

HIS 440: Senior Seminar – Medieval Religion

Spring 2009

J.Mark Nicovich, PhD

TTH 12:30-2:30pm

Tatum 303

Office Hours: MWF 1:00-3:00pm

TTH 10am – 11:30am

Office: Lawrence Hall 117

mnicovich@wmcarey.edu

ext. 130

Course Overview: The HIS 440: Senior Seminar course is a required course for the History Major and Minor, and is designed as a capstone course. In this course the student will be involved in a trimester-long research project culminating in a 15-20 page research paper. The topic for this course will change according to the interests of the individual professor. The student learning outcomes for this course are as follows:

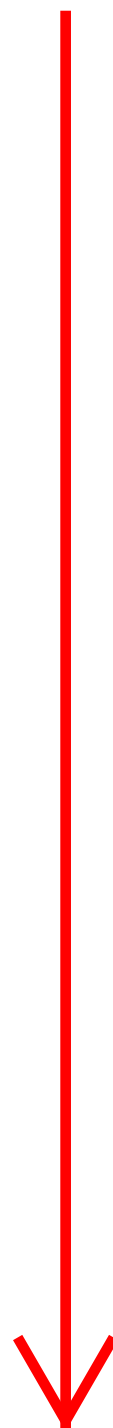
1. To develop a cogent, well-organized research topic within the conceptual and methodological framework of the course.
2. To demonstrate skills in archival, library and multimedia venues.
3. To demonstrate an ability to engage the historiography of the topic.
4. To demonstrate critical analysis of primary and secondary sources relevant to the student's research topic.
5. To demonstrate the ability to form and communicate a coherent historical argument in written form.

Course Topic: This trimester the Senior Seminar is entitled Medieval Religion (500 – 1300). The Medieval Period has often been termed “the Age of Faith”, and period in which Christianity permeated the European world, impacting political and economic structures, intellectual and cultural endeavors, and the very worldview held by kings, popes and peasants. This course is concerned with Medieval religion in all its theological formations, rituals, hierarchy, and personalities. This will include both the formation of the “official” church as well as popular, even heretical forms of Christianity.

Assigned Texts: Bernard Hamilton, *Religion in the Medieval West*.
Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*.

Course Assignments: There are elements to the course grading. 1) Research Prospectus – 10% 2) Initial Bibliography - 5% 3) Survey of Historiography - 20% 4) Final Project – 50% 5) Graded Discussion – Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*, - 5%. 6) Initial Exam (week 3) on *Religion in the Medieval West* – 10%.

Grading: The grading for the course will follow a 10-point scale. 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F.



HIS 440: Senior Seminar – The Crusades Spring 2011

Mark Nicovich, PhD
Associate Professor of History
TR 1-3pm
Lawrence Hall 104
Office Hours: MWF 10am-11:30am, 1-3pm
Office: Lawrence Hall 119
mnicovich@wmcarey.edu
ext. 130

Course Overview: The HIS 440: Senior Seminar course is a required course for the History Major and Minor, and is designed as a capstone course. In this course the student will be involved in a trimester-long research project culminating in a 15-20 page research paper. The topic for this course will change according to the interests of the individual professor. The student learning outcomes for this course are as follows:

1. To develop a cogent, well-organized research topic within the conceptual and methodological framework of the course.
2. To demonstrate research skills in archival, library and multimedia venues.
3. To demonstrate an ability to engage the historiography of the topic.
4. To demonstrate critical analysis of primary and secondary sources relevant to the student's research topic.
5. To demonstrate the ability to form and communicate a coherent historical argument in written form.

Course Topic: This trimester the Senior Seminar is entitled *The Cult of Saints*. We will be examining religious devotion to various saints within Early and Medieval Christianity, including the origins of such devotions, how these devotions reflected various religious, social and cultural assumptions, and how these devotions impacted the world around them. The primary vehicle we will use to study these devotions is a specific type of literary genre, *hagiography* "writing about the holy", types of holy biographies that appeared as a part of these cult devotions.

Assigned Texts: Peter Brown, *The Cult of Saints*.

Course Assignments: There are elements to the course grading. 1) Midterm Examination – 30% 2) Research Prospectus with Annotated Bibliography - 30% 4) Final Paper – 40%

Grading: The grading for the course will follow a 10-point scale. 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F.

Attendance Policy: This course follows the attendance guidelines set forth by the college in *The Red Book*. If the student misses more than 1/4 of scheduled classes, **either excused or unexcused**, that student will fail, regardless of the student's overall



HIS 440: Senior Seminar – The Crusades

Spring 2014

Mark Nicovich, PhD
Associate Professor of History
TR 1-3pm
Lawrence Hall 104
Office Hours: MWF 10am-11:30am, 1-3pm
Office: Lawrence Hall 119
mnicovich@wmcarey.edu
ext. 130

Course Overview: The HIS 440: Senior Seminar course is a required course for the History Major and Minor, and is designed as a capstone course. In this course the student will be involved in a trimester-long research project culminating in a 15-20 page research paper. The topic for this course will change according to the interests of the individual professor. The *student learning outcomes* for this course are as follows:

1. To develop a cogent, well-organized research topic within the conceptual and methodological framework of the course.
2. To demonstrate research skills in archival, library and multimedia venues.
3. To demonstrate an ability to engage the historiography of the topic.
4. To demonstrate critical analysis of primary and secondary sources relevant to the student's research topic.
5. To demonstrate the ability to form and communicate a coherent historical argument in written form.

Course Topic: This trimester the Senior Seminar is focused on the Crusades, a series of western Christian holy wars against Muslims and other perceived enemies of the faith that took place from the late 11th to the 18th centuries.

Assigned Texts: Thomas F. Madden, *A Concise History of the Crusades*, 3rd Edition.

Course Assignments: 1) A map quiz – 10% 2) Midterm Exam – 30% 4) Final Paper – 60% (see below).

Grading: The grading for the course will follow a 10-point scale. 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F.

Attendance Policy: This course follows the attendance guidelines set forth by the college in *The Red Book*. If the student misses more than 1/4 of scheduled classes, **either excused or unexcused**, that student will fail, regardless of the student's overall performance in the class. This includes school-related activities, so take this into account when making your schedule for the term. Furthermore, for each absence beyond the 3rd absence, the student will lose a letter grade for the course. The student is responsible for keeping up with their absences.