

# Global Medievalisms

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## Global Medievalisms

- Seminar Lit/Cult Theory - 89863 - LMC 4200 - F
- Special Topics - 91299 - LMC 8803 - RU
- Time: 9:30am-10:45am (and Nov. 3, conference)
- Instructor: [Richard Utz \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- Office: Skiles 337 (inside LMC office suite, Skiles 336)
- Office hrs: F 9-10am; and by appointment
- Office phone: 404-385-0083

### Overview

In this seminar, we want to explore the world-wide existence of medievalism, a cultural phenomenon that encompasses all creative and critical receptions, reimaginations, and reenactments of medieval culture in postmedieval times. Specifically, we want to investigate the causes for the continued fascination with medieval culture, from European colonialism and 'Western' economic, military, and cultural influence through the various transformations and adaptation of 'real' and 'invented' medieval ideas, tropes, and memes in countries, regions, and cultures in which there never was a 'middle age'. This is a cultural studies class, and so it unites research and scholarship on art, social class, culture, film, literature, media, music, politics, race, and technology to help us discuss how cultural practices and ideas about the 'medieval' travel through time and space. Our goal is to answer complex questions at the intersection of various

disciplines, theories, and cultural and linguistic traditions. Our travels will be local-to-global, beginning in Atlanta, and then on from 'palm to pine'. Among the topics we might discuss are: why Unite the Right demonstrators in Charlottesville, NC, wielded medievalist shields and symbols; why Putin's Russia celebrates its medieval heritage; and why the reception of Ridley Scott's movie, *Kingdom of Heaven*, is different in the Middle East than in Britain.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SYLLABUS (especially the schedule) IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS WE PROGRESS. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED WHEN SUCH CHANGES HAPPEN.**

## **Learning outcomes**

While studying the reception of medieval culture globally you will...

- Become aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art that imagine or speak of medieval culture, and you will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.
- Learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also a number of scientific and technical documents that invent certain reinventions or re-imaginings of the Middle Ages.
- Become familiar with a variety of social, political, and cultural theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to your own cultural observations in different regions, nations, and cultures around the world.
- Analyze literary and cultural texts within an historical framework to become familiar with the various forces that shape the global artistic and commercial production and reinvention of medieval culture in postmedieval times.
- Learn to interpret history actively and in the context of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, the U.S., and the world, rather than passively accepting archival information.

*These learning outcomes are in accordance with those required by GT and the USG Board of Regents.*

## **Required reading materials**

To minimize the cost of this course to students, all reading materials are provided via electronic sources and/or free of charge. See also: <https://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. The materials can be found in this Canvas site.

## **Attendance policy**

The exchange and discussion of ideas about our class topic may only happen successfully if all students attend class meetings and engage actively in their fellow

students' and the instructor's views and arguments. Therefore, I expect all students to attend all classes. **Students who miss class without appropriate and timely explanation (e.g., *bona fide* illness; religious observance; emergency; Institute approved activity) will receive an automatic deduction of 25 points per absence.** Unless students are absent for an appropriate reason, it is their responsibility to make sure they catch up on content "Although it is recognized that occasionally it may be necessary for students to be absent from scheduled classes [...] for personal reasons, including major religious observances, students are responsible for all material covered in their absences, and they are responsible for the academic consequences of their absences. Students should discuss planned absences with their instructors as soon as possible after the beginning of an academic term. Work missed may be made up at the discretion of the instructors. [...] Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar" [<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4b.php>]. ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

## Grades and requirements

*Undergraduate students are required to:*

- read/view all scheduled assignments and attend all class meetings; unexcused absences or obvious unpreparedness will lead to up to 25 points per class meeting;
- two **short presentations** (10 minutes) on specific topics related to medievalism; yield up to 50 points;
- select a research topic and write/submit an **abstract** (c. 250 words); deadline: Oct 2, 9:30am; yields up to 25 points;
- research/compile/submit **revised abstract** together with a moderately **annotated research bibliography**; deadline: Oct. 4, 9:30am; yields up to 50 points;
- attend one day **conference** of the Georgia Medievalist Group, Nov. 3, and write a **summary** of one of the presentations in 300 words; yields up to 50 points;
- present a 40 minute **research presentation**, using appropriate multimedia, on the topic of the abstract and bibliography; presentation dates will be available in September; yields up to 300 points; presentation will be followed by a Q&A which will yield up to 25 points;
- write/submit a **research paper** (12 double spaced pages; 12 point; Garamond) based on presentation, including additional research and scholarship; deadline: Dec 4, 9:30am; yields up to 500 points. [may be replaced with equivalent project using genres like the photo essay, digital media, etc.]

*Graduate students are required to:*

- read/view all scheduled assignments and attend all class meetings; unexcused absences or obvious unpreparedness will lead to up to 25 points per class meeting;
- two **short presentations** (10 minutes) on specific topics related to medievalism; yield up to 50 points;
- select a research topic and write/submit an **abstract** (c. 300 words); deadline: Oct. 2, 9:30am; yields up to 25 points;
- research/compile/submit **revised abstract** together with an **annotated research bibliography**; deadline: Oct. 4, 9:30am; yields up to 50 points;
- attend one day **conference** of the Georgia Medievalist Group, Nov. 3, and write a **summary** of one of the presentations in 500 words; yields up to 50 points;
- present a 50 minute **research presentation**, using appropriate multimedia, on the topic of the abstract and bibliography; presentation dates will be available in September; yields up to 300 points; presentation will be followed by a Q&A which will yield up to 25 points;
- write/submit a **research paper** (20 double spaced pages; 12 point; Garamond) based on presentation, including additional research and scholarship; deadline: Dec 4, 9:30am; yields up to 500 points. [may be substituted with equivalent project using genres like the photo essay, digital media, etc.]

