

***History 644 – Readings in European History:
The Crusades***

Western Kentucky University
Fall 2017

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Course Description:

This course is a graduate-level introduction to the historiography of the crusades. It is not a factual introduction to ‘what happened.’ Instead, its primary subject concerns the reconstruction and interpretation of the crusades. Our focus will not be on crusading itself, although you will learn quite a bit of basic information. We have two primary goals in this course:

- (1). To understand how our understanding of “what happened” is based on professional historians’ interpretations of incomplete and at times problematic evidence.
- (2). To understand how people, both scholars and non-scholars, have assigned meaning to the crusades by placing them in broader contexts (European colonialism, Medieval social and religious change, relations between Christians and Muslims, the changing role of religion in European life).

Learning Objectives & Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

- Explain the origins of the first crusade of 1096-1101 in the culture and institutions of eleventh-century Europe
- Describe and explain the adaptation of crusading ideas, rhetoric and institutions to different circumstances from 1100 to 1350.
- Describe the ongoing changes of crusade ideas and institutions from 1350 to the present.
- Explain how and why contemporary scholars are thinking about crusades in broader geographic and chronological contexts.
- Identify the major trends or developments in scholarship on the crusades from the mid-twentieth century to the present.
- Clearly and concisely summarize a scholarly article or monograph.
- Understand how scholars build interpretations from primary source evidence and how their theoretical commitments or assumptions inform their research and arguments
- See how scholars adapt specialized monographs and articles into textbook chapters for a broader audience.

Major assignments & grading

Assignments

Your grade for this course will be assigned based on your final paper (30% of the final grade) and weekly writing assignments (fourteen in total, for 70% of the final grade). Writing assignments will vary between analytical summaries of articles or books and argumentative essays in response to a prompt.

List of required texts

All of the texts below are required for the course. You do not need to purchase them if you can find them through WKU’s library or your own local library. Electronic editions are fine, although you may find it easier to annotate and work with a print copy. All other readings for the course will be made available in PDF format through blackboard.

1. Jonathan Riley-Smith. *The First Crusaders, 1095-1131*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1998). ISBN: 978-0521646031
2. Jay Rubenstein. *Armies of Heaven: The First Crusade and the Quest for Apocalypse*. New York: Basic Books (2011). ISBN: 978-0465019298
3. Christopher Tyerman, *The Debate on the Crusades, 1099-2010*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (2011). ISBN: 978-0719073212
4. Robert Bartlett, *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change 950-1350*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (1994). ISBN: 978-0691037806
5. Brian Catlos, *Infidel Kings and Unholy Warriors: Faith, Power, and Violence in the Age of Crusade and Jihad*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (2015) ISBN: 978-0374535322
6. Philippe Buc, *Holy War, Martyrdom, and Terror: Christianity, Violence, and the West*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press (2015). ISBN: 978-0812246858

Optional background reading / texts

This course is an introduction to how historians have reconstructed the history of the crusades and how other people have interpreted or assigned meaning to the crusades and crusading. If you are interested in doing additional background reading to put things in better context, or are just looking for a source of further information, I suggest you start by looking at one of the texts below:

1. Thomas F. Madden, *The Concise History of the Crusades*. Third Edition. Rowman & Littlefield (2014).

This is the background / textbook I assign for my undergraduate course on the crusades. Madden is a bit too rah-rah on the Crusades for my taste and he tends to portray the crusades in a more heroic light than is really appropriate. However, this book has the virtue of being short.

2. Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades: A History*. 3rd ed. Bloomsbury Academic (2014).

Riley-Smith is the single most important figure in crusades scholarship from the late twentieth / early twenty-first century. He has produced a solid and very well-informed history of the crusades that is also up-to-date on major trends in scholarship. Its primary focus is traditional – crusade and campaigning to and in the Holy Land from 1096 to 1291 (the fall of the last crusader state). However, it does include information about other contexts and has two last chapters covering crusading from 1291 to the present.

3. Christopher Tyerman, *God's War: A New History of the Crusades*. Belknap Press (2008).

This is a truly monumental and detailed work. Including the notes, index, and other ancillary materials it is over 1,000 pages long. It offers thorough coverage of the crusading movement down to 1500 and does more than the other two texts to include perspectives and materials about other frontiers of crusade (or crusade-like) activity including Iberia and the Baltic.

