

**INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY II:  
THE MIDDLE AGES, RENAISSANCE, AND REFORMATION**

Mondays and Wednesdays

Section 1: 8:05-9:45

Section 4: 9:55-11:35

Course Description

This course will survey politics, society, and culture in the Mediterranean and European worlds from the fall of the western Roman empire to the Protestant Reformation, focussing especially on the problematic relations of spirituality, philosophy, and political power. The course will proceed somewhat chronologically, beginning with an examination of "barbarian" and Christian challenges to Roman power in the western Mediterranean. Next, we will investigate how some of the successors to Rome attempted to build orders based upon religious faith. Then, the course will focus on moral problems of the increasing powerful states of late medieval Europe. Finally, we will examine how Renaissance and Reformation thinkers appealed to ancient sources in order to criticize and reconstruct their societies.

Course meetings will consist largely of lectures, supplemented by unscheduled informal and scheduled formal discussion. Students enrolled in this course should plan to read carefully; to attend class consistently and punctually; and to participate in the discussions regularly. Students will be expected to read the assignments before class and to be prepared to discuss those readings in a civil manner. The primary source readings should be brought to class for use in lecture and discussion. At least once during the semester, students will be required to assist in leading a scheduled formal class discussion. Attendance will be noted, and participation graded. More than three absences, without a valid medical or other excuse, will result in a grade penalty. Please also note: this entire syllabus is subject to revision at the instructor's discretion.

Written Requirements

Course requirements include the following, in addition to the above. Students should plan to write two six-page papers, a midterm, and a final examination. There may also be a number of short, in-class writing assignments. Papers are to be typewritten, double-spaced, and annotated in accordance with accepted norms of scholarship. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Find out what plagiarism is and avoid it. Late papers will be downgraded one step per day tardy. No papers will be accepted, without prior approval, if submitted more than one week late. For more information on the assignments and on grading policy, see p. 4, below.

Required Readings

The following books contain the required readings and are or soon will be available for purchase at the NYU Book Center, located at 18 Washington Place. Please be sure to buy the edition listed below.

- C. Warren Hollister, *Medieval Europe: A Short History*, 7th ed. (McGraw-Hill, 1994)
- Tacitus, *The Agricola and the Germania* (Penguin Classics, 1970)
- Augustine, *Confessions* (Penguin Classics, 1961)
- Ralph Lerner and Muhsin Mahdi, eds., *Medieval Political Philosophy: A Sourcebook* (Cornell, 1972)
- Geoffroy de Villehardouin & Jean de Joinville, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (Penguin Classics, 1963)
- Christine de Pisan, *The Treasure of the City of Ladies* (Penguin Classics, 1985)
- Bartolomé de Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (Penguin Classics, 1992)
- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Hackett, 1995)
- Thomas More, *Utopia* (Penguin Classics, 1965)
- Hans J. Hillerbrand, *The Protestant Reformation* (Harper & Row, 1968)

In addition, two supplemental, suggested readings are available for purchase at the NYU Book Center: Ronald Rainey, "Florentine Society in the Renaissance" (NYU/GSP, 1987); and Ronald Rainey, "An Introduction to the Protestant Reformation" (NYU/GSP, 1988).

## SCHEDULE OF COURSE MEETINGS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Mon., 22 Jan. Introduction: On "Civilization" and the "Middle Ages"  
No reading.
- 1. TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS**
- Wed., 24 Jan. Romans, Christians, and Barbarians  
Tacitus, *Germania*, in *The Agricola and the Germania*, pp. 101-41.  
C. Warren Hollister, *Medieval Europe: A Short History*, intro. and ch. 1, pp. 1-12; ch. 2, pp. 25-37.
- Mon., 29 Jan. The Worldly Life of the Ancients  
Augustine, *Confessions*, Books I-III, pp. 21-70.  
Hollister, ch. 1 (selection), pp. 12-24.  
\*\*FIRST PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED\*\*
- Wed., 31 Jan. On Torments, the Soul, and Early Christianity  
Augustine, Books IV-VI, pp. 71-132.
- Mon., 5 Feb. Saving Civilization (1): The Roots of Christendom/Discussion  
Augustine, Books VII, IX-X, pp. 133-156, 181-252.  
Hollister, ch. 4, pp. 52-70.
- 2. AGE OF SPIRITS AND FORCES**
- Wed., 7 Feb. Saving Civilization (2): The Islamic Empire  
Alfarabi, "The Political Regime," in Ralph Lerner and Muhsin Mahdi, *Medieval Political Philosophy: A Sourcebook*, pp. 22, 31-57.  
Hollister, ch. 5, pp. 71-82.
- Mon., 12 Feb. On Faith and Power  
Avicenna, "Healing: Metaphysics X" and "On the Proof of the Prophecies and the Interpretation of the Prophets' Symbols and Metaphors," in Lerner and Mahdi, pp. 95-6, 98-121.  
\*\*FIRST PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS\*\*
- Wed., 14 Feb. On Law and Disorder: Jewish Philosophy and the European "Dark Ages"/Discussion  
Albo, "Book of Roots," in Lerner and Mahdi, pp. 237-53.  
Hollister, chs. 6-7, pp. 83-112.
- Mon., 19 Feb. PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY--NO CLASS!
- Wed., 21 Feb. The Medieval World and the Emergence of European Orders  
Hollister, chs. 8-9, pp. 113-79.  
Geoffroy de Villehardouin, *The Conquest of Constantinople*, in Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades*, chs. 1-8, pp. 29-65.
- Mon., 26 Feb. Byzantium and the Crusades  
Hollister, chs. 3 and 10, pp. 38-51, 180-96.  
Villehardouin, chs. 9-15, pp. 66-118.
- Wed., 28 Feb. PERFORMANCE OF "LAYLA & MAJNUN" (replaces regular class meeting)  
\*\*Meet in Eisner-Lubin Auditorium, Loeb Student Center, 2nd floor, at 10 am\*\*  
Suggested Reading: Hollister, ch. 14 (selection), pp. 267-85.

