

# **Crusades: Interdisciplinary Approaches**

**History 215 ‡ English 103 ‡ Religious Studies 140 ‡ Medieval Studies 165**  
**Professors Philippe Buc ‡ Hester Gelber ‡ Jennifer Summit**

**Course website:** <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/medieval/courses/crusades/>

This course explores the causes, meanings, meaningfulness and commemoration of these mass Christian expeditions against Muslims, pagans, Jews, heretics, and other infidels through primary sources, supported by secondary readings and supplemental sources such as poetry, music, art, and film. Its objective is to understand the complex phenomenon of the Crusades, both as a series of events in medieval history that shaped medieval culture, and as one that, by defining a violent paradigm of Islamic-Christian relations, continues to shape and divide our world today.

The course assumes no prior knowledge of, or experience with, academic medieval studies. It is open to all students and can be taken for either 3 or 5 units.

Lectures will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9-9:50 (room 200-303)  
Sections are led by the faculty members: times TBA starting in week 2

## **Requirements**

### ***For 3 units:***

Attendance at lectures only (not at sections) (10%)

Midterm: Thurs. May 15, 9-9:50 (30%)

Final: Wed. June 11, 8:30-11 (60%)

### ***For 5 units:***

Attendance at lectures and sections (10%)

Midterm: Thurs. May 15, 9-9:50 (30%)

Final project (60%)

Includes preliminary thesis conference (in week 3), annotated bibliography (due in class, Mon. May 6), oral presentation at class conference (on Thurs. May 29), and paper (of ca. 12 pages, due Wed. June 11, 11:30)

## **Books and materials**

Reader (available in week 4 from Field Copy)

***In Stanford Bookstore (all books will be on reserve in Green library):***

Rosenwein, Short History of the Middle Ages, vol. 2

Song of Roland (ed. Burgess)

First Crusade: Chronicle of Fulcher of Chartres, etc. (ed. Peters)

Miracles of St. James (ed. Coffey)

Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, vol. 1: The Saint (ed. Armstrong et al)

Chronicles of the Crusades (Villehardouin and Joinville)

Additional materials will be made available as handouts or on the course website

## **Schedule**

### ***Week One: Crusade: The Power of an Idea, Past and Present***

April 1: introduction to the class

April 2: What were the Crusades: introduction and overview

Readings:

Osama bin Laden, Fatwa (1996):

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/terrorism/international/fatwa\\_1996.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/terrorism/international/fatwa_1996.html)

G. Constable, "The historiography of the Crusades," in: A. E. Laiou & R. P. Mottahedeh, eds., *The Crusades from the perspective of Byzantium and the Muslim World*,

Washington, D.C. : Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2001, 1-22

<http://www.doaks.org/Crusades/CR01.pdf>

Edward Peters, "The Firanj Are Coming? Again", *Orbis*, Winter 2004

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B6W5V-4B233H8-H&\\_user=145269&\\_rdoc=1&\\_fmt=&\\_orig=search&\\_sort=d&\\_view=c&\\_acct=C000012078&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=145269&md5=4e7e30d9493d0b1aa8b3726db1b8a5c](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6W5V-4B233H8-H&_user=145269&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&_view=c&_acct=C000012078&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=145269&md5=4e7e30d9493d0b1aa8b3726db1b8a5c)

"Pax in Nomine Domini" (music and lyrics on website)

Rosenwein, *A short history of the Middle Ages*, vol. 2:

General background:

read 143-152 (9th.-c. invasions, political bonds), skim fast 152-162

### ***Week Two: One Source, Three Disciplinary Approaches: What is Scholarly Method?***

April 7, 8, 9:

Chanson de Roland from three perspectives (History, Religious Studies, Literature)

Reading: Chanson de Roland

Rosenwein, 188-190 (12th-c. France), 217-218 (late 12th-c. France)

\*\*section meetings begin this week

***Week Three: Spain as Crucible, Jerusalem as Catalyst: Saints, Pilgrims, and Martyrs***

April 14, 15, 16: St James and the Siege of Jerusalem as foundations for Crusades

Readings:

Liber Sancti Jacobi in Miracles of St. James, 57-96

The Siege of Jerusalem (in Modern English translation) on website

Introduction, Siege: <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/livint.htm>

Rosenwein, 186-187 (Spain), 192-196 (old-style monasticism)

\*this week: students taking course for 5 units are required to consult with faculty individually on final project topics

***Week Four: One Event, Multiple Perspectives: the First Crusade through Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Eyes***

April 21, 22, 23.

