Introduction to the Medieval World

Course number and section: HIST 1110-612
Semester and year: Fall 2024
Credit hours: 3
Instructor name: Professor Jane Doe

Instructor Contact Information

Class location: Online in Blackboard
Email: jdoe@ccri.edu
Office: KN1160
Office Phone: 401-444-4444
Office Hours: In Zoom every Tuesday at 6:00pm or by appointment (link in Blackboard course)
Dept. Adm. Support: Mrs. Tracy Barbeco, trbarbeco@ccri.edu

Welcome to Intro to Medieval World! I am excited that you are joining me this semester. I will do my best as your instructor to make our virtual experience as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to this course. Active, thoughtful, and respectful participation in all aspects of the course will make our time together as productive and engaging as possible. I hope you can actively participate and stay engaged with your peers. I will give you periodic feedback on your participation. Remember, I am here to support you.

Contact Policy

As your instructor in this online course, I am committed to fostering an open communication environment to support your learning and success. Students can expect email responses within 24-48 hrs. during weekdays. I may occasionally respond more quickly, but please understand responses longer than 48 hours are rare except for weekends and holidays. For planning purposes, students should anticipate receiving grades and feedback on assignments within 5 business days after the due date. I will post announcements about any schedule changes, clarifications on course topics, or reminders on Blackboard.

Email Policy

Please reach out via email or schedule a video meeting with me if you have any questions or difficulties as we progress through the course material together in this virtual setting.

Starfish

Occasionally, you will also see communication coming from me through Starfish. I will send kudos to you when you are doing well in the course and might connect you to student support services through Starfish.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of medieval society and culture in Europe and the Mediterranean region from the decline of the Roman Empire through the 14th century. Topics include the birth of Christianity and rise of the Church; the emergence of Islamic civilization and its interaction with medieval Europe; the feudal system and the age of knights, castles, and manors; trade networks across Afro-Eurasia; crusades and other religious conflicts; growth of towns, commerce, and early capitalism; role of women in medieval economy and culture; philosophy, art, and literature in the Middle Ages. By examining political, social, economic, religious, and cultural history, students will gain an understanding of the complex forces shaping the medieval world as well as appreciate the medieval foundations of modern Western civilization.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites: none

Course Delivery Mode

Online: all course work will take place on Blackboard. You will find course resources and will submit your work through Blackboard course. There are also online discussions you will participate in weekly. There are no in-person or online meetings required.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of our time together, we will reach the following outcomes:

- Analyze key figures, events, and developments in medieval European and Mediterranean history.
- Analyze political, economic, social, cultural, and religious structures and dynamics that characterized medieval societies in Europe and the Mediterranean region.
- Analyze causes and effects of crucial turning points in medieval history such as the emergence of feudalism, the Crusades, etc.
- Evaluate historical arguments regarding continuity and change across the medieval period and varying historical interpretations of medieval religion, culture, and gender dynamics.

General Education Skills Categories

[Access General Education Outcomes](#)

Effective Communication

- Create written work that develops and expresses ideas and that addresses a given context and target audience.
- Communicate effectively via oral presentations, performances, participation in group work, and visual presentations.

Critical Thinking

- Identify, analyze, and apply evidence and ideas, question assumptions, and draw logical conclusions.
- Develop information literacy by locating, evaluating, synthesizing, and using information to accomplish a specific purpose.

Awareness of Oneself and the World

- Demonstrate an understanding of global, cultural, and historical perspective.

Required Textbooks and Materials

There is no physical textbook for this class. We will be using select chapters from an open textbook. See details below.

Required student materials

Title: Humanities 122 (Medieval to Modern History) OER
Edition: 1st
Author: Marc Nash
Publisher: OER Commons
Link: [Humanities 122 (Medieval to Modern History) OER Textbook | OER Commons](#)

Library reserve and/or digital resources: additional readings will be posted in Blackboard

Point of view disclaimer: The readings, class lectures, and my comments on the discussion boards will suggest a particular point of view. This perspective is my own and does not have to be yours. I encourage you to respectfully disagree with the ideas in the readings and lectures as well as the perspectives of your peers in the course. Please express yourself.

