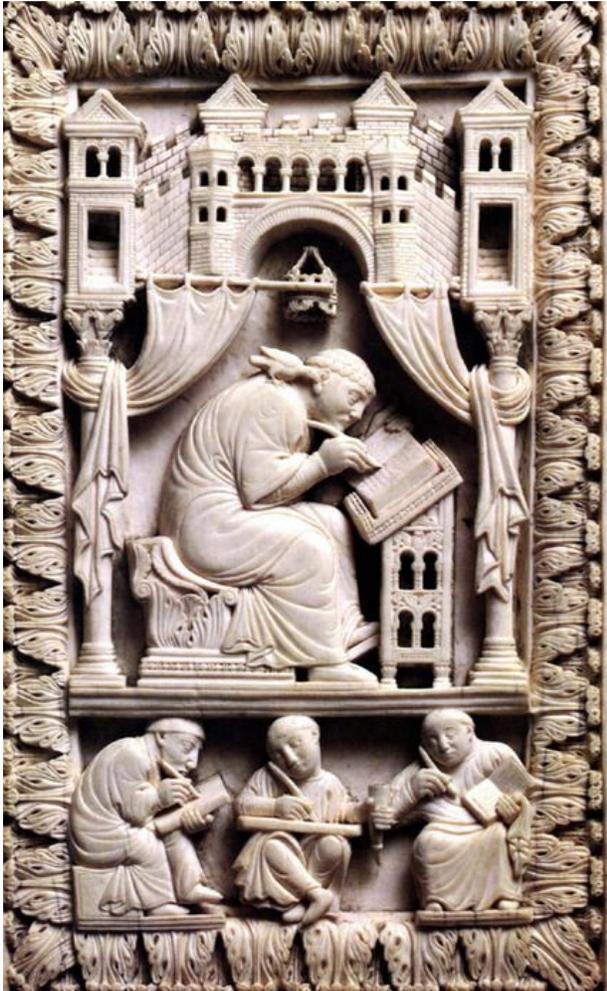


Laurentian University

HIST 4516: Early Medieval Chronicles

Tuesday/Thursday 4-5:30 in C-104

Dr. Janice Liedl Office: A-206 Phone: 675-1151 ext.4206 Email: jliedl@laurentian.ca
Office Hours: Wednesday/Friday 11:30-1 or by appointment



“History is the fiction we invent to persuade ourselves that events are knowable and that life has order and direction. That's why events are always reinterpreted when values change. We need new versions of history to allow for our current prejudices.” – Bill Watterson

How did medieval people know, create, change and consume history? You will discover what kind of order medieval people imposed upon their pasts, distant and immediate, when they made their histories. Reading from a wide selection of medieval accounts and modern scholarship as well as participating in our in-person and online discussions will help you craft your own histories.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Historian Profile (Due October 18) – 20%
- Project Proposal (Due November 1) – 5%
- Research Project (Due December 6) – 30%
- Participation (All Term) – 20%
- Portfolio (Complete by December 13) – 25%

SCHEDULE

Sept. 8 Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells the Story

No readings: come prepared to discuss what you mean by “history”.

Sept. 13 Making History in Premodern Minds

Justin Lake, *Prologues to Ancient and Medieval History*, introduction.

Sarah Foot, “Annals and Chronicles in Western Europe” in *The Oxford History of Historical Writing*. Volume 2: 400-1400. Edited by Sarah Foot and Chase F. Robinson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. 346-365. (On reserve)

Sept. 15 Rooted in the Roman Past

Prologues #5, 6, 7

Rosamond McKitterick, “The pleasures of the past: history and identity in the early Middle Ages” *Early Medieval Europe* 22:4 (2014) 388-405.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/emed.12077>

Sept. 20 Imperial History in Roman Gaul

Prologues #9, 13, 16

Alexander Murray, *From Roman to Merovingian Gaul*, 10-12, 14-16, 20

Sept. 22 Orosius & Other Early Christian Histories

Prologues #19, 21, 23

Murray, 21-40

Sept. 27 Chronicle Case Study

Murray, 62-76

Mark Humphries, “Chronicle and chronology: Prosper of Aquitaine, his methods and the development of early medieval chronography” *Early Medieval Europe* 5:2 (1996) 155-

175. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0254.1996.tb00052.x>

Sept. 29 Gregory of Tours’ Kingly History: Clovis & Chilperic

Prologues #30

Murray, 271-86, 343-374

Oct. 4 Some Poor Unfortunate (Frankish) Souls

Murray, 429-32

Erica Buchberger, “Romans, barbarians, and Franks in the writings of Venantius Fortunatus” *Early Medieval Europe* 24:3 (2016) 293-307.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/emed.12153>

Oct. 6 Bathild's Sainly & Queenly Life

Murray, 499-508

Sara Tatum, "Auctoritas as sanctitas: Balthild's depiction as 'queen-saint' in the Vita Balthildis" *European Review of History* 16:6 (2009), 809-834.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13507480903368087>

Oct. 10-14 Reading Week: No: Classes!**Oct. 18 Historian Profiles Roundtable (Profile Due!)****Oct. 20 Roman Remnants in Fredegar's Histories**

Murray, 611-21

Andreas Fischer, "Reflecting Romanness in the Fredegar Chronicle" *Early Medieval Europe* 22:4 (2014), 433-445. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/emed.12080>

Oct. 25 An Emergent Western Historical Model? (Participation Due!)