Citations

In all written work in this course, you must cite your sources using properly-formatted footnotes. I will NOT accept written work that does not use footnotes. Any assignment submitted without citations will be returned to you when I get around to it, and will be counted as late until submitted with proper footnotes.

EVERY TIME you refer directly to a source, whether primary or secondary, you MUST cite it. This is true for direct quotations. This is ALSO true for paraphrasing (rewrite language from a source in your own words). This means providing the proper bibliographic information (author, title, etc.). It also means providing a page number where the material you are quoting or paraphrasing can be found. THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL! Chicago Style is preferred. No parenthetical citations.

Citations are taken seriously by historians (like your instructor) because they do two things.

(1). Citations make clear to me as a reader which parts of your essay is your own original contribution, and where you are drawing on the work and thought of someone else. Keeping these two separate isn't just useful for me in grading your thought-process. It is important for your own intellectual development that you become aware of the sources of your ideas and reasoning.

(2). Citations give your reader a way to check your evidence – in order to check your comprehension, I must be able to quickly check the original. Without looking at the source, I cannot verify that you've properly understood it, and that you haven't taken your evidence out of context or misread it.

If in this class, or any other, you are ever unsure of how to cite a source, you can always consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Now in its eighth edition, Turabian's Manual (often referred to only as "Turabian") is the go-to instructional guide for how to cite material of all kinds.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (August 21) - Origins and Motivations of the First Crusade

Required

Riley-Smith. "Crusading as an act of love." p.32-50.

Cowdrey, "Pope Urban II's Preaching of the First Crusade" p.15-29.

Marcus Bull, "The Roots of Lay Enthusiasm for the First Crusade." p.353-372.

John France, "Patronage and the Appeal of the First Crusade." p.195-207.

Phillips, "Caffaro of Genoa and the Motives of Early Crusaders." p.75-104.

Optional [on blackboard]

Thomas Madden. *The Concise History of the Crusades: Third Edition*. (2014).

Preface (vii-x)

1 The Call (1-14)

2 The First Crusade (15-34)

August 25 : Writing Assignment #1 – Analytical summary & essay

Week 2 August 28 - A classic on the crusades.

Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The First Crusaders, 1095-1131*. (1998).

September 1 : Writing Assignment #2 – Analytical summary of a monograph

Week 3 (September 4) – Primary sources and source criticism

Harari, "Eyewitnessing in Accounts of the First Crusade."

Kedar, "The Jerusalem Massacre of July 1099 in the Western Historiography."

Rubenstein, "The Deeds of Bohemond."

Symes, "Popular Literacies and the First Historians of the First Crusade."

Throop, "Combat and conversation."

September 8 : Writing Assignment #3 – How Historians Read & Interpret Primary Sources

Week 4 (September 11) - Apocalypticism and the first crusade

Rubenstein, *Armies of Heaven: The First Crusade and the Quest for Apocalypse*. (2011).

September 15 : Writing Assignment #4 – Analytical summary of a monograph, confronting monographs together

Week 5 (September 18) - Crusades, Jews and Anti-Semitism.

Daniel P. Franke. "The Crusades and Medieval Anti-Judaism: Cause or Consequence?" in *Seven Myths*

Tyerman, *Chronicles of the First Crusade*, "The First Victims," p.30-54.

Robert Chazan, "'Let Not a Remnant or a Residue Escape': Millenarian Enthusiasm in the First Crusade." *Speculum* 84:2 (2009) 289-313.

Benjamin Kedar, "Crusade Historians and the Massacres of 1096"

Daniel J. Lasker. "The Impact of the Crusades on the Jewish-Christian Debate"

Malkiel, "Destruction or Conversion."

Malkiel, "The Underclass in the First Crusade"

Marcus, "Representation or Reality in the Narratives of 1096"

Stow, "Conversion, Apostasy and Apprehensiveness: Emicho of Floheim..."

September 22 : Writing Assignment #5 – Debates over anti-Jewish activity on the First Crusade

Week 6 September 25 – What was ‘crusade’?

Christopher Tyerman. “Where there any crusades in the twelfth century?”