Technical Requirements

Email

I will communicate with you through your CCRI email account. Check your account every day to make sure you do not miss an email from an instructor. [Learn how to access your CCRI email.](#)

Blackboard

Learning requires certain technical requirements to participate actively and be successful. At the minimum, you should have access to a computer and a stable Internet connection. In some cases, a headset with a microphone may also be required. Many courses at CCRI require certain technical requirements to participate actively and be successful. View [Set Up Your Tech](#) to learn more about technical requirements.

Take the [Online Student Orientation](#) to learn what is expected from online students.

CCRI Computer Labs

The academic computer lab is available for CCRI students and allows access to computers with the required software. Information regarding CCRI's academic computer labs is available at the following link: [academic computer labs](#)

MS Office 365

Microsoft Office 365 is available for all CCRI students to download. This version of Office will be accessible as long as you are actively enrolled at CCRI. It is recommended that students [download MS 365 to their computers](#) for access to MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel offline.

MS OneDrive

[OneDrive,](#) is a cloud-based storage system that lets CCRI students store, share and organize files, photos, and favorites on Windows servers, and access them from any computer with an Internet connection. You will need and know how to use a computer or mobile device with Internet access.

Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor

This course requires the use of Respondus LockDown Browser (and Monitor) for our final exam proctoring. LockDown Browser prevents users from accessing other websites and applications on the same device during an exam. You may access the Respondus [Terms of Use,](#) [Privacy Policy,](#) and the [Privacy Center](#) to learn more about how Respondus protects your data.

Monitor requires a webcam and microphone. It will record video and audio of you and the environment around you. Respondus Monitor will flag suspicious behavior and I will review the video and flags for cheating before grading the exam. The information gathered by Respondus and Blackboard may be used by the instructor and the College in any academic misconduct proceedings.

If you are using Respondus Monitor at your home or in a personal area, by clicking the Respondus Terms of Agreement, you agree to allow your activity and surrounding workspace area to be recorded by video and audio and then to be analyzed by the Respondus Monitor system.

Watch an [overview of LockDown Browser and Monitor](#) to learn more about how the software works.

Prepare Your Testing Space Before Taking the Exam:

1. Ensure you are in a location where you will not be interrupted (close doors, if possible).
2. Remove all other devices (e.g., tablets, phones, second computers).
3. Clear your desk of all external materials not permitted — bags, books, papers, etc.
4. Remain at your computer for the duration of the test.
5. Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims.
6. Ensure your computer or tablet is on a firm surface (a desk or table) — not on your lap, a bed, or other surface that might move.
7. If using a built-in webcam, avoid tilting the screen after the webcam setup is complete.
8. Take the exam in a well-lit room and avoid backlighting, such as sitting with your back to a window.
9. Remember you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted.

Course Expectations

In addition to any specific expectations outlined in our syllabus document, you are responsible for following the policies set forth in the [Student Handbook](#) and [College Catalog.](#)

Pace

This course is completed online on Blackboard. It is expected that the course will take you an average of 9 hrs., depending upon your prior experience with online learning, using the technology, and familiarity with course concepts. The course's benefits are gained when you are open to reflecting on an approach to teaching and the strategies proposed on the course.

Each Week includes activities such as discussions, reading, and videos, quizzes, homework, and assignments. It is expected that you participate regularly, thoughtfully, and with respect to the time and engagement of the other members of the workshop, which includes participating within a set period. If you anticipate any challenges with staying on schedule, please reach out to me.

Each week begins on Monday at 12:00 am and ends on Sunday at 11:59:59 pm. All weekly course work is due on Sunday except for your initial discussion post, which is due on Thursday morning.

Attendance/Verification of Enrollment

Per federal financial aid regulations, CCRI is required to verify student enrollment per the dates in the [College Calendar](#).

You will be able to confirm enrollment through logging into our Blackboard course and participating on the discussion board, sending me an email about the course, submitting homework or an assignment.

CCRI Policy on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is vital to an institution of higher education. The integrity of your work is essential to awarding credit and developing your academic potential. Refer to Academic Policies in the Student Handbook for more information on the expectations for academic integrity.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statement

You are allowed to use advanced AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Midjourey, Copilot, etc.) on assignments in this course, unless otherwise noted. However, you should properly document and credit any use resources. For example, text generated using ChatGPT should include a citation such as: *"Text of your query." (YYYY, Month DD of query). Generated using OpenAI.* https://chat.openai.com/

Material generated using other tools should follow a similar citation convention. Unless given permission to use those tools, each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

Grading Scale and Policies

Grading Information and Grade Grievance Information from the Student Handbook.

