



**SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY
AND ART HISTORY
ACADEMIC SESSION 2023-2024**

HI2021: POWER & PIETY: MEDIEVAL EUROPE 1100-1500
ME33PP: POWER & PIETY: MEDIEVAL EUROPE 1100-1500

HI2021: 30 credits: 11 weeks + Assessment Period
ME33PP: 15 credits: 6 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your [MyAberdeen](#) Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

Alastair Macdonald (a.j.macdonald@abdn.ac.uk)

COURSE TEAM

Joanne Anderson (joanne.anderson@abdn.ac.uk)

Jackson Armstrong (j.armstrong@abdn.ac.uk)

Marie-Luise Ehrenschwendtner (m.ehrenschwendtner@abdn.ac.uk)

Frederik Pedersen (f.pedersen@abdn.ac.uk)

OFFICE HOURS

By email appointment

DISCIPLINE ADMINISTRATION

Mrs Barbara McGillivray

50-52 College Bounds

Room CB001

history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key educational policies which are available at this link: [Key Education Policies for Students | StaffNet | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#).

These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful throughout your studies. They contain important information, including what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint, and explain why the University takes your feedback seriously.

These institutional policies should be read in conjunction with this course guide, in which School-specific policies are detailed. Further information can be found on the [University's Infohub webpage](#) or by visiting the Infohub.

Please note:

Attendance at small-group teaching sessions is compulsory. If you fail to fulfil any of the course requirements (including attendance, engagement, or submission of all course assessments by the stated deadline or agreed extension period) you will be contacted and may not be able to continue with the course.

A class certificate (indicating completion of the course) will not normally be retained if:

- attendance is less than 60% of all compulsory teaching sessions;
- summative work is not submitted by the stated deadline or agreed extension period.

Loss of a class certificate is indicated by the code 'C7'.

TIMETABLE

Students can view their university timetable at
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Between 1100 and 1500 western Europe underwent fundamental transformations: new technical, economic and political challenges, fresh developments in religious and intellectual life and catastrophes like wars, diseases and climate change fundamentally shaped European societies for centuries to come. This course offers a thematic survey of medieval western societies, focusing on religion, kingship and conflict resolution, economy and environment, cultural renaissances and intellectual novelties, the emergence of national states and identities and the discovery of new worlds. The lectures

introduce these important themes by using the medieval conception of society divided into three classes: those who pray (clergy); those who fight (aristocracy); and those who work (commoners). An important aspect of the course is the examination of primary sources with a view to gaining core historical skills and developing a deeper understanding of the medieval period. Tutorials are organised around the investigation of selected primary sources.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of religious, political, economic and social developments in medieval Europe. It will introduce essential knowledge and concepts relating to the period and will familiarise students with appropriate methodologies and techniques for dealing with historical sources, especially primary material.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- outline chronologically significant developments in medieval Europe;
- offer explanations for these developments;
- search for, and critically appraise, relevant literature;
- undertake critical analysis of primary sources in translation;
- develop interpretations based on primary source materials.

Personal and Transferable Skills: This course is intended to sharpen skills in:

- written and verbal communication (explanation and argument), through written work and in-class discussion;
- independent learning, through reading and preparation for tutorials;
- digital skills, including relevant applications and the use of appropriate online resources;
- documentary analysis, through the study of contemporary primary sources.

Attitudinal Skills: This course is intended to enhance critical appreciation and awareness of:

- the pervasive importance of christianity in medieval European society;
- intellectual and spiritual developments within medieval European society;
- the contours of political conflicts in medieval Europe;
- the significance of different social bonds in the middle ages;
- the social, political, cultural and economic effects of warfare and disease;
- the similarities and differences between the Scottish/northern experience and that of the wider European world;
- core developments in the medieval period, thereby providing a historical basis for medieval studies in different disciplines.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Introduction to the Course

Week 1

Lecture 1	Introduction: Imagining the Middle Ages	A. Macdonald
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Those Who Pray: Church and Religion

Lecture 2	Religious Belief: Communion, Saints, Pilgrimage	M.-L. Ehrenschwendtner
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Week 2

Lecture 3	Holy Men and Holy Women	M.-L. Ehrenschwendtner
Lecture 4	The People and Canon Law	F. Pedersen