Paul Chevedden. “Crusade Creationism vs. Pope Urban II’s conceptualization of the Crusades.”

Jonathan Riley Smith. *What were the Crusades?* [Selections]

Giles Constable [on the four ‘schools’ of crusading thought]

Obanion, “What has crusade to do with Iberia?”

R.A. Fletcher, “Reconquest and Crusade in Spain, c.1050-1150.” *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, 37(1987), pp. 31-47

Simon Barton, “El Cid, Cluny and the Medieval Spanish Reconquista.” *English Historical Review* Vol. CXXVI n.520 (2011), p.517-543.

Tamm, “How to Justify a Crusade: The Conquest of Livonia and New Crusade Rhetoric.”

Pluskowski et al. “The Ecology of Crusading.”

September 29 : Writing Assignment #6 – How is ‘crusade’ defined? Why does it matter?

Week 7 October 2

[Bjorn Weiler & something else on ‘institutionalization’ in the thirteenth century]

October 6 : Writing Assignment #7

Week 8 October 9

[Crusade & Muslim perspectives]

OR

[Crusade & women]

Christoph T. Maier, “The Roles of Women in the Crusade Movement.” *Journal of Medieval History* (2003).

Natasha R. Hodgson, *Women, Crusading and the Holy Land in Historical Narrative*. (2007). [selections]

Edgington et al. *Gendering the Crusades* [Selections]

October 13 : Writing Assignment #8

Week 9 October 16

Christopher Tyerman, *The Debate on the Crusades*. (2011).

October 20 : Writing Assignment #9

Week 10 October 23

The modern afterlife of crusading: Colonialism, Israel & Palestine

Adam Knobler. “Holy Wars, Empires, and the Portability of the Past: The Modern Uses of Medieval Crusades.”

Adam Knobler. “Crusading for the Messiah: Jews as instruments...”

Mona Hammad & Edward Peters. “Islam and the Crusades: A Nine Hundred-Year-Long Grievance?” in *Seven Myths of the Crusades*. Andrea & Holt eds. (2015) 127-149.

Sophia Menache “Israeli Historians of the Crusades and their Main Areas of Research.” *Storia della storiografia* 53 (2008) 3-24

Baruch Kimmerling “Academic History Caught in the Cross-Fire: The Case of Israeli-Jewish Historiography.” *History and Memory* 7 (1995) 41-65

David Ohana. “Are the Israelis the New Crusaders?” *Palestine-Israel journal of Politics, Economics and Culture* 13 (2006) (online).

Emanuel Sivan, *Interpretations of Islam: Past and Present* (1985).

“Modern Arab Historiography of the Crusades.” p.3-44.
“The Sanctity of Jerusalem in Islam.” p.75-106.

October 27 : Writing Assignment #10

Week 11 October 30

Crusades in Broader Perspective 1: Medieval Colonialism

Robert Bartlett, *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change 950-1350*. (1993).

November 3 : Writing Assignment #11 – Analytical summary of a monograph

Week 12 November 6

Military history and the crusades

John France. “Western Warfare in the Age of the Crusades.” [selections]

Chapter 1 “Proprietorial warfare.” 1-15.

Chapter 3 “War, society and technology.” 30-38

Chapter 15 “Crusading and warfare in the Middle East.” 204-229

Chapter 16 “Perspectives.” 230-234.

Yuval Noah Harari, “The Concept of “Decisive Battles” in World History.” *Journal of World History* 18:3 (2007), 251-266.

November 10 : Writing Assignment #12

Week 13 November 13

Crusades in Broader Perspective 2: Mediterranean Interactions

Brian Catlos, *Infidel Kings and Unholy Warriors: Faith, Power, and Violence in the Age of Crusade and Jihad*. (2015).

November 17 : Writing Assignment #13

~Week 14 November 20 (Thanksgiving Week)

(textbook chapter for final assignment due)

Week 14 November 27

Crusades in Broader Perspective 3: Religion and Violence

Philippe Buc, *Holy War, Martyrdom, and Terror: Christianity, Violence, and the West*. (2015)

November 24 : Writing Assignment 14

December 4-8 Final exam week

Final paper due Friday December 8 before 5pm.