Grading Standards and Requirements/Course Weights

Percentage	Letter Grade
93 - 100	A
90 - 92	A-
87 - 89	B+
83 - 86	B
80 - 82	B-
77 - 79	C+
70 - 76	C
67 - 69	D+
60 - 66	D
> 60	F

Your work in this class will be evaluated as follows:

Assessment Total/Weighted Total

Assessment	Weight
Exams (3)	30%
Analysis paper	30%
Discussion boards (7)	20%
Reflections (2)	20%
Total	100%

Exams: The final exam and exam 1 and 2 will be multiple choice exams online in Blackboard. All three exams will use a mix of multiple choice and essay-type questions. Respondus Monitor is required for the final exam and optional for exams 1 and 2.

Analysis paper: This assignment will be two-part. There is a draft that you will submit, then I will provide detailed feedback and recommendations for enhancement. You will then submit the final paper. More detailed instructions are posted in our Blackboard course.

Online discussions: all discussions will take place asynchronously in Blackboard each week. Discussions will evaluate your understanding of concepts and ideas from the text and their relation to broader themes discussed in lectures (I will provide recordings each week).

There are 3 required posts per week. Please refer to discussion board rubric in Blackboard.

Reflections: there are two reflections in the course. You will demonstrate your personal perspective and understanding of concepts and ideas from the text and their relation to broader themes discussed in lectures.

Netiquette rules: these are the rules for our online engagement

- Respect others and their opinions. In online learning, students from various backgrounds come together to learn. It is important to respect their feelings and opinions though they may differ from your own.
- Tone down your language. Given the absence of face-to-face clues, written text can easily be misinterpreted. Avoid the use of strong or offensive language and the excessive use of exclamation points. Review before posting to remove strong language.
- Keep personal discussions off the class discussion board and engage in a separate student forum within the class for this or email.
- Do not type all capitals, which is difficult to read, and has come to be considered the electronic version of "shouting."
- Do be courteous, even when you disagree, with your instructors as well as your classmates, and always provide clear, logical support for your views.

- Consider others' privacy. Ask for permission if you want to forward someone's email messages to third parties. Keep in mind that all private email mail is considered copyrighted by the original author.
- Be forgiving. If someone states something that you find offensive, mention this directly to the instructor. Remember that the person contributing to the discussion might be new to this form of communication. What you find offensive may quite possibly have been unintended and can best be cleared up by the instructor. If the instructor is unable to resolve the issue, they should escalate to the Chair, as should the student.
- Think before you hit the send button. Think carefully about the content of your message before contributing it. Once sent to the group there is no taking it back. Grammar and spelling errors reflect on you and your audience might not be able to decode misspelled words or poorly constructed sentences. It can also adversely affect your grade.
- Escalate your issues privately via email versus discussion forums. Should you disagree with an instructor or classmate, send an individual email to them. Do not argue your case in the discussion forum.

Late Policy/Make-Up Policy

I provide a lot of flexibility in this course. Life is unpredictable. I would appreciate an email if you needed to submit a course assignment late or cannot participate online. However, please understand that turning in assignments late can negatively impact your ability to fully learn course concepts. Late assignments will also receive delayed feedback. **Your first late submission will receive full credit, no questions asked. Every subsequent late submission will receive a 10% grade deduction for each day** it is late unless you notify me, and we agree on a new timeline.

Incomplete Grade

This temporary grade designation is awarded at the end of a course. It is awarded only when a student is passing, has attended, or completed at least 75% of the course and is unable to complete the course due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, death, unforeseeable accident, unavoidable circumstance).

Student Support Resources

Services for Students with Disabilities

Any student who feels they may need accommodation based on the impact of disability is encouraged to contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please also contact the office of [Disability Services for Students](#) to coordinate reasonable accommodation.

