

History 3Q93
The Crusades
Fall 2013

N.B. This syllabus may be subject to change.

Instructors: Lecturer and TA – Victor Thiessen; TA – Anna Jocsak

Email: for Victor Thiessen – through sakai

Office hours: Monday and Thursday, 2-3 p.m. (14:00-15:00), GLN 244

For Anna Jocsak – ajocsak@brocku.ca

Office hours: by appointment, GLN 240

Lectures: Monday, 7-9 p.m. (19:00-21:00) GLN 164

Seminars: Mondays

#1: EA 103, 6-7 p.m. (18:00-19:00)

#2: WH8J, 6-7 p.m. (18:00-19:00)

#3: MCD 404, 9-10 p.m. (21:00-22:00)

Over the last decade public interest in the crusades and the historical relationships between the Islamic states and the west has grown by leaps and bounds. Much of this interest has grown since the attacks on the world trade centre on September 11, 2001, and the subsequent military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Culturally, books like Samuel Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations* and movies like "The Kingdom of Heaven" have also contributed to this interest.

Historians have not always been thrilled with frequently uninformed uses of the term 'crusades', however, and have called for a more careful and nuanced look at the history of this concept and the developments that are associated with it. This course will examine sets of primary sources that historians have used to try to understand the ideas, events and relationships central to the development of the crusades. Secondary sources will be used to give different perspectives on interpretations of the sources. Several of the more important themes of the course include: the origins of the holy war tradition in Christianity; the origins of the first crusade; the establishment of Latin states in the east; military religious orders; wars against heretics and pagans within Europe; relations between Roman Christians, Byzantium, Muslims and Jews; the culture of crusading.

Two guiding themes of the course are 1) the transformation of the crusade from a religious movement to a religious institution; 2) the development of cultural interactions over the course of the crusades.

Students must complete all the assigned tasks to pass the course.

Evaluation:

I. Seminars

Participation: 30%

Leadership: 10%

II. Essay (Three-part process, each part mandatory) 35%

1. Topic proposal and preliminary primary source bibliography

2. Annotated bibliography

3. Final paper

III. Final examination (25%)

Textbooks (available in the bookstore):

S. J. Allen and E. Amt, *The Crusades: A Reader*
Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades: a History* (second edition)

You should also employ other helpful resources available at Brock libraries, including the map library in Mackenzie Chown. Some suggested resources include:

Jonathan Riley Smith, ed., *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades*
(also paperback version, Jonathan Riley Smith, ed. *The Oxford History of the Crusades*)

Alan V. Murray, ed., *The Crusades: an Encyclopedia*

Thomas F. Madden, *The Crusades: The Essential Readings* (on reserve)

Resources in the map library include:

Angus Constam, ed., *Atlas of Medieval Europe*

Ninian Smart, ed., *Atlas of the World's religions*

Jonathan Riley-Smith, *Atlas of the Crusades*

Seminars:

In seminars, you have the opportunity to discuss the primary resources you have read. The readings you will do for the seminar consist first of all of primary sources. You will be challenged to develop skills of critical reading, thinking and expression. Through active engagement with the topics and texts, you will learn much more than simply by listening. Attendance alone does not constitute participation; you will not receive a passing seminar grade by listening alone. Therefore, it is imperative that you attend all seminars, and become involved in the discussion. Be prepared to discuss, ask questions, and contribute to the learning of others as well as your own learning.

A second component in seminar participation: you will be required to co-facilitate a seminar topic. Look at the list of topics available, and consider the topic you would like to facilitate. When preparing your facilitation, you **MUST** make an appointment to meet with your seminar leader beforehand. You may want to submit your seminar plan and questions before meeting with your seminar leader.

A key question when considering each document you read: **who says what to whom when by what means with what effect?** This approach points to six pieces of information related to a document: the author(s), content, audience, the context, means of communication, and consequences. You may not find all the questions relevant to your text, but it is a helpful question to guide your thinking. A second important question you should ask yourself: **what does this collection of documents tell me about the theme of the chapter?** Or to put it another way: why do the editors include these documents in this chapter?

Your seminar leaders will give you further information on expectations and assignments related to seminar work.

Essay: This is a **senior level** history course. Thus you must write your essay in accordance with the formatting requirements of the history department. Consult Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, for guidelines to formatting your essay. If you do not have a copy of Rampolla, please attain a copy from the bookstore (several copies of this book, including the most recent 7th edition, are available through the library reserve desk).

The essay will be developed in three stages, all of which are mandatory! You will not receive a grade without each component completed in its proper order. Your first task will be to state a topic, with several key questions or topics that you wish to pursue. You will include with this topic statement an indication of the primary sources that contribute to your paper. You may rely on (but are not limited to) documents in the *Crusades Reader* to select a topic and begin collecting your primary sources.

The second stage of your paper is an annotated bibliography (see Rampolla for advice on this topic). At this point, you will have taken the opportunity to develop your questions and thesis, using secondary literature (articles and monographs) to assist in your analysis. Based on your reading you will compose and submit the annotated bibliography.

You will hand in paper copies of your work directly to your seminar leader on the date due, or to the history office drop box. **YOU MUST ALSO SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC COPY TO YOUR SEMINAR INSTRUCTOR** (arrange the best means of electronic submission with your seminar leader)!! Your final essay will include proper footnotes/endnotes and a bibliography (you do not have to include the annotated bibliography with this copy). It is also advisable to keep all rough notes, outlines and drafts that you have prepared for writing your essay. The recommended length of each written component of the course is based upon standard margins for history papers, using Times New Roman regular font, 12 point size. Your final essay should be around 3500 words (12 pages) in length.

Final Examination: The course will also have a 3 hour exam in the regularly scheduled exam period at the end of the term.

N.B. Plagiarism will not be tolerated! Please read the Brock University Undergraduate Handbook (on line) on this matter. Also consult Mary Lynn Rampolla, *Pocket Guide to Writing in History* for definitions and advice on the issue of plagiarism and citation form.

For all issues related to academic/non-academic discipline, please review the Brock University Undergraduate calendar.

Aside from academic and research services and personnel, Brock University also provides people and resources through the special needs office for students who may require equipment, advice or assistance to help them with their studies.