Catalogue Description
Decline of Rome to the Renaissance. Emphasis will be placed on the cultural development of the West from the Germanic invasions until the advent of Humanism with attention to theology, art, architecture and literature to illustrate the dynamics of these diverse years.

Course Requirements and Learning Objectives
This course provides an introduction to the cultural history of the Mediterranean world and northern Europe from the fall of Rome through the fourteenth century. In particular, we will study the transformation of the antique world and the development of European civilization in the early Middle Ages, the revolutions and innovations of the high Middle Ages, and the political, scholarly, and spiritual developments of the late Middle Ages.

No background in the study of this era is required. This course aims to introduce you not only to the cultural history of the Middle Ages but also to the skills and techniques of scholarship. We will work extensively with primary sources in translation.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will: understand the ideals and values that inspired and informed each of these cultures; be able to describe important ways in which these ideals and values were expressed in art, architecture, literature, religions, and philosophy; and be able to explain how masterpieces in these areas of cultural expression represent diverse but legitimate responses to fundamental questions faced by all individuals and cultures.

Course Materials
• Barbara H. Rosenwein, A Short History of the Middle Ages, forth edition [T]
• Barbara H. Rosenwein, Reading the Middle Ages: Sources from Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic World, second edition [R]
• Online Course Reader , available on SacCT [OCR]

Requirements and Grading
Weekly Reading Responses 50%
Participation in discussion 30%
Final Exam 20%

1. Weekly Reading Responses: Every Monday, I will post a reading response prompt on our SacCT site (look under “Weekly Reading Responses”). You will be required to write formal responses to 6 of these, however I will expect you to come to class with prepared answers, even if just in note form, every week for our class discussions. On the Thursdays that you have a response due (depending upon if you are in group A or group B), you will be required to upload to our SacCT site (into the appropriate folder: for example, “Week 1 Reading Responses”) a response that is no more than 250 words.

These responses must be turned in no later than 12pm on Thursdays. If you turn your response in late, you will be marked down a 1/3 of a letter grade for every 15-minute increment past 12pm. In other words, if you upload your prompt at 12:01pm Thursday, the highest grade you would be able to receive would be an “A-.” If you uploaded your prompt
at 2pm Thursday, you will not receive a grade higher than a “D.” And finally, if you upload your prompt after 2:30pm, you will receive an “F.”

**KEEP IN MIND:**
These responses must be in Word format, as well as typed and double-spaced, with at least one-inch margins on all sides. *All written work will be assessed for style, grammar, syntax, and spelling as well as content.* Please proofread your work! Do not rely on your computer's spellchecker or grammar checker.

**HOW TO LABEL YOUR RESPONSE:**
Please make sure to include your last name and the week number in the title of the word document you upload to SacCT. For example, my response for a reading response for week 6 would be: “DoynoWeek6”

2. **In-Class Participation:** Please note that discussion comprises 30% of your final grade. Always come ready to discuss the source assigned on any given day and **always bring the text of the source with you.** I keep a weekly record of participation grades, so feel free to ask how you are doing at any time.

3. **Final Exam:** There will also be a final. The primary goal of this exam is to give you the chance to demonstrate your ability to make the kinds of connections and interpretations that we have been practicing in our discussions and writing assignments all semester. You will be given a study guide to help you study for this exam at least one week prior.

You will be required to supply correct names and dates. I always allow students to bring in a 3x5 index card filled with whatever information you feel that you need for the exam.

**Attendance, Extensions, Academic Honesty, and Computers**

Students are expected to attend all classes. I do not grant extensions or make-up exams other than for exceptional and documented circumstances (for instance, an exam conflict, religious holiday, illness, or family emergency).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course, and all cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported. See the campus policy on academic dishonesty at [www.csus.edu/admbus/umanual/UMA00150.htm](http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umanual/UMA00150.htm).

Please note that plagiarism does not merely involve direct quotation without citation—it can include paraphrasing without citation, taking an author's ideas (but not their words) as your own, and so on. If you are not sure, ask! I make frequent use of internet search engines and other services to check for plagiarism. Any assignment in which even the slightest instance of plagiarism is detected will receive a grade of zero points. There will be no option to re-write the assignment.

