

# *A Seminar in the History of the Crusades*

## Course Overview

As President Bush learned abruptly in 2001, the very term “Crusade” has a great deal of significance. The phenomenon that was the Crusade movement still has a very present-tense impact. This course will look at multiple aspects of the armed pilgrimages of the Middle Ages: both the military campaigns themselves as well as the broader social and religious developments which followed the First Crusade's success. Along the way, we shall also examine the impact of the Crusader kingdoms on the very fabric of the Middle East, especially the Islamic experience of the invasions. In some sense, we will both start and end by looking at the historiography of the Crusades, appreciating thereby the contending definitions of the phenomenon, the proprietary way some historians treat the Crusades, and ultimately, why these long-ago wars still strike such a chord with many people.

This course will operate as a seminar. That means the emphasis will be on the participation of all (students and the benighted professor), less on formal lectures. Ideas and analysis, argument and discussion--these will hold the primary place. So, come to class with the reading not merely completed, but considered. After all, a lack of preparation is a terrible thing to witness.

## Course Goals

What are we interested in here? In many ways, this will be determined by the direction this seminar takes. In broad terms, though, students in this course will:

- Learn the basic narrative of the Crusading era
- Learn to work with medieval primary sources
- Build independent analyses of historical problems and situate them within the historiographical traditions
- Develop skills in the oral presentation and defense of their own scholarship

## Grading & Assignments

**Participation:** (20%) As a seminar, this course will need your active participation. Be ready to discuss the issues before us, and to do so with relevant comments drawn from your readings. Your contributions are valuable and needed. My assessment of your preparedness will come from your participation, and from the effort you give your assignments.

**Book Reviews:** (20%) Each of you will do one book review. You may choose these from a list on the Discussion Board section of the course's Blackboard site. These will typically be over specific chapters from monographs or articles from scholarly journals. You will need to submit your review to me two class periods (i.e., one week) before it will be presented to the class. I expect a three-page, double-spaced review, which ought—generally—to [follow the guidelines](#) that I outline elsewhere. I will mark up your review within 24 hours and return it, giving you time to make corrections and resubmit it to me, at which point I will e-mail it to the class. On the appropriate day, you will lead discussion for a portion of the class as you make a presentation of your review.

**Exams:** Unfortunately, they must occur. We shall have two, and both will be take-home essays. They will account together for 35% of the course grade.

**Research Paper:** (25%) Finally, the fun part of the course! You get to explore any topic of your choice (provided I have approved it, of course). This paper will be a minimum of nine pages, double-spaced, show original scholarship in both primary and secondary material, and follow the Turabian/Chicago style of citation. In many ways, this is more of an essay than a research paper; the point is for you to make an argument about a topic drawn from the milieu of the Crusades, not merely recap some historical moment or event. There are a number of deadlines built into the syllabus that you will want to adhere to. Missing them will affect both this grade and your course participation grade.

## Required Reading

We've much, much, much to read. We have seven assigned texts, plus readings available through your professor or the library's electronic reserve. Be sure to acquire the following monographs:

- Jaspert, *The Crusades*
- Housley, *Contesting the Crusades*
- Peters, *The First Crusade: The Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres*
- Edbury, *The Conquest of Jerusalem*
- Shirley, *The Song of the Cathar Wars*
- Barber, *The New Knighthood*
- Robert of Clari, *The Conquest of Constantinople*

## Schedule of Topics & Assignments

Remember to plan ahead for some readings; they will occasionally be rather heavy. Also, for the Review Articles, they are due to the professor one week before presentation to the class.

Date	Topic	General Readings	Review Assignments
14 Jan	Introduction to Course	Go over syllabus and assignments	
16 Jan	The State of Crusade Studies	Housley, 1-23	
21 Jan	No Class: MLK Day		
23 Jan	Backgrounds to the Crusades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housley, 24-47</li> <li>• Jaspert, 1-34</li> </ul>	Riley-Smith: "Crusading as an Act of Love"
28 Jan	Launching the First Crusade	Peters, 25-37, 47-67,	Tyerman: "Who Went on Crusade?"
30 Jan	Prosecuting the First Crusade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peters, 68-101</li> <li>• Raymond d'Aguilers, on Antioch &amp; Jerusalem</li> <li>• Paper Topic Proposal Due</li> </ul>	Bachrach: "The Siege of Antioch" Morris: "Policy and Visions: the Case of the Holy Lance at Antioch"
4 Feb	The Crusaders Themselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housley, 75-98</li> <li>• Peters, 283-297</li> </ul>	Malkiel: "The Underclass in the First Crusade"