Advising

Your success is the primary focus of the [Advising Center.](#) As such, all matriculated students are assigned a trained, professional advisor who will provide support, guidance, and resources to help you navigate your academic journey and maximize your educational experience during your

entire time at the Community College of Rhode Island. Recognizing the diverse needs of our student body, your assigned advisor will provide personalized assistance to ensure that your academic, personal, and career goals are met. The services that are available to you include but are not limited to: academic planning and course selection; transfer planning; assistance in understanding college policies and procedures; and referrals to on-and-off-campus resources. Connecting with your assigned advisor is easy. Log in to your Starfish account (include instructions here). We look forward to partnering with you in your journey towards success at the Community College of Rhode Island.

Counseling

CCRI offers short term and confidential counseling to help students with mental health concerns. The Personal Counseling and Wellness Office offers students a safe environment for one-on-one appointments, assisting with a variety of concerns related to anxiety, depression, or long-standing psychological obstacles. The Personal Counseling and Wellness Office also assists with connecting students with resources and outside agencies offering long-term counseling services. For a list of mental health services on and off campus, please visit [Personal Counseling and Wellness](#).

Finally, counseling services are offered at our four main campuses (Warwick, Lincoln, Providence, and Newport) M-F 8:00 am to 4 pm. To schedule an appointment, please email us at: counseling@ccri.edu

TELUS Health

CCRI has also partnered with TELUS Health, a counseling service available to students 24/7, free of charge. TELUS Health offers virtual walk-in's and scheduled appointments, with access to professional counselors. To learn more about TELUS Health, please click the link here: [visit TELUS Health](#)

The Benefits Hub

Should you encounter an unexpected crisis during the semester (i.e., securing food or housing, addressing mental health concerns, personal safety, managing a financial crisis, and/or dealing with a family emergency, etc.), please reach out to the office of [The Benefits Hub](#). If you are uncomfortable doing so on your own, please know that I can submit a referral on your behalf - just email me or schedule a meeting with me during office hours.

Veteran Services

[CCRI Veteran Services Office](#) is committed to being a resource to all VA education beneficiaries. Our mission is to assist veterans, service members and dependents in the pursuit of their educational goals by maintaining up-to-date information on current programs and resources.

Through a combination of experience with the educational system and contacts within the VA, we can help you with any aspect of your higher education.

The Tutoring Center

We provide tutoring and academic coaching to help you achieve success. Do not wait to ask for help! Tutoring begins the second week of the semester and academic coaching appointments are available throughout the year. All services are at no cost to you. Visit The Tutoring Center or email tutoring@ccri.edu to learn more about our services.

Connect with a Tutor

Tutors help you learn course material for a specific class by clarifying course concepts and providing practice with course materials. You do not have to be in jeopardy of failing to get help from a tutor. Click here to watch the video directions on how to schedule appointments through Starfish.

Partner with An Academic Coach

Academic coaching is a personalized student-coach partnership with appointments tailored to your individual needs. A coach can help you with organizational and study strategies. One-time appointments or a series of consultations throughout the semester are available. Click here to watch the video directions on how to schedule appointments through Starfish.

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers a variety of free services, including online and in-person help with prewriting, organization, thesis statements, topic sentences, research papers, revision/editing, and answers to questions. Online help at ccri.edu/writingcenter includes:

- Zoom links for Writing Center Virtual Drop-in Tutoring Sessions
- Virtual Zoom appointments
- Email responses to questions and help with papers
- Website content, such as handouts, practice quizzes, literature analysis, PowerPoint presentations, reading resources, and information about research papers (MLA, APA, and Chicago systems)

In-person appointments can be made by contacting writingcenter@ccri.edu

The Writing Center is available at three of our four campuses to assist CCRI students, faculty, and staff members with various kinds of writing and revision tasks.

Pear Deck Tutor

Pear Deck Tutor is free private online tutoring. Pear Deck Tutor is available to students 24/7, with an expert tutor available usually within 3 mins in any subject. It can be accessed through the Tools option on the Blackboard main menu or at the bottom of the many course menus.

Starfish

Starfish is a lifeline to various student support services provided by CCRI (advising, financial aid, tutoring, etc.). This platform creates a network of communication between faculty, students, and student services staff to support student success. Important communication will come from Starfish. Visit Starfish.

Library

The CCRI Library provides a welcoming environment for individual and collaborative learning. Each campus has a library with access to print and online books, journals, and other resources. Our catalog and databases can be accessed on campus or off campus. Librarians are available to assist students individually with research questions. We also work with faculty to provide specialized library instruction classes and offer courses in information literacy and research skills.