Mon., 4 March Ambiguities of Medieval Christendom/Discussion

Villehardouin, chs. 16-21, pp. 119-60.

Hollister, chs. 11-12, pp. 197-237.

Wed., 6 March Midterm Examination in Class

No reading.

\*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\*

### 3. ON THE MORALITY OF POWER IN LATE MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Mon., 18 March The State and High Culture

Hollister, ch. 13, pp. 238-66; ch. 14 (selection), pp. 286-307.

Wed., 20 March The Good of the State

Thomas Aquinas, "Commentary on the *Politics*," in Lerner & Mahdi, pp. 272-74, 297-334.

Mon., 25 March On Church and State

Giles of Rome, "On Ecclesiastical Power" and John of Paris, "On Kingly and Papal Power," in Lerner and Mahdi, pp. 391-417.

Hollister, intro. and ch. 15, pp. 316-42.

Wed., 27 March Dualism/Discussion

Dante Alighieri, "On Monarchy," in Lerner and Mahdi, pp. 418-38.

Mon., 1 April The Good Princess

Christine de Pisan, *Treasure of the City of Ladies*, part 1, pp. 35-105.

Hollister, ch. 16, pp. 343-65.

\*\*SECOND PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED\*\*

Wed., 3 April The Powers of Women

Pisan, parts 2 and 3, pp. 109-80.

Mon., 8 April The Christian and the New World

Bartolomé de Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, pp. 3-64.

Wed., 10 April The New Barbarians? Or the New Humanist Consciousness?/Discussion

Las Casas, *Destruction of the Indies*, pp. 65-130.

### 4. THE OLD AND THE NEW

Mon., 15 April The Tudor State and Renaissance Humanism

Thomas More, *Utopia*, translator's intro., introductory letters, and Book 1, pp. 7-68.

\*\*SECOND PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS\*\*

Wed., 17 April On the Ethical Community/Discussion

More, *Utopia*, book 2, pp. 69-132.

- Mon., 22 April      The Power of Glory  
 Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, introductory letter and chs. 1-11, pp. 1-38.  
 Suggested Reading: Ronald Rainey, "Florentine Society in the Renaissance," pp. 1-47.
- Wed., 24 April      Political Man and the Ethics of Power/Discussion  
 Machiavelli, chs. 12-26, pp. 38-80.
- Mon., 29 April      Individuals and Faith  
 Martin Luther, selections in Hans J. Hillerbrand, *The Protestant Reformation*, pp. 1-28, 43-63, 67-87.  
 Suggested Reading: Ronald Rainey, "Introduction to the Protestant Reformation," pp. 1-56.
- Wed., 1 May      Protestant Order/Discussion  
 John Calvin, selections in Hillerbrand, pp. 153-221.
- Mon., 6 May      Review and Conclusion  
 No reading.
- \*\*FINAL EXAMINATION TO FOLLOW\*\***  
 Section 1 (MW 8:05 class)--Mon., 13 May, 8-9:50 am  
 Section 4 (MW 9:55 class)--Tues., 14 May, 10-11:50 am

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Written Requirements

Course requirements will include two examinations and two formal, typewritten essays on assigned topics.

First paper due:	Mon., 12 Feb. (6 pages/1500 words)
Midterm examination:	Wed., 6 Mar.
Second paper due:	Mon., 15 Apr. (6 pages/1500 words)
Final examination:	See the bottom of the previous page.

Both the midterm and final will consist of a mixture of short, relatively factual questions designed to test students' reading comprehension and historical understanding, along with at least two or three longer essay questions designed to test students' reasoning and writing skills under pressure. Short, in-class writing exercises may also be administered from time to time, without warning, to insure that students keep up with the readings.

### Participation

Students will be expected to participate in class discussions with some regularity. In addition, all students will be required to assist in leading at least one of the scheduled formal discussions. Details on those formal discussions will be given later. Grades for participation will be based upon my evaluation of students' questions and comments. What I will look for is whether students have a basic understanding of the readings, whether they are able to follow and contribute to class discussion, how intelligent and informed their questions and comments are, and how much effort they are putting into the class. Attendance and any in-class assignments will also be a significant portion of participation grade.

### Grading Policy

Grades will be assigned on an 100-point scale, and weighted in the following manner:

1st paper-----	15%
midterm-----	20%
2nd paper-----	25%
final-----	30%
participation---	10%

### Office Hours

There will be no regularly scheduled office hours for this course. However, I will be holding office hours for my advisees on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:10 - 1:10 pm at the Dean & Deluca Cafe, 11th St. & University Place. Students in this course would be welcome then, as long as they are willing to wait until I finish with any advisees I am seeing. I can also be available for appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays between 1:10 and 3. Generally, I will not be in Manhattan other days of the week.