Week 3

Lecture 5	Heretics	M.-L. Ehrenschwendtner
Lecture 6	Christians and Jews	A. Macdonald

Week 4

Lecture 7	The Crusades	A. Macdonald
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Those Who Fight: Kings, Aristocrats and Politics

Lecture 8	Nobles, Overmighty and Otherwise	A. Macdonald
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Week 5

Lecture 9	Royal Power and the Expansion of Government	J. Armstrong
Lecture 10	The Growth of Polities, the Making of Nations	J. Armstrong

Week 6

Lecture 11	Fire and Sword: Chivalry and Warfare	A. Macdonald
Lecture 12	The Anglo-Scottish Wars	A. Macdonald

Week 7

Lecture 13	The Hundred Years War	A. Macdonald
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Those Who Work: Society and Economy

Lecture 14	The Ties that Bind: Marriage, Family and Kin	F. Pedersen
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Week 8

Lecture 15	Hunger and Harvests: The Countryside and the Rural Economy	F. Pedersen
Lecture 16	Travel and Travellers	J. Anderson

Week 9

Lecture 17	Women's Lives	M.-L. Ehrenschwendtner
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Lecture 18	The Black Death	F. Pedersen
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Week 10

Lecture 19	Markets and Money: Trade and the International Economy	F. Pedersen
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Lecture 20	Walls and Wallets: Towns, Merchants and the Urban Economy	F. Pedersen
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Conclusions and Revision

Week 11

Lecture 21	Exam Q & A	A. Macdonald
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All lectures will be delivered in person; slides and recordings will be posted on MyAberdeen, as will further reading suggestions for all lectures.

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Tutorials will take place in weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of teaching. These sessions will carefully explore important primary source materials. **A detailed Tutorial Guide is available on MyAberdeen with specific guidance on the sources to be used and the questions to be considered.**

Weeks 3-4

Love, Sex and Religion in the Twelfth Century

Primary Source: *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*

Weeks 5-6 [NB: not Frederik Pedersen's group]

Kingship and Crusade in the Thirteenth Century

Primary Source: Joinville, *The Life of St Louis*

Weeks 5-6 [NB: Frederik Pedersen's group only]

Before the law

Primary Sources: Camoys case; Marton case [on MyAberden]

Week 7

ALL GROUPS: Reading week: no tutorials. NB: lectures continue as normal.

Weeks 8-9 [NB: Frederik Pedersen's group only]

Trial by Ordeal

Primary Source: Selected sources [to be distributed]

Weeks 8-9 [NB: not Frederik Pedersen's group]

War, Chivalry and Society in the Fourteenth Century

Primary Source: Froissart, *Chronicles*

Weeks 10-11

Religion, Gender and War in the Fifteenth Century

Primary Source: *Joan of Arc. La Pucelle*

TEACHING SCHEDULE FOR ME33PP STUDENTS ONLY

ME33PP students join the course at the half-way stage, and attend the tutorials in weeks 6-11 inclusive. They are expected to engage fully with lectures from week 6 onwards, but they are also encouraged to listen to recordings of earlier lectures on the course, available in on MyAberdeen.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Small group teaching is compulsory. If you fail to fulfil any of the course requirements (including attendance, engagement or submission of all course assessments by the stated deadline or agreed extension period) you will be contacted and may not be able to continue with the course.

READING LIST

Essential Primary Sources

Students must have access to the following primary sources, which will be discussed in tutorials. For more detail see the Tutorial Guide on MyAberdeen, as well as the brief schedule above. In relation to the books, extra copies have been purchased for the library, but it is recommended that students purchase these items. Copies are available at Blackwell's Bookshop on the High Street, in discounted 'bundles'.