**No electronic devices are to be used in class. This includes laptop computers.**

**Getting in Touch**

Mendocino Hall 2026
Office hours:  T 9-10:15am
Office phone:  916-278-7329
Email:  mary.doyno@csus.edu
Schedule of Meetings and Reading Assignments

Week One: The Roman World Transformed
   Tues 1 Sept. Introduction and organization of the course

   Thurs 3 Sept. The Roman World Transformed
      OCR: *The Passion of SS. Perpetua and Felicitas*

Week Two: The Roman World Transformed
   Tues 8 Sept. The Roman World Transformed
      T: 1-28

   Thurs 10 Sept. The Roman World Transformed
      R: 1-4 [*Edict of Milan*], 10-13 [*A Donatist Sermon*], and 13 [*The Nicene Creed*]
      *Group A Reading Response Due by 12pm*

Week Three: Byzantium
   Tues 15 Sept. Byzantium
      T: 29-35 and 39-50

   Thurs 17 Sept. Byzantium
      R: 63-69 [*On Holy Images and The Synod of 754*]
      *Group B Reading Response Due by 12pm*

Week Four: The Rise of Islam
   Tues 22 Sept. The Tenets and Spread of Islam
      T: 50-57 and 87-96

   Thurs 24 Sept. Encounters between the Abrahamic Faiths
      OCR: 7th-8th Century Documents from the Creation of an Islamic Empire
      *Group A Reading Response Due by 12pm*

Week Five: Monastic Culture
   Tues 29 Sept. The Foundation of European Monasticism
      T: 58-75

   Thurs 1 Oct. The Foundation of European Monasticism
      OCR: *The Rule of Saint Benedict*
      *Group B Reading Response Due by 12pm*

Week Six: Manuscript Culture
   Tues 6 Oct. Medieval Manuscripts and Anglo Saxon England
      OCR: Ray Clemens and Timothy Graham, *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*

   Thurs 8 Oct. Medieval Manuscripts and Anglo Saxon England
      R: 94-105 [*Bede, The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*]
      *Group A Reading Response Due by 12pm*

Week Seven: Carolingian Culture
   Tues 13 Oct. The Rise of the Carolingians; Carolingian Kingship
      T: 96-113
Thurs 15 Oct. The Carolingian World
R: 135-147 [Einhard, Life of Charlemagne]

Group B Reading Response Due by 12pm

Week Eight: Carolingian Culture
Tues 20 Oct The Carolingian World
R: 148-150 [The Admonitio Generalis]

Thurs 22 Oct The Carolingian World
R: 150-158 [Dhouda, Handbook for her Son]

Group A Reading Response Due by 12pm

Week Nine: “Feudal” Culture
Tues 27 Oct. “Feudal” Culture
T: 127-145

Thurs 29 Oct. “Feudal” Culture
OCR: Miracles of Saint Foy

Group B Reading Response Due by 12pm

Week Ten: Revolutions of the Eleventh Century
Tues 3 Nov The Papal Reform Movement
T: 160-173
R: 258-262 [Letters of Gregory VII and Henry IV]

Thurs 5 Nov. The First Crusade
OCR: Pope Urban II’s Call to Crusade

Group A Reading Response Due by 12pm

Week Eleven: Intellectual and Cultural Change in the High Middle Ages
Tues 10 Nov. Cathedral Schools and the Twelfth-Century Renaissance
T: 178-195

Thurs 12 Nov. Peter Abelard
OCR: Peter Abelard, History of My Calamities and prologue to the Sic et Non

Group B Reading Response Due by 12pm

Week Twelve: Intellectual and Cultural Change in the High Middle Ages
Tues 17 Nov. Romanesque and Gothic Architecture
T: 220-228
R: 296-300 [Bernard of Clairvaux, Apologia]

Thurs 19 Nov Romanesque and Gothic Architecture
OCR: Abbot Suger, “On the Abbey Church of Saint-Denis”

Group A Reading Response Due by 12pm

Week Thirteen: Thirteenth-Century Religious Movements and Culture
Tues 24 Nov. The Pontificate of Innocent III (1198-1216)
T: 228-239
R: 363-368 [Decrees of Lateran IV]

Thurs 26 Nov. NO CLASS
Week Fourteen: Thirteenth-Century Religious Movements and Culture

Tues Dec 1 Heretics, Mendicants, and Mystics
T: 244-252; 258-264

Thurs Dec 3
R: 368-369 [The Chronicle of Laon], and 370-372 [The Life of Mary of Oignies]
OCR: St Francis’ Rule

Group B Reading Response Due by 12pm

Week Fifteen: Disasters and Endings

Tues 8 Dec Plague, Schism, and War
T: 283-286
OCR: Boccaccio on the Black Death

Thurs 10 Dec. Final Review

**Final Exam: Thursday, December 17th 10:15am-12:15pm**