Prologues #24, 26, 27, 33

Felice Lifshitz, "The Vicissitudes of Political Identity: Historical Narratives in the Barbarian Successor States of Western Europe" in *The Oxford History of Historical Writing*. Volume 2: 400-1400. Edited by Sarah Foot and Chase F. Robinson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. 368-387. (On reserve)

Oct. 27 British Historians & The Distant Past

Prologues #29, 32

Bede, Book I

Nov. 1 Bede's Kingly History (Proposal Due!)

Bede, Book II, Chapters 9-20; Book III, Chapters 1-9

W. Trent Foley & Nicholas J. Higham, "Bede on the Britons" *Early Medieval Europe* 17:2 (2009) 154-85. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0254.2009.00258.x>

Nov. 3 Bede's Christian History

Bede, Book IV, Chapters 1-5, 19-23; Book V, Chapters 19, 23

Jay Rubinstein, "Conversion, Miracles & the Creation of a People in Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*" *The Middle Ages in Texts and Textures: Reflections on Medieval Sources*. Edited by Jason Glenn. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011. 93-104. (On reserve)

Nov. 8 Historicizing Charlemagne in His Own Time

Prologues #34

Paul Dutton, *Carolingian Civilization*, 26-49

Nov. 10 Benedict of Aniane's Godly Life

Dutton, 176-98

Nov. 15 The Astronomer's Sense of History

Prologues #36

Dutton 256-265, 291-4

Nov. 17 Nithard's Civil War History

Prologues #37

Dutton 297-331

Nov. 22 Legends of Charlemagne

Dutton 456-7, 533-7

Matthew Gabriele, "The Birth of a Frankish Golden Age" in *An Empire of Memory: The Legend of Charlemagne, the Franks, and Jerusalem Before the First Crusade*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. 13-22. E-book in the Laurentian catalogue.

Nov. 24 The Politics of Reims

Fanning & Bachrach, *The Annals of Flodoard of Reims*, introduction & 1-36

Nov. 29 The Religion of Reims

Fanning & Bachrach, 36-68

Koziol, Geoffrey. "Flothilde's visions and Flodoard's histories: a tenth-century mutation?" *Early Medieval Europe* 24:2 (2016), 160-184

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/emed.12139>

Dec. 1 Millennial Women & The Historical Tradition

Prologues #43-45

Elisabeth Van Houts, "Women and the writing of history in the early Middle Ages: the case of Abbess Matilda of Essen and Aethelweard." *Early Medieval Europe* 1:1 (1992), 53-68. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0254.1992.tb00004.x>

Dec. 6 Research Project Roundtable (Project & Participation Due!)

TEXTBOOKS

- Justin Lake, ed. *Prologues to Ancient and Medieval History: A Reader*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013. ISBN: 9781442605039 (Also for HIST 4517) aka *Prologues*
- Alexander C. Murray, ed. *From Roman to Merovingian Gaul: A Reader*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1999. ISBN: 9781442600959
- Paul E. Dutton, ed. *Carolingian Civilization: A Reader*. Second Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004. ISBN: 9781551114927
- Bede. *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Edited by Judith McClure & Roger Collins. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780199537235
- Steven Fanning & Bernard S. Bacharach, eds. *The 'Annals' of Flodoard of Reims, 919-966*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004. ISBN: 9781442600010

Other articles & chapters listed in the schedule are available on reserve or can be accessed via the Laurentian library databases.

ASSIGNMENTS

Historian Profile (Due October 18) – 20%

For any one early medieval historian featured in *Prologues* or the other textbooks, research into their life and create an analytic profile that characterizes the most important influences or themes in the individual's life and times. You may choose to do this in the style of a medieval text (e.g. chronicle, annals, life, etc.), a modern rendering (e.g. video, FB feed, storify, etc.) or a conventional research paper (approx. 1800-2000 words). All profiles should be based on a bibliography of at least five scholarly sources. Document your research in the Chicago Manual of Style notes/bibliography format.