Radice, B., ed., and Clanchy, M. T., rev., *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Penguin Classics, 2003)

Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades*, trans. Caroline Smith (Penguin Classics, 2008)

Froissart, Jean, *Chronicles*, ed. and trans. G. Brereton (Penguin Classics, 1978)

Taylor, C., ed. and trans., *Joan of Arc. La Pucelle* (Manchester Medieval Sources, 2006)

This guide to working with primary sources will also be useful:
Michael Burger, *Reading History* (UTP, 2022) – ebook in Library

Secondary Reading: Introductory and General Works

Barber, M., *The Two Cities: Medieval Europe 1050-1320* (1993)

Bartlett, R., *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonisation & Cultural Change, 950-1350* (1993)

Blockmans, Wim & Hoppenbrouwers, Peter, *Introduction to Medieval Europe 300-1550* (2007)

Brady, T. A., Oberman, H.A. and Tracy, D., eds, *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation* (1996)

Breisach, E., *Renaissance Europe, 1300-1517* (1973)

Briggs, C. F., *The Body Broken: Medieval Europe 1300–1520* (2011)

Davies, N., *Europe: A History* (1996)

Hay, D., *Europe in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries* (2nd ed., 1989)

Hollister, C. W. and Bennett, J., *Medieval Europe: A Short History* (2001)

Le Goff, J., *The Birth of Europe* (2005)

Mundy, J. H., *Europe in the High Middle Ages 1150-1300* (2nd ed., 2000)

Rosenwein, B. H., *A Short History of the Middle Ages, vol. 2: From 900 to c.1500* (2nd ed., 2004)

Waley, D. and Denley, P., *Later Medieval Europe, 1250-1520* (3rd ed., 2001)

In addition, the simplest introductions to particular topics are very often provided in encyclopaedias or in historical atlases, many of which provide a brief synopsis to accompany the relevant maps. The following may prove especially useful:

Ditchburn, D., et al., eds, *Atlas of Medieval Europe* (2nd ed., 2007)

For lengthier treatment of various topics, consult the various volumes of *The New Cambridge Medieval History*.

To find useful scholarly works on any medieval theme it is worth your while consulting the **INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL BIBLIOGRAPHY** (available on-line via the University Library) and spending time in the University Library's History Periodicals section. Remember too that in the latest edition of a journal you may just find that article which will enable you to keep one step ahead of your tutor. The following journals are just some of those which regularly include medieval material, and several are available in electronic format:

<i>Economic History Review</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>French History</i>	<i>German History</i>
<i>History</i>	<i>History Ireland</i>
<i>History Scotland</i>	<i>History Today</i>
<i>Innes Review</i>	<i>Irish Historical Studies</i>
<i>Journal of Medieval History</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
<i>J. of Medieval & Early Mod. Studies</i>	<i>Mediaeval Studies</i>
<i>Northern History</i>	<i>Northern Scotland</i>
<i>Nottingham Medieval Studies</i>	<i>Past & Present</i>
<i>Scottish Historical Review</i>	<i>Speculum</i>
<i>Urban History</i>	<i>Viator</i>

ASSESSMENT

HI2021 Assessment is based on:

- 1 x 2,000-word primary source review worth 40% of the final mark.
- 1 x end-of-term online exam worth 50% of the final mark.
- Tutorial participation worth 10% of the final mark.

ME33PP Assessment is based on:

- 1 x 2,500-word essay worth 90% of the final mark.
- Tutorial Participation worth 10% of the final mark.

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen- Organisations- Divinity, History, Philosophy & Art History Student Information for Undergraduates**. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left-hand menu.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

SCHOLARLY APPARATUS

Written course-work (essays, assignments etc.) in History must feature a bibliography and foot- or endnotes which conform to standard academic conventions. Students should use the MHRA style guide, which can be found here: <http://www.mhra.org.uk/style/> . A handy abbreviated version of the style guide can be found here: <http://www.mhra.org.uk/style/quick.html> .

PRIMARY SOURCE REVIEW

The Primary Source Review should be around 2,000 words in length and comprises 40% of the final mark for the course; students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long (i.e more than 2,200 words) or too short (i.e. less than 1,800 words). It should be submitted in word-processed format and must be accompanied by a bibliography and foot- or endnotes which conform to standard academic conventions.

The assignment is to provide an analysis of the historical value of one of the core primary sources or source collections being used in tutorials (see 'Essential Primary Sources' in the Reading List, above, and the Tutorial Guide on MyAberdeen). NB: If you choose to write on Joinville's *Life* you only deal with that source (and therefore not also with Villehardouin's chronicle which is published in the same Penguin volume). If you wish to choose your own primary source to analyse you must have approval for this and you should speak to your tutor in the first instance.

