

HIST 3755 - Early Medieval Civilization

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43553,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Lauren Nofi

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Instructor, Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications: MA, Archaeology, University of Sheffield (2012), BA, Anthropology, College of William and Mary (2011)

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Course Description

3755. Early Medieval Civilization. A political, economic, intellectual and cultural history which traces events and developments throughout Europe from the collapse of the Ancient World to the beginning of the High Middle Ages. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Early Medieval Britain, c.500-1000	Rory Naismith	978-1-108-44025-7

All other required materials will be provided through Blackboard.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Naismith, p.96-125 "Misnaming the Medieval," Mary Rambaran-Olm (link) "The Muddled Origins of the Word 'Viking,'" Martyn Whittock (link)	What's in a Name?	View Week 1 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
8/31	Naismith, p.147-162 Campbell, p. 8-19 (PDF) Vortigern in Crossley-Holland, p. 37 (PDF) Bede, p.62-64 (PDF) Gildas, Amt, p.3-7 (PDF)	Late Antiquity and Arrival	View Week 2 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
9/7	Naismith, p.163-190 "The Ruin" in Crossley-Holland, p.59 (PDF) Excerpt of Beowulf (link)	Kingdoms Rising	View Week 3 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
9/14	Naismith, p.191-214 Charlemagne to Offa, Crossley-Holland, p.189-191 (PDF) Guest Lecture: Dr. Pauline Clarke on Offa's Dyke	Vying for Supremacy	View Week 4 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz



9/21	Naismith, p.216-250 "Life of Alfred" Excerpts, Crossley-Holland, p. 213-217 (PDF) Alfred Treaty with Guthrum, Amt, p.29-30 (PDF)	A New World?	View Week 5 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
9/28	Naismith, p.273-300 Gregory, Amt, p.7-10 (PDF) Aidan and Oswald in Bede, p.150-153, 168-171) (PDF) Campbell, p.48-49 (PDF)	Pagans and Christians	View Week 6 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
10/5	Naismith, p.301-325 Campbell, p.80-81 (PDF) Lindisfarne Gospels (link) How to Make a Manuscript (video link)	Monasticism and Manuscripts	View Week 7 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
10/12	MIDTERM - no readings	MIDTERM	Exam Reflection
10/19	"Chaos and Conversion," Hadley (PDF) "Pagans and Christians in the Danelaw," Richards (PDF)	...and More Pagans and Christians Guidelines for Final Project	View Week 9 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
10/26	Naismith, p.353-377 "Vikings in the British Isles: Placename Evidence," Fellow-Jensen (PDF) Placenames affixes wiki (link)	Landscapes 1	View Week 10 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
11/2	Urban/Rural Settlements Excerpts from Hadley (PDF) "Settlement in England: Archaeological Evidence," Hall (PDF) Campbell, p.162-163 (PDF)	Landscapes 2	View Week 11 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
11/9	Naismith, p.326-352 "Negotiating Masculinity in VA England," Hadley (PDF) Riddles Excerpt (PDF)	Social Order Final Project Check-in 1	View Week 12 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz Outline, Mind-map, Organizer
11/16	Naismith, p.378-400 Campbell, p.62-63 (PDF) "The Wanderer," Crossley-Holland, p.50-53 (PDF) Guest Lecture: Paula Constantine	Exchange	View Week 13 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
11/23	"Cnut's Letter to the English People," Amt, p.62-65 (PDF) "Sermon of the Wolf," Crossley-Holland, p.294-299 (PDF)	Uneasy Days Final Project Check-in 2	View Week 14 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz Bibliography Check
11/30	Naismith, p.421-429 Bayeux text, Amt, p.96-103 (PDF) The Norman Conquest (YouTube Playlist via BBC)	Coming of the Normans	View Week 15 slideshow Discussion Posts Reading Quiz
12/7	Final Project - no readings	Final Project Course Evaluation	Final Project YSU Course Evaluation

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.