CHUMS 3600: Medieval History and Literature
Syllabus

Catalog Description:
Students explore European and near Eastern history and literature from 600-1500 A.D., focusing on primary texts, art objects, and buildings. We study landmark events such as the Norman Conquest and the Crusades; we read translated Old English poems, two Arthurian legends, and some Chaucer; students do in depth work with digital versions of medieval manuscripts and other artifacts. They also write an interdisciplinary term paper focused on one set of primary sources. Prerequisite: CLITR 1100 (Writing and the Literary Arts) or any 1000- or 2000-level CHIST or CHUMS course.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student will have a broad-based understanding of European and near Eastern history, literature, and art from 600-1500 A.D., as demonstrated through online participation and assessments. A final research essay will demonstrate that the student has substantial knowledge of one set of primary texts from that period.

Prerequisites:
CLITR 1100, CHIST 1501, or permission of the instructor.

Requirements:
1. Participation: the various assignments and activities, both individual and cooperative, are comprise your term grade. Because the tasks in the course are designed to build upon each other, assignments cannot be submitted after the due date indicated in mylesley except in the most extreme circumstances. Please note that this requirement refers to the time as well the date that work must be submitted.

2. Preparation: before beginning the various quizzes, activities, and assignments in a module, students are expected to have completed, understood, and reflected upon the readings and other materials assigned for that module.

3. Writing/Assessments: A series of quizzes will track comprehension of assigned materials (8@2%=16%). Assignments completed in groups will allow discussion and exchange of ideas among students (4@4%=16%). Regular individual writing assignments may be formatted as discussion board posts (3@3%=9%) or as separate essays (7@4%=28%). Analysis of the Bedford Hours will provide in-depth work with a specific medieval artifact (6%). Preparation work for the term paper (thesis, outline, and an annotated bibliography) will lay a foundation for solid research analysis (5%). A term paper (10 pages, excluding bibliography) will allow in-depth analysis of a literary and/or historical problem (20%).
Texts:
Other primary and secondary materials as indicated by citation and web links below.

Essential medieval literature: students should already have read *Beowulf*, the Wife of Bath's *Prologue* and *Tale*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* in earlier classes. If not, please contact Dr D before class begins for suggestions of appropriate editions of those texts.

University-wide academic policies:
Use this link for university policies on learning assistance, disability services, academic integrity, technology services, and library resources
http://www.lesley.edu/undergraduate/administrative-items/

Academic Integrity:
The university policy regarding academic integrity is in the student handbook. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Essays which contain plagiarism will fail with a grade of zero; students who plagiarize will be reported to the academic integrity committee.

Module One 25 Jan - 2 Feb: Introduction to the Course: What's History and What's Literature?
Late Roman to Medieval
Rosenwein, "The Roman World Transformed (c.300-c.600)"
St Perpetua, *The Passions of Sts. Perpetua and Felicitas* (Geary)
Tacitus, from *Germania* (Geary)
<http://search.alexanderstreet.com/view/work/1792981>. (link via Academic Video Online Premium database)

Assessments: introductory video/blog entry, quiz, group work, short essay

Module Two 3 Feb - 14 Feb: The "Dark Ages"
Rosenwein, "The Emergence of Sibling Cultures (c.600-c.750)"
British Museum. *The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial*. Web. Accessed 3 October 2014. Virtually visit the British Museum Sutton Hoo gallery to see the artifacts (Use lower left link for "objects"; the website is somewhat clunky but you can eventually have a look at the 10-20 great finds from the site).
The *Laws of Ædelbert of Kent* (Geary). Also available online at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/560-975dooms.asp
Artifacts from the tomb of Childeric (Geary)
Gregory of Tours, History of the Franks (from book 2) (only in fourth edition of Geary; otherwise, PDF linked in mylesley)

*Life of St. Balthild* (Geary)

Assessments: quiz, group work, short essay

**Module Three 15 Feb - 25 Feb: Beginning the Romanesque**

Rosenwein, "Creating New Identities (c.750-c.900)"


from The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (Geary)

from Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne* (Geary)


Assessments: quiz, discussion board, short essay

**Module Four 26 Feb - 11 March: The Millennium and The Norman Conquest**

Rosenwein, "Political Communities Reordered (c.900-c.1050)"


from *The Domesday Book* (Geary)


For Bedford Hours assignment:


Assessments: quiz, discussion board, short essay, Bedford Hours assignment

**SPRING BREAK**

**Module Five 21 March -27 March: Entering Gothic**

Rosenwein, "The Expansion of Europe (c.1050-c.1150)"

Four accounts of the first crusade (Geary)

Magna Carta, 1215 version only (Geary)

Assessments: quiz, group work, discussion board (+term paper assigned)

**Module Six 28 March - 10 April: The "High Middle Ages"**

Rosenwein, "Institutionalizing Aspirations (c.1150-c.1250)"


Galbert of Bruges, The Murder of Charles the Good (Geary)

Assessments: quiz, group work, short essay, annotated bibliography and outline for term paper (+phone or f2f conference on term paper proposal)

**Module Seven 11 April - 17 April: Late Gothic**

Rosenwein, "Discordant Harmonies (c.1250-c.1350)"

Inquisition records of Jacques Fornier (Geary)

from The Trial of Joan of Arc (Geary)

from Julian of Norwich. *A Revelation of Love*. Trans. Elisabeth Dutton. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008, chapters 1-5, 52, and 60. Print. (PDF available in mylesley - note that this is a Modern English translation of the Middle English text below.)


Assessments: quiz, essay (+continuing work on term paper)

Module Eight, 18 April-29 April: Moving Towards the Early Modern

Rosenwein, "Catastrophe and Creativity (c.1350-c.1500)"


Chaucer, Geoffrey. "The Lawyer's Tale." Ronald Ecker, trans. n.d. Web. Accessed 6 October 2014. (Note that any Modern English translation will be useful but also problematic; this one linked just for convenience.)

ADD ARABIAN NIGHTS ITEM HERE AND REVISE WRITING ASSIGNMENT TO INCLUDE IT – ALREADY HAVE CONTEXT HANDOUT AND SCAN COMPLETED

Assessments: quiz, short essay

Term Paper due 5pm Friday 29 April