It may be helpful to couch this exercise in terms of a question along the lines of: ‘*How valuable is x as a historical source?*’ The Primary Source Review should not simply be a restatement of what the relevant source or collection contains. You should seek to set the source in context: what is the nature of the source? Who is writing it? Who is the intended audience? What is valuable about this source for historians? What does it reveal about the attitudes and position of its writer(s)? What is the background to the source? Why was it written? You need also to consider the core of the source: what are the most important points made in the source? Above all, and of greatest value to the historian – what does the source reveal about medieval society?

For further guidance as to how to approach historical primary sources, see:

- ‘Reading Historical Documents’ leaflet in the Course Materials Folder on MyAberdeen;
- the Tutorial Guide for this course;
- Michael Burger, *Reading History* (UTP, 2022) – ebook in the Library.

In addition, further information about the Primary Source Review, and a template giving guidance on how a review might be constructed, is available on MyAberdeen.

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION FOR ME33PP STUDENTS ONLY

ME33PP students choose an essay question of interest to them, but only after consultation with their tutor or the course co-ordinator. The essay must be of around 2,500 words and constitutes 90% of the mark for the course. The course co-ordinator may be able to help with bibliographical research. The submission deadline is listed below.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

HI2021 students:

Primary Source Review: Monday 6 November 2023, 3pm.

Exam: The exam will take place in December and is a two-hour in-person exam. See below for further details.

ME33PP students:

Essay: Friday 1 December 2023, 3pm.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

There is now a university-wide policy regarding unauthorised late submission of work. In summary the penalty for unauthorised late submission of work is as follows:

- Up to 24 hours late, the grade will be reduced by 2 CGS points. For the purposes of this policy weekends are treated the same as week-days;

- For each subsequent day, up to a maximum of seven days total, the grade will be reduced by a further CGS point for each day, or part of a day, up to a maximum of seven days late;
- Over seven days late, a grade of G3 will be awarded;
- For work that is up to seven days late, if the assignment is graded above a passing grade but the penalty awarded takes the grade below the pass mark, the student will be awarded the minimum passing grade, i.e. D3.
- NB: Late penalties apply to coursework only. Online exams (in courses which feature them) are not accepted after the 'open' period has ended. Failing to submit an online exam within the open period leads to a mark of zero (G3) unless students can demonstrate medical (MC) or other good cause (GC) which prevented submission. In such cases students will need to take a resit exam, or other alternative assessment, at a later date.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

When uploading assignments, please do the following:

1. Submit a .doc or .docx and include the word-count.
2. Submit by **3pm** on the due date. No hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the Course Coordinator through [My Aberdeen](#).
3. In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, e.g. 59999999 HI2021 Source Review (or ME33PP Essay).
4. When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, e.g. 59999999 HI2021 Source Review (or ME33PP Essay).

Please note: Failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.

Please note: *Safeassign* text-matching software will be used. However, the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy reserves the right also to submit material to *TurnitinUK* when deemed necessary.

EXAMINATION

The end-of-term exam will take place in person in December. The exact date will be announced as soon as details are available. The paper will consist of eleven questions. Students must attempt question 1, a discussion of a short extract from one of the core primary sources discussed in tutorials. They must

then answer two from the remaining ten questions. Further, detailed guidance on the exam will be provided in advance.

General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

Past exam papers can be viewed at [Exam Papers | Library, Special Collections and Museums | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#).

RESIT INFORMATION

Resit is by 100% exam.

- Access to the resit is provisional on the student having a valid Class Certificate. Students with C7s are not eligible for resits.
- Students are not automatically registered for resits: you need to apply, whether you are resitting at first or subsequent attempts. For details of how and when to apply for resits, please see: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/academic-life/reassessment-3502.php>.
- Students who failed the course, i.e. received NP (No Paper) or a final course grade of E1 or below, will complete the resit assessment. Work should be submitted via the resit area on MyAberdeen.
- Students who were granted GC/MC (Good Cause/Medical Certificate), and are therefore resitting as a first attempt, will submit any outstanding pieces of assessment only, using the original submission area, at dates during the resit period and agreed with the Course Co-ordinator. Please note you still need to apply for the resit, but there is no fee to pay in this case.