### Due dates for major assignments

- **By Sept. 20:** Two short presentations
- **October 2:** Research paper abstract
- **October 4:** Annotated research bibliography
- **November 1-27:** Presentations
- **December 4:** Research paper

### Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100% (900-1000 pts)
- B 80-89% (800-899 pts)
- C 70-79% (700-799 pts)
- D 60-69% (600-699 pts)
- F 0-59% (0-599 pts)

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#), as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

## **Georgia Tech Honor Code**

The Honor Code is strictly enforced, and all violations will be reported to the Dean of Students' Office. For more details, see <http://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code>. ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

As your instructor, I will make every effort to create a classroom environment in which honesty flourishes. Your responsibility will be to follow the general GT rules and regulations and some specific rules and regulations I am establishing for this class. Here are some guidelines:

- Plagiarism is defined by *Webster's Dictionary* as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source." If caught plagiarizing (and this related not only to "words," but also visuals, ideas, etc.), you will be dealt with according to the [Academic Honor Code](#) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#). For a helpful source of information about attributing sources, please use the (wise) OWL, [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab](#) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#), which has definitions and exercises on fair use, quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, and safe practices. If you have doubts about citing sources for your work in this class, please contact me to make sure you have full information.
- I will not accept late submission of assignments and homework. Please manage your time in a way that allows for timely and appropriate completion and submission for any and all required work. Give yourself ample time in case there are unexpected events that might slow you down (human existence is full of surprises!).

## **Commitment to Inclusive Excellence**

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts and the School of Literature, Media, and Communication support the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society. This class is committed to meeting or exceeding the above expectations.

## Comm Lab

Just across from Skiles, in the Clough Undergraduate Commons, you can find assistance with writing and communication tasks to build the very best presentations, papers, visualizations, etc. for our (and other) class(es). Please visit <http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. for information.

**Please note that this class includes an event on Saturday, November 3, at the Stephen C. Hall Bldg on the GT campus: Georgia Medievalists Group meeting.**

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Tue Aug 21, 2018	<a href="#">class introduction</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Thu Aug 23, 2018	<a href="#">What is medievalism? take 1 - August 23</a>	due by 9:30am
Tue Aug 28, 2018	<a href="#">What is medievalism? take 2 - August 28</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Aug 30, 2018	<a href="#">Medieval Atlanta, take 1 - August 30</a>	due by 9:30am
Tue Sep 4, 2018	<a href="#">Medieval Atlanta, take 2 - Sept 4</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Sep 6, 2018	<a href="#">Medieval Atlanta, take 3 - Sept 6</a>	due by 9:30am
Tue Sep 11, 2018	No class	9:30am to 10:45am
Thu Sep 13, 2018	<a href="#">Political Medievalisms, take 1 - Sept 13</a>	due by 9:30am
Tue Sep 18, 2018	<a href="#">Political Medievalisms, take 2 - Sept 18</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Sep 20, 2018	<a href="#">Political Medievalisms, take 3</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Tue Sep 25, 2018	<a href="#">Understanding the Global Middle Ages -September 25</a>	due by 9:30am

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	
Thu Sep 27, 2018	<a href="#">Understanding the Global Middle Ages - September 27</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Tue Oct 2, 2018	<a href="#">Research Paper Abstract Due</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Oct 4, 2018	<a href="#">Annotated Research Bibliography Due</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Oct 11, 2018	<a href="#">case studies</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Tue Oct 16, 2018	<a href="#">case studies</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Thu Oct 18, 2018	<a href="#">case studies</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Tue Oct 23, 2018	<a href="#">NO CLASS [see Nov 3 assignment]</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Thu Oct 25, 2018	<a href="#">NO CLASS [see Nov 3 assignment]</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Tue Oct 30, 2018	<a href="#">case studies</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Thu Nov 1, 2018	<a href="#">Presentation Nov 1</a>	due by 9:30am
Sat Nov 3, 2018	<a href="#">Conference Georgia Medievalists Group</a>	10am to 3pm
Tue Nov 6, 2018	<a href="#">Presentation Nov 6 (Robin Hood - Lucas Johnson)</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Nov 8, 2018	<a href="#">Presentation Nov 8 (Global Medieval Samurai - Victor Alexander)</a>	due by 9:30am
Tue Nov 13, 2018	<a href="#">Presentation Nov 13 (Medieval Martial Arts - Jake Stickler)</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Nov 15, 2018	<a href="#">Presentation Nov 15 Global King Arthur</a>	due by 9:30am
Tue Nov 20, 2018	<a href="#">Presentation Nov 20 Medieval Global Music</a>	due by 9:30am

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	
Tue Nov 27, 2018	<a href="#">Presentation Nov 27 Global Racism and Medievalism</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Nov 29, 2018	<a href="#">research paper advisement</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Tue Dec 4, 2018	<a href="#">Research Paper Assignment Due</a>	due by 9:30am
Thu Dec 6, 2018	<a href="#">class</a>	9:30am to 10:45am
Thu Dec 13, 2018	<a href="#">final exam date</a>	11:20am