Public Safety

The CCRI Campus Police Department are committed to providing essential public safety and policing services to all members of our community in support of the College's educational mission. We deliver services to all community members, including visitors, with professionalism and integrity.

Important Links:

- Emergencies. - Call 401-825-2000
- Report a Crime
- College Alerts (RAVE)
- Request an Escort - Call 401-825-2109
- Clery Information

Civil Rights (Know Your Rights)

Pregnant and Parenting Students

CCRI is proud to welcome and support pregnant and parenting students on their path to success. If you need an accommodation, excused absence, or other resource or campus support to successfully complete your time at CCRI while pregnant or parenting, please contact the Title IX Coordinator via email at titleixcoordinator@ccri.edu or by phone at (401) 825-1126.

Discrimination and Harassment

CCRI prohibits students and employees from engaging in discrimination and harassment based on any individual's race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, and any other legally protected characteristic.

If you believe you have been subjected to discrimination or harassment, you can report such behavior to the Title IX Coordinator via email at titleixcoordinator@ccri.edu, by phone at (401) 825-1126

[Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures](#)

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

CCRI prohibits all forms of unlawful sexual harassment and sexual misconduct, which includes (but is not limited to) dating/domestic violence and stalking. If you believe you have been subjected to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, you can report such behavior to the Title IX Coordinator via email at titleixcoordinator@ccri.edu, by phone (401) 823-1126

[Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures (S-17)](#)
[Nondiscrimination Policy and Complaint Procedures](#)

Fair Use of Copyrighted Works

I will be using some work that is copyrighted. These works are provided to students under the Educational Fair Use Provision of Title 17 of the US Code and are not to be shared with individuals who are not enrolled in this course or used for purposes outside of the course.

Calendar of Weekly Course Topics

Week	Topic	Activities to complete (description/title)	Pts	Due Date: (by Sun at midnight, unless noted)
1	Introduction to Medieval Era	• Read the syllabus • Read Chapter 1 in text • Watch video: "And Then the Sky Falls – The 3rd Century Crisis and Recovery" • Watch Lecture 1		
		Activity: Syllabus scavenger hunt		First Wednesday Week 1
		Discussion: See prompt in Blackboard	30	Initial post due on Wednesday, peer response - Saturday

Week	Topic	Activities to complete (description/title)	Pts	Due Date: (by Sun at midnight, unless noted)
2	Western Roman Empire	• Read Chapter 2 in text • Read article: "The Pax Romana" • Watch Lecture 2		
		Discussion: See prompt in Blackboard	30	Initial post due on Wednesday, peer response - Saturday
		• Assignment 1: Draft paper "The Fall of Rome and the Rise of Barbarian Kingdoms"	120	
3	Feudalism and Society	• Read Chapter 3 in text • Watch Lecture 3		
		• Reflection 1: social structure of the medieval world and application to current context	50	
		Discussion: See prompt in Blackboard	30	Initial post due on Wednesday, peer response - Saturday
4	The Holy Roman Empire	Read Chapters 5 and 6 in text		
		Discussion: See prompt in Blackboard	30	Initial post due on Wednesday, peer response - Saturday
		Exam 1	150	
5	Vikings and the Spread of Scandinavian Culture	• Read Chapters 10 in text • Watch Lecture 5 video		
		Discussion: See prompt in Blackboard	30	Initial post due on Wednesday, peer response - Saturday
		Reflection 2: social structure and application to current context	50	
6	The Crusades and Religious Conflict	• No Chapter reading • Watch Lecture 6 • Read article: "Examining the clash between Christianity and Islam, and the impact on trade and cultural exchange"		

Week	Topic	Activities to complete (description/title)	Pts	Due Date: (by Sun at midnight, unless noted)
		Discussion: See prompt in Blackboard	30	Initial post due on Wednesday, peer response - Saturday
		Assignment 2: Final paper	120	
7	The Rise of Universities and Scholasticism	Read Chapter 13 in text		
		Discussion: See prompt in Blackboard	30	Initial post due on Wednesday, peer response - Saturday
		Final Exam	200	

Program Instructor Statement

This syllabus is subject to change at any time. You are responsible for keeping current with changes made to this syllabus (I will notify you of the changes through Blackboard announcement).