

“Medieval Millennials in Paris”

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Medieval Millennials in Paris – Voices from Medieval and/or Renaissance

- **Catalog description:**

This course explores French literature, poetry, theater, and culture of the Middle Ages and/or the Renaissance. Students will study works of various genres and examine the social, historical, and cultural issues surrounding these works.

Prerequisite(s): FREN 313 and FREN 314, plus FREN 320 or FREN 321, and one of the following courses: FREN 326, FREN 327, FREN 362, FREN 363, or permission of the chair. Course Frequency: Occasional - Repeatable: For up to 6 credit hours.

- **Course description:**

The course will focus on the understanding of medieval everyday life of a twenty year old in Paris, home to royalty, charlatans, Knights, merchants, clerics, prostitutes, gamblers, students, and beggars. We will visit Europe's largest, most cosmopolitan city, and investigate the private lives of people within their homes to see how people actually dressed, ate, washed, slept, loved, worked, fought, worshipped, and dance and play.

For administrative purposes, this course syllabus is in English, but the course will be conducted in French.

- **Outcome:**

After this class, students will have

- developed **analytical skills** in order to better their understanding of French medieval art, music, gastronomy, architecture, medicine, everyday life, and cultural singularities, and the sociohistorical phenomena around the building of France as a nation, and of Paris as the capital of Medieval Europe.
- improved **oral and literacy skills in French** that allow them to read and interpret stories happening in a medieval setting, and to communicate efficiently about French cultural origins, context and traditions, and prove their grasp of the contemporary French culture.
- reached a **broad understanding** of key issues and debates in cultural analysis and French intellectual history, and be able to use their proficiency in French medieval language and culture to make pertinent comparisons with their own millennial language and culture and thus demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature and function of both.

- **Materials**

• **Required:** Templiers l'Intégrale, Jordan Mechner, Leuyen Pham, Alex Puvilland. Akileos, 2016. - 31€

• **Recommended:** Aliénor, Reine de Sang, T1-T6, Arnaud Delalande , Simona Mogavino, Delcourt, 2012-2017. Jeanne d'arc, Jérôme Le Gris, Murielle Gaude-Ferragu, Glénat, 2016. Exist in print and in e-book – available at the library

- **Format**

Please note that this is a seminar, not a lecture. As such, it is essential that you keep up with at least the minimum required readings and research for each class. Take a close look at the assigned documents: they will be the subjects of class debates based upon the information you will be provided with during the seminar. The seminar has an interdisciplinary and comparative angle, as a significant component of this module will be the constant oscillation between lecture and debate, and will give you the basic idea you need to understand the French Medieval Culture and use the information in classroom conversational interactions.



Assignments and Structure

- **Material:**

- **Readings:** Students will read (at home) to implement debates in class. *Templiers, Aliénor d'Aquitaine et Jeanne d'Arc*.
- **Movies:** Students will watch (at home) *Le nom de la Rose*, *Le frère du Guerrier*, *Le retour de Martin Guerre*.
- **Manuscripts:** Students will study (in class) three Parisian work. *Livre d'heures parisien*, *Kalendrier des bergiers parisien*, *Le Songe d'Enfer*. (pdf files)
- **Art and music artefacts:** Students will study Parisian music and art (in class).

- **Assessment:**

▪ Attendance/Participation in class (oral)	10%
▪ Preparedness (written)	10%
▪ Announced Quizzes (15 x1%)	15%
▪ Présentations oral	15%
▪ Midterm	15%
▪ Project Final	25%
▪ 2 face à face with the Prof	10%



- **Class preparation (10%) and participation (10%):** Students will be invited to chose from day one a perspective and a theme of interest (gastronomy, economy, education, humour, art...). For each class, students will either read a text or watch a movie (freely available in our dropbox). Announced quizzes will assess the reading/watching. Along the class, students will write little paragraphs to summarize their understanding of the reading (using the angle of their choice), to emphasize their interest in the topic and prepare them to the conversation, those paragraphs will be useful for the making of the final project.
- **Mini-presentations (15%):** students will build 3 mini-presentations (3mn), 1) on everyday life, 2) on a special personae or event, 3) on any artefact or monument of their choice.
- **Quizzes (15%):** students will have announced quizzes on the reading and watching (4 drops).
- **Midterm (15%):** presentation of a manuscript, poetry or a fabliau questioned through its reception, diffusion (ex humour, making, pricing, narrative). Powerpoint presentation, and paper (900 mots).
- **Final (25%):** students will provide a critical thinking presentation on a comparison between then and now. (ex: the effect of new technologies, the university system, the revolution of printing vs the revolution of digital, the place of religion in peace and wars, the perception of the identity, the perception of the others, the invention of courteous love...)... and how is it still influencing our lives...1.200-1.600 words.
- **Face à face (10%):** Students will meet with me in my office for face-à-face, twice during the semester (once before September 15th, once between Nov 1st and 17th).