SKILLS: Research, Analysis of secondary sources, Argumentation, Expressive presentation

Project Proposal (Due November 1) – 5%

Submit a one-page proposal describing your topic and planned approach for your research project. Explain how your project will relate to the arguments from at least one of the secondary sources you plan to employ. Append a bibliography in the Chicago Manual of Style notes/bibliography format of at least five of the scholarly sources that you intend to use including at least one primary source.

SKILLS: Research, Argument identification & engagement, Preliminary analysis

Research Project (Due December 6) – 30%

Explore the historical culture of one distinct area, group, period or community or compare one particular aspect of historical thought, production or reception across a range of early medieval history. You should not offer a straightforward analysis of one historian or historical text but

engage with the scholarly conversation about early medieval histories such as we have read in the course. You may draw upon early medieval histories beyond those assigned in the class.

Sample research topics:

- The changing role of patronage in Late Antique and Merovingian Frankish histories
- History as critique: a comparison of the approaches of Gregory of Tours & Procopius
- Carolingian historical practice after the death of Charlemagne
- Gender & godliness in the Lives of Martin, Radegund & Bathild
- Ethnicity & Authority in the histories of Gildas & Bede

Your 2500-3000 word research paper (alternative formats only in consultation with Dr. Liedl) draws on at least eight scholarly sources including one primary source. Document your research in the Chicago Manual of Style notes/bibliography format.

SKILLS: Analysis of primary & secondary sources, Argumentation, Expressive presentation

Participation (All Term) – 20%

This is a seminar course which relies on student contributions. You will contribute to classes throughout the term, answering some of the discussion prompts on D2L or in class as well as posing questions and making comments of your own. You are expected to participate both online and in the classroom to receive your full participation mark. Use the appended participation sheet to self-assess your participation twice during the term. These are due October 25 & December 6 to help determine your participation mark in the course.

SKILLS: Interaction, Analysis, Argumentation, Expressive presentation

Portfolio (Complete by December 13) – 25%

Your portfolio includes three elements:

- a 750-1000 word response to your choice of question prompts
- a selection of your FOUR best contributions to the online discussion board
- a 750-1000 word comparative analysis of any two primary sources used in the class

Further details along with the question prompts will be available in the assignment area on D2L. Each element is equally weighted: assessment will focus on your ability to articulate clear arguments and make connections relevant to your term's work, not on your ability to cite additional research material.

SKILLS: Source engagement, Analysis, Argumentation, Curation, Expressive Presentation

POLICIES

Talk to Dr. Liedl: Come to office hours or schedule a meeting if those times don't work for you. Email to jlitedl@laurentian.ca should include our course code, HIST 4516, in the subject line. Allow at least one day for a response (longer over the weekend). Phone (705) 675-1151 ext. 4206 is only checked weekdays.

Assignments are due at the START of class: Allow yourself enough time to upload before the D2L dropbox closes. Late submissions are penalized at the rate of 5% per weekday (Monday through Friday) unless D2L is down (then no penalty is applied until the system is again running). Without an extension, no late assignment will be accepted after corrected work has been returned to the rest of the class (1-2 weeks).

Extensions or excuses are rare: If you are ill, in an accident or suffer some crisis that interferes with your coursework, contact Dr. Liedl as soon as possible to arrange an appropriate extension or other remedy. Having an assignment due in another course or being busy is *not* a reason for an extension but I would rather work with you to get your work completed than see you fail!

Submit your assignments on D2L: Submit your assignments online. Acceptable word-processed file-types: .txt, .rtf, .doc, .docx, .odt, .wps. Consult with Dr. Liedl about audio, video or other multi-media formats. **No emailed assignments will be accepted!**

Learn the History style: History follows the Chicago Manual of Style – NOTES/BIBLIOGRAPHY system. You need to include footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography! Consult Rampolla's book for guidance or the Chicago Online Guide http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Come to class: Participation is vital to your success. Missing eight or more classes can result in automatic failure as per university policy: "Absences in excess of 20% may jeopardize receipt of credit for the course." Contact Dr. Liedl if there are extenuating circumstances.

Don't copy or cheat: Your assignments are your own work. All of your research should be properly credited with notes and bibliography. Cheating or plagiarism can lead to failure for the assignment, the course or dismissal from the university: <https://intranet.laurentian.ca/forms/student/academicexcellence/AcademicIntegrityDec2010.pdf>

Other help is available: For writing assistance, finding a tutor, skills workshops and other academic advice, visit the Centre for Academic Excellence, Desmarais Library 2nd Floor, ext. 3300 excellence@laurentian.ca

For accommodation, contact our Accessibility Office, Parker Building L-210, ext. 3324

For advice on history programs & courses, visit the department in A-204, ext. 4200 or email Dr. David Leeson, dleeson@laurentian.ca

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://d2l.laurentian.ca>