6 Feb	Legacies: Outremer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jaspert, 82-113</li> <li>Riley-Smith: <a href="#">“Peace Never Established: The Case of the Kingdom of Jerusalem”</a></li> </ul>	
11 Feb	Legacies: Europe	Smail, <a href="#">“Latin Syria and the West”</a> Foulet: <a href="#">“The Epic Cycle of the Crusades”</a>	
13 Feb	The Military Orders I	Barber, 1-37	
18 Feb	Reaction in the Islamic World: Zengids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jaspert, 71-81</li> <li>Hillenbrand: “The First Crusade: the Muslim Perspective”</li> </ul>	
20 Feb	The Second Crusade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barber, 38-63</li> <li>First Bibliography Due</li> </ul>	Bolton: “The Cistercians & the Aftermath of the Second Crusades”
25 Feb	The Military Orders II	Barber, 64-114	
27 Feb	Conflict & Cooperation, Commodities & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schwinges: “Wm of Tyre, the Muslim enemy, and the problem of tolerance”</li> <li>Ellenblum: <a href="#">“Colonization Activities in the Frankish East: The Example of Castellum Regis”</a></li> </ul>	Abulafia: “Trade & Crusade”
3 Mar	Rise of Saladin	Edbury: Wm of Tyre, 11-48	
5 Mar	The Fall of Jerusalem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edbury: Wm of Tyre, 48-76; 158-174</li> <li>Mid-term Exams Due!</li> </ul>	
10 Mar	Spring Break	Research??	
12 Mar	Spring Break	More Research??	
17 Mar	The Third Crusade	Edbury: Wm of Tyre, 76-99	
19 Mar	The Third Crusade	Edbury: Wm of Tyre, 114-126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Markowski: “Richard the Lionheart: bad king, bad crusader?”</li> <li>Nicholson: “Women on the Third Crusade”</li> </ul>
24 Mar	The Fourth Crusade	Robert of Clari: <i>The Conquest of Constantinople</i>	Pryor: “The Venetian Fleet...and the diversion of the crusade”
26 Mar	Campaigns not to the Holy Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housley: 99-121</li> <li>Fletcher: <a href="#">“Reconquest and Crusade in Spain”</a></li> </ul>	
31	The Albigensian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Song of the Cathar Wars</i>, 1-6, 11-65</li> </ul>	Barber: “The Albigensian

Mar	Crusade I	• Annotated Bibliography Due	Crusades: Wars Like any Other?"
2 Apr	The Albigensian Crusade II	<i>Song of the Cathar Wars</i> , 119-194	
7 Apr	Military Monasticism	Barber, 179-228	
9 Apr	Europe's Experiences	Barber, 229-279	
14 Apr	The Later Crusades	• Jaspert, 47-61 • Housley, 68-74	Lloyd: "The Lord Edward's Crusade, 1270-72"
16 Apr	The Fall of Acre	• Luttrell: <a href="#">"The Hospitallers at Rhodes"</a> • Runciman, "The Fall of Acre"	
21 Apr	Post-1291 Crusading	• Housley, 122-143 • Barber, 280-315 • <b>Research Paper Due!!</b>	Meserve: "Italian Humanists and the Problem of Crusading"
23 Apr	Further Legacies	• Housley, 144-166 • Jaspert, 166-171	• Riley-Smith: "Islam and Crusades in History and Imagination" • Siberry: "Images of the Crusades in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries"
		<b>Final Exams Due!</b>	

## Web Resources

No list of websites can ever be exhaustive, but here at least are some worth a visit:

- [Crusades Section](#) of De Re Militari
- Setton's [History of the Crusades](#)
- Skip Knox's [Crusade Pages](#)
- Marc Carrier's [Les Croisades](#) (lots of images)
- [The Crusades Encyclopedia](#)