The Crusades
LSHV-355-01
Thursday 6:30-9:30
ICC 208B

Professor Stefan Zimmers
Office: ICC 303
Telephone: 687-6045
Email: zimmerss@georgetown.edu

Course Description

This course will examine the medieval crusading movement from the eleventh through the thirteenth centuries. We will attempt to integrate and understand the crusades from the three traditions directly affected by the movement, that of western Christian Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic Eastern Mediterranean. In addition the course will examine the important consequences on the Jewish communities both in Europe and in the Holy Land.

While tracing the rise and fall of the movement, the course focuses on a variety of themes in this chronological context. We will certainly examine the origins of the crusading movement and what might cause thousands of men, women and even children to leave their established lives and undertake the arduous journey to Jerusalem. In addition, the course will also focus on the role of the Western church, the colonizing activities of the Franks in the Holy Land, the crusading orders and the popular crusading responses and legends, and then growing disillusionment with the crusades.

Since the memory of the medieval crusades remains a touchstone for the modern discourse regarding the Middle East, we will look at a modern understanding of the crusades. The course will look at modern depictions of the Crusades in both film and literature to see how current popular culture understands or misinterprets the historic legacy of these events, including the recent film Kingdom of Heaven and of course the treatment of the crusading orders in modern literature like The Da Vinci Code. More importantly, however, we will examine the legacy of Crusades and how this affects current world events outside of the relatively unimportant aspects of popular culture. This course will help you to understand the importance of this historically defining movement, which in the minds of some is still an ongoing concern.

There will be some reading in the primary sources, an emphasis on the art and architecture of the time, and a concern to examine the cultural clashes and accommodations between the Latin West and the Islamic East.

Course Requirements:
Students will be required to write two papers over the course of the semester. The requirements for these papers will be handed out during the semester. (One paper of 5-7 pages and one longer research paper of 12-15 pages) Students will also be responsible for leading one discussion session. This will require a small amount of extra reading and preparation. Students should be prepared on a daily basis and ready to discuss the assigned texts since class participation is a crucial aspect of the course.
Discussion Sessions

In addition to lectures, the class will feature weekly student-led discussions. The purpose of the discussion sessions is to provide opportunities for students to exchange opinions, interpretations, and ideas about the readings and the topics they address. A good discussion is one where the participants feel that they have learned something new, something that they would not have learned by simply reading the materials on their own. Note - the value of each discussion section ultimately rests on a willingness to come prepared to talk. Thus, all students are expected to do all of the assigned readings. Failure to do so will impair your ability to follow and benefit from the lectures, prevent you from being able to participate in discussion, and diminish the value of the session for those students who are prepared.

Guide for Discussions

You will begin with a brief presentation (approximately 5 minutes) to introduce the reading(s). In particular, this summary should focus on the authors’ theses and the manner in which it was argued/supported. This will be followed by an open discussion led by you. As part of this, you will prepare a list of questions designed to provoke discussion on the readings (they should not be limited solely to assigned materials but should also consider the broader implications/significance of the topics covered in the readings). The questions must be posted in the “Discussion Board” of the class Blackboard site at least 48 hours before class. Students not leading the week’s discussion should also come to class with questions (these do not have to be submitted).

Grading:
Papers (60% of final grade), Discussion (30% of final grade), and Leading a Discussion section (10% of final grade)

Required Texts:
Riley-Smith, Jonathan, *The Crusades: A Short History*
Amin Maalouf, *The Crusades through Arab Eyes*
Joinville and Villehardouin, *Chronicles of the Crusades*
*The Crusades: A Reader*, ed Allen and Amt
Other Readings on Black Board

Syllabus

WEEK ONE
Introduction to Class: Origins of Holy War
Thursday, Sept 3

WEEK TWO
Europe in the 11th Century
Thurs, Sept 10
Readings Allen and Amt, Chapter I  
Riley-Smith, Chapter One  
For the Discussion Leader: Versions of speech of Urban II

**WEEK THREE**  
**The First Crusade**  
Thurs, Sept 17

Riley-Smith, Chapter Two  
Allen and Amt, Chapter II, 12-22  
For the Discussion Leader: Fulcher of Chartres, *A History of the Expedition to Jerusalem*, introduction and Book I up through chapter 29

**WEEK FOUR**  
**The Settlements and New Orders**  
Thurs, Sept 24

Allen and Amt, Chapter III, V 49-50  
Riley Smith, Chapter 3, 4 to page 94  
For the Discussion Leader: Bernard of Clairvaux, ‘In Praise of the New Order’

**WEEK SIX**  
**The Second Crusade**  
Thurs, Oct 1

Amt and Allen, IV, 33-