Course Requirements: Three short (5-7 pages) papers, due weeks 4, 7 and 11. Plus class participation. Papers and participation each worth 25% of grade.

For each session, students are required to write one question about the reading that struck them as potentially interesting to discuss collectively in class, and to be prepared to introduce that question and topic in class if asked. These written questions are due at 9AM, in Pick 512, the day of class.

For paper topics, students will develop their analysis of one of their questions in more depth.

Week 1. INTRODUCTION

Jan. 5 Introduction:
“A Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus,” Saint Patrick

Jan. 7 “Dark” Ages:

Beowulf, first half (sections 1-31)
The Confession of Saint Patrick.

Week 2. FRANKS, NORMANS, and FEUDALISM

Jan. 12 Franks:

Late Merovingian France: History and Hagiography, 640-720,
Chap. 1: “The Book of the History of the Franks”
Chap. 2: “Life of Lady Balthild, Queen of the Franks”
Einhard, “The Life of Charlemagne”, in Two Lives of Charlemagne
Jan. 14 Normans:

George Duby, *Rural economy and Country Life in the Medieval West*,
Documents on the manor: pp. 428-456

Week 3. PAPACY AND CRUSADES

Jan. 19 Monastic Reform:

*A Monk’s Confession: The Memoirs of Guibert of Nogent,*
Book 1: “My Early Life”, pp. 3-91

Jan. 21 Investiture Contest and Crusades:

Brian Tierney, *The Crisis of Church and State, 1050-1300,*
Documents and text in part II, chapters 1-5

Week 4. LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Jan. 26 Love:

The *Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, “The story of Abelard’s misfortunes”, and
“Personal letters between Heloise and Abelard”, pp. 57-156

Jan. 28 Hierarchy:

Georges Duby, *The Three Orders: Feudal Society Imagined,*
Chaps. 5-13

Week 5. THE COMMERCIAL REVOLUTION I: Trade

Feb. 2 Contact with the East:

Chaps. 4, 5
Robert Lopez and Irving Raymond, *Medieval Trade in the Mediterranean World: Illustrative Documents*, chapter 1
The Travels of Marco Polo, prologue and chapter 1

Feb. 4 The Growth of Italian Trade and City-States:

Robert Lopez, The Commercial Revolution of the Middle Ages, 950-1350, Chap. 3
Robert Lopez and Irving Raymond, Medieval Trade …: Illustrative Documents, Chaps. 2,3
Daniel Waley, Italian City-Republics, chap. 3

Week 6. THE COMMERCIAL REVOLUTION II: Early Capitalism

Feb. 9 The Life of Business:

Read either:
Frederic Lane, Andrea Barbarigo, Merchant of Venice, chaps. 1-3
Or:
Gene Brucker (ed.), Two Memoirs of Renaissance Florence: The Diaries of Buonaccorso Pitti and Gregorio Dati, entire

Feb. 11 The Technology of Business:

Robert Lopez and Irving Raymond, Medieval Trade …: Illustrative Documents, Chaps. 9-10, 21-24

Week 7. EARLY RENAISSANCE: ART AND SCIENCE

Feb. 16 Painting:

Michael Baxandall, Painting and Experience in Fifteenth Century Italy, Chaps. 1, 2

Feb. 18 Mathematics and Perspective:

Leon Battista Alberti, On Painting, entire

Week 8. RENAISSANCE FAMILY AND STATUS

Feb. 23 Family Honor and Anxiety:


Feb. 25  Marriage and Politics:

Selected Letters of Alessandra Strozzi, Heather Gregory (ed.), letters 19-35
Marc Phillips, The Memoir of Marco Parenti, chap. 8

Week 9.  RENAISSANCE POLITICS AND POLITICAL THEORY

March 2  The Medici:

Vespasiano da Bisticci, Renaissance Princes, Popes, and Prelates, chapter on Cosimo de’ Medici
Francesco Guicciardini, Maxims and Reflections of a Renaissance Statesman, Series C: pp. 39-98

March 4  Republicanism and its Travails:

Francesco Guicciardini, Dialogue on the Government of Florence, entire

Week 10.  LATE RENAISSANCE: ART AND SCIENCE

March 9  Art and Patronage:

Giorgio Vasari, The Lives of the Artists, skim chapter on Michelangelo
John Symonds (translator), The Life of Benvenuto Cellini, pp. 1-100

March 11  Science and Patronage:

Leonardo da Vinci notebook selections from Paolo Galluzzi, Renaissance Engineers from Brunelleschi to Leonardo da Vinci, pp. 187-239