Readings:

al-Sulami, Kitab al-Jihad (Book of Holy War), 1105 (in reader)

From First Crusade, ed. Peters:

1. Urban II, Speech at Council of Clermont, 1095 (25-37)
2. Fulcher of Chartres (47-101)
3. Ibn al-Athir (228-237)
4. accounts from Muslim and Jewish witnesses (263-277)
5. "Chanson d'Antioche" (302-305)

Rosenwein, read 167-171 (Seljuk Turks and Byzantium), skim 171-176, read 177-184 (church reform and first crusade)

***Week Five: Crusades as Catalyst for Western Chivalry and International Relations:  
Richard the Lion-Hearted and Saladin***

April 28, 29, 30.

Readings:

Richard Coeur de Lion (in modern English translation; in reader)

Richard I, letters (in modern English translation; in reader)

continuation of William of Tyre, Historia rerum in partibus transmarinis gestarum  
(in reader)

Rosenwein, read 207-209 (Muslim reaction); 212-118 (late 12th-c. France and England);  
224-228 (courts and troubadours)

***Week Six: Crusade or Mission? Saint Francis and the Sultan***

May 5, 6, 7.

Readings:

From Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, vol. 1: The Saint:

1. Thomas of Celano, The Life of Saint Francis (180-297)
2. Henry of Avranches, Versified Life of St. Francis (428-520)

Bonaventura *Legenda maior sancti Francisci* (on website)

Giotto, frescoes at *The Basilica of St. Francis at Assisi* (on website)

Rosenwein, read 196 (end) - 205 (new-style monasticism: Cistercians), 239-242 (Lateran IV, new mendicant orders and lay movements), 242-245 (crusades circa 1200)

\*students taking class for 5 units: annotated bibliography due in class, Monday May 5  
(with between 7 and 10 sources, a mix of books and articles)

***Week Seven: Crusade as a Mode of Kingship: Saint Louis of France and and Edward I of England***

May 12, 13, 14.

Readings:

Jean de Joinville, Life of Saint Louis in Chronicles of the Crusades (163-353)

Al-Makrisi, Essulouk li Mariset il Muluk ("The Road to Knowledge of the Return of the

Kings"): Account of the Crusade of St. Louis  
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/makrisi.html>)

Guy, A Knight: Letter from the Sixth Crusade, 1249  
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1249sixthcde-let.html>)

images: painted chamber, Westminster, London (on website)

Rosenwein, read 251-255 (Mongols), 259-265 (coercion of deviants and 13th-c. monarchies), 267-269 (religiosity)

\*Midterm: Thursday May 15, 9:00-9:50

***Week Eight: Chivalric Crisis and Continuity: The Suppression of the Templars and the Rise of King Arthur as Crusader Knight***  
May 19, 20, 21.

Readings:

Bernard of Clairvaux, "In Praise of the New Knighthood"  
(<http://www.the-orb.net/encyclop/religion/monastic/bernard.html>)

William of Tyre, "The Foundation of the Order of Knights Templar"  
(<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/tyre-templars.html>)

Templar Materials (in reader)

Alliterative Morte Arthure (in modern translation; in reader)

Introduction, Alliterative Morte: <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/teams/alstint.htm>

Rosenwein, read 265-266 (papacy in crisis), 287-307 (late medieval crisis)

***Week Nine: Conference***

May 28:

Lecture: William Chester Jordan (Princeton), "Departing for War in the Age of Crusades"  
7-9:00 pm, Cubberley Auditorium

May 29: Class conference: Time and Place TBA

\*Students taking the course for 5 units will give ten-minute presentations on their final projects, with comment and discussion from distinguished visitor William Chester Jordan and the class

***Week Ten: The Modern Legacy of the Crusades***

June 2, 3, 4:

Film: El Naser Salah el Dine (Saladin and the Great Crusades) (Youssef Chahine, 1963)

Film: Kingdom of Heaven (Ridley Scott, 2005)

Screenings Sunday, June 1, Monday, June 2: places and times TBA

\*June 11:

for students taking the course for three units: final, 8:30-11:30 am

for students taking the course for five units: final paper due, 11:30 am