Sequences and thematic

- **(1) Templars in Paris:**

Our Textbook will be the Novel “Templiers”, depicting a gang of Templars hanging in Paris while preparing the biggest hold-up of the century. It serves as reference to see how people used to live in Paris in the XIII-XIV centuries...

- **Discussion:** In class we question and discuss details from the book (about history, about what they eat, how they shop, count the time, take a bath, dress, and of course, love...).
- **Lecture on everyday's life in Paris:** I will give short lectures on a theme of everyday life to be followed by discussions.



- **Students mini-presentation 1:** students will pick a subject on everyday life (A recipe, a medicinal plant, a way of living, school, university) adopt a perspective of their choice... and will build up a short presentation 3mn. Subject not limited to:
 - Urbanism & architecture & Paris
 - Cultivating, Food and cooking
 - Feudalism & chivalry
 - Music & dance & sexuality
 - Art & literature
 - Death & life
 - Medicine & health
 - School & books
 - War & peace & Religion



- **(2) Heroes and villains:**

Even in medieval times they had stories and legends about people with extraordinary gifts – queens, saints and warriors.

- **Lecture on medieval people:** I will give short lectures on important actors of the period. Besides queens and kings, the other famous people were the heroes and villains of the era who included Artists, Clerics, Crusaders, Diplomats, Religious Leaders, Military Leaders, Philosophers & Theologians, Physicians, Mathematicians, Writers & Poets and Reformers who featured in the turbulent times of the Parisian Middle Age – to be followed by discussions.
- **Reading of novels:** (available at the library)
 - Frédégonde, la sanguinaire (545-597) 2
 - Charlemagne (742-814)
 - Guillaume le Conquerant (1027-1087)
 - Aliénor d'Aquitaine, légende noire (1122-1204) 6
 - St. Louis (1214-1270)
 - Isabelle, Louve de France (1295-1358) 2
 - Philippe le Bel (1268-1314)
 - Jeanne d'Arc (1411-1431) 1
- **Discussion:** In class we question and discuss details from Medieval History, and those who made it.
- **Students mini-presentation 2:** Students will choose a famous personae (artist, inventor, surgeon, poet, queen...) or event (guerre de cent ans, couronnement de Louis, invention of oil paint, hourglass, blast furnace, dry compass). they will build a short presentation (2mn) with the angle of their choice.



- **(3) The making of manuscripts:**

As books “go digital,” we can appreciate what is gained in terms of convenience, accessibility and interconnectedness. However, we should also consider what is lost as texts transition to a digital sphere.

- **Lecture on the Manuscript:** I will present the materials and techniques used to create the lavishly illuminated manuscripts produced in the Middle Ages Paris. The four stages involved in the making of a medieval book: parchment making, writing, illumination, and binding. Students will approach the making, selling but also reading and transportation of the medieval books in its social and historical context. The goal is to be able to see a medieval manuscript as a physical artifact laden with numerous “clues” about the society that made it.
- **Discussion:** In class we question and discuss details from the usage of manuscript, the role of books in knowledge, power and the growth of ideas.
- **Students mini-presentation 3:** Students will pick a manuscript, adopt a perspective of their choice (making, history, narrative, illumination, ...) and will build up a short presentation (3mn).
- **Study of three Parisian works in class.**
 - *Le Songe d'Enfer*, Raoul de Houdenc 1220 (Literature and poetry)
 - *Kompost et Kalendrie des Bergiers*, 1392 (Science and the era of printing)
 - *Le livre d'heure parisien*, 1470 (Illuminations and religion)

- (4) Paris:

Required is a kind of connective tissue to bind together the visual culture of the past and to relate it to cultural, economic and ideological agendas. Rather than seeking an abstract formalistic or developmental matrix, this sequence anchors the understanding of medieval architecture, sculpture, painting and the sumptuous arts within the unity of the most powerful city in northern Europe in the Middle Ages--Paris.

2. **Lecture on Paris:** I will present the city of Paris during the medieval period, and more particularly from the moment of its spectacular expansion in the eleventh century until the works of fortifications and embellishment during the reign of Charles V. Thus, the goal is to understand the evolution of urbanism and discover the main monuments of the city: centers of power, administration, places of worship and teaching, utilitarian buildings.
3. **Discussion:** In class students question, discuss, and compare Medieval Paris with Contemporary Paris. Size power, architecture, organization but also what survived from the capital of medieval Europe.



