



The Mediterranean & France

Fall 2009

Welcome to the Seminar on The Mediterranean & France

This course explores some of the cultures and histories of the late-classical and medieval Mediterranean Sea, and their influences on France. It also will consider how medieval French kings, nobles, and merchants moved through the Mediterranean world. The course expressly seeks to combine cultural anthropology and history to explore perspectives of long-term stabilities with notable historical change caused by war, trade, and religious interaction. The course begins with study of the anthropological concept of the *long durée* and its focus economic and cultural structures prevalent throughout the Mediterranean basin in the ancient and medieval eras. We then study contemporaries' hopes and fears as they witnessed the unravelling of the Roman Empire and the rise of a region unified by religion, but fractured by languages and Merovingian warlords. The medieval era focusses on questions of the ambitions and rhetoric of French nobles who sought to impose familial and Catholic dynasties on Greek, Arab/Muslim, and Sicilian cities. The course concludes with further questions about why the French crown turned its interests away from the Mediterranean world at the end of the middle ages, and how this turning might have helped redefine a distinctly western European identity.

Christopher Gardner, Ph.D.
Department of History
Johns Hopkins University
Dell House, 1502C
cgardner@jhu.edu

Office Hours: After/outside class and by appointment

Assignments & Grading

Students must prepare two shorter papers, with a length of ca.8 pages, concerning the readings and sources in each of the topics/sections of the course. These papers are each worth 20% of the overall grade (40% total).

A final paper is to be written on a topic designed by the student, with the focus on original sources, including those we shall work on together in class. The final paper should focus on original sources pertinent to the student's chosen topic, but of course students should bring in the knowledge and materials they have gathered from the semester's other readings. This last paper is worth 60% of the overall grade.

<http://homepage.mac.com/ckgardner/mediterranean> || The course website can be found at this address. Assignments and many of the readings/documents will be posted/linked here, as will be images for reference and review for your papers. Please check the site at least once a week for announcements and updates!

The syllabus and paper assignments will also be posted there, so if you lose a copy of any of them, please download and print a replacement from there.

Ethical Expectations

As per JHU's guidelines, you are expected to be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the internet and electronic devices, unauthorized

collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonest, and unfair competition.

Lectures and discussion groups are opportunities for students to interact with their colleagues and professors in ways no other media can match. Therefore, notes from this class must not be posted on the Internet in any form. Anyone who posts such notes on the Internet is subject to being asked to withdraw from the class.

The University asks that you report violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on "Academic Ethics for Undergraduates" at http://www.jhu.edu/~advising/academic_manual/ethics.html

In particular, please note the guidelines and punishments concerning plagiarism!

Books to purchase (or have regular access to them)

Fernand Braudel: *Memory and the Mediterranean*. Random House 2001 (ISBN: 0375404260)

Julius Caesar: *The Gallic Wars/The Conquest of Gaul*. Penguin 1982 (ISBN: 0140444335)

Fredric Cheyette: *Ermengard of Narbonne & the World of the Troubadours*. Cornell 2001 (ISBN: 0801439523)

Stephen O'Shea, *Sea of faith : Islam and Christianity in the medieval Mediterranean world*. Walker 2006 (ISBN: 0802714986)

Janet Shirley (trans.): *The Song of the Cathar Wars*. Scolar 1996 (ISBN: 1859283314)

Peter of Les-Vaux-de-Cernay, *History of the Albigensian Crusade*. Boydell 1998 (ISBN: 0851156584)

Jean de Joinville and Geoffrey Villehardouin: *Chronicles of the Crusades*. Penguin 1963 (ISBN: 0140441247)

Jean Dunbabin, *Charles I of Anjou : power, kingship and state-making in thirteenth-century Europe*. Longman, 1998 (ISBN: 0582253705)

Jean Froissart, *Chronicles [of the Hundred Years War]*. Penguin 1978 (ISBN: 9780140442007)

What is the Mediterranean?

Week 1: F. Braudel, *Memory and the Mediterranean*

Week 2: David Abulafia, "Mediterraneans," in *Rethinking the Mediterranean*, ed. W.V. Harris (2005), pp. 64-93. AND

Essay/Review: "The Connecting Sea: History, Anthropology, and the Mediterranean" by Henk Driessen (find via JSTOR) AND

Michael McCormick, *Origins of the European Economy* (2001) various sections (**Photocopy online**)

Roman Gaul and Frankish Gaul

Week 3: Julius Caesar, *The Gallic Wars/The Conquest of Gaul*

Week 4: Ch.1 "Forging a New Identity: The Kingdom of Toulouse and the Frontiers of Visigothic Aquitania (418-507)" in *The Visigoths: Studies in Culture and Society*, A. Ferreiro, ed. (1999) (**Photocopy online**) AND

Introduction and "Merovingian Secular Culture" in *Culture and Religion in Merovingian Gaul, AD481-751*, Yitzhak Hen (1995)

(**Photocopy online**)

2 October: FIRST PAPER DUE; Submit via email

Week 5: Excerpts of Bishop Salvian of Marseilles' *On the Government of God* (**Photocopy online**)

Occitania & France

Week 6: F.Cheyette, *Ermengard of Narbonne & the World of the Troubadours* AND

Y.Dossal, "Patriotisme méridional du clergé au XIIIe siècle," in *Les évêques, les clercs, et le roi* (Cahiers De Fanjeaux, 7, 1972), pp. 419-50

WEEK 7: NO CLASS

Week 8: J. Shirley (trans.) *The Song of the Cathar Wars*

Peter of Les-Vaux-de-Cernay, *History of the Albigensian Crusade*

30 October: SECOND PAPER DUE: Submit via email

The French in the Mediterranean

Week 9: Stepen O'Shea, *Sea of faith : Islam and Christianity in the medieval Mediterranean world*

Week 10: Bernard the Monk's "Itinerarium

[Hierosolymitana]" (**Photocopy online**) and *The deeds of the Franks and the other pilgrims to Jerusalem*, (Rosalind Hill, ed.)

Week 11: Villehardouin & Joinville, *Chronicles of the Crusades* (read both histories)

Week 12: Jean Dunbabin, *Charles I of Anjou : power, kingship and state-making in thirteenth-century Europe*

Week 13: Jean Froissart, *Chronicles*

FINAL PAPERS DUE 10 DECEMBER (Friday) BY 10:pm - Submit via email