College, Departmental, and Class policy

- Attendance Policy:

Due to the communicative nature of this class, attendance is essential to student success. After two absences, excused or unexcused, each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by 1%. Active class participation will be evaluated based on high-quality contributions to the seminar discussion. For their papers, students will need to undertake additional research (in consultation with me) on topics other than those appearing on the mandatory reading list and syllabus. Absence from class does not exempt the student from responsibilities. Tardiness to class is also unacceptable, and habitual tardiness will result in a lowering of the final grade. **Following new departmental regulations, no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences is recognized.**

- Behavioral expectations including appropriate use of technology:

Students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. No unauthorized use of personal technological devices. Please be nice and polite, we are a team and I am on your side. Leave your cellphone on your bag, it is cozy there. Avoid having lunch in class if possible it might bother others. Try not to interrupt other students, we are all trying very hard. Please do not leave-enter class while one of your classmate is presenting, it is disrespectful and disrupting.

- College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity:

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are clearly related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed by both the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information stored on a cell phone), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>

- Disability Statement:

If a student has a documented disability and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Center for Disability Services / SNAP for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact the Center for Disability Services if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Address: Center for Disability Services, Lightsey Center, Suite 104, 160 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843.953.1431; Fax: 843.953.7731; E-mail: SNAP@cofc.edu

If you have religious obligations, gender preferences, special sensitivity on certain topics, please communicate with me.

Fall 2018 Calendar: You are expected to prepare each day's material before coming to class.

Mardi			Jeudi		
1	21 août Syllabus Paris 1 Video 1 Mapping JH		2	23 août Paris 2 Ville fortifiée	Paris 3 Population
3 Q	28 août Templars Chap.1 Flash croisade	Cult 1 Le Moyen-Age	4 Q	30 août Templars Chap.2 Flash Mérauvingiens	Paris 4 Monuments
5 Q	4 septembre Templars Chap.3 Flash pèlerinages	Cult 2 Enfance Glc	6 Q	6 septembre Templars Chap.4 Flash Carolingiens	Paris 5 Les métiers
7 Q	11 septembre Templars Chap.5 Flash les hérétiques	Cult 3 Gastronomie Glc	8 Q	13 septembre Templars Chap. 6 Flash Capétiens	Manuscrit 1 Making
9 Q	18 septembre Templars Chap.7 Flash le féodalisme	Cult4 Bedé Glc	10 Q	20 septembre Templars Chap.8 Flash les chevaliers	Manuscrit 2 L'image Glc
11 Q	25 septembre Templars Chap.9 Flash les serfs	Cult5 S'habiller	12 Q	27 septembre Film, Le frère du Guerrier Flash Bourgeoisie	Manuscrit 3 Littérature
13	2 octobre Littérature - <i>Le Songe d'enfer</i> Manuscrit 4 Persona1 Houdenc		14	4 octobre Enluminures – <i>Livre d'heures parisien</i> Manuscrit 5 Flash Atelier	
15	9 octobre Critical thinking in class	Midterm	16	11 octobre Présentation	Midterm
17 Q	16 octobre Aliénor Chap.1 Persona 2 Aliénor	Cult6 Amour Glc Roman de la Rose	18 Q	18 octobre Aliénor Chap.2 Persona 3 Marie de Fr. Lai	Manuscrit 6 Les bestiaries Glc
19 Q	23 octobre Aliénor Chap.3 Persona 4 Louis VII	Paris 6 Architecture Le palais royal	20 Q	25 octobre Aliénor Chap.4 Persona 5 Guillaume C.	Manuscrit 7 La tapisserie de Bayeux France -Angleterre
21 Q	30 octobre Aliénor Chap.5 Persona 6 Chrétien T.	Cult7 Musique Chansons	22 Q	1 novembre Aliénor Chap.6 Persona 7 trouvères	Cult 8 Médecine Roman de Renard
<i>6 novembre - Fall break</i>			23 Q	8 novembre Film, le retour de Martin Flash Guerres	Paris 7 Université
24 Q	13 novembre Jeanne d'Arc Flash Jeanne d'Arc	Cult 9 Religion	25 Q	15 novembre Film Le nom de la rose Flash Monastères	Cult 10 Sciences
26	20 novembre <i>Le Compost et calendrier des Bergiers</i>		<i>22 novembre - Thanksgiving break</i>		
27	27 novembre Préparation du Final		28	29 novembre Final	
Final paper deadline Dec. 11					

IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug. 27 - last day of add/drop;

Oct. 24 - last day to withdraw from a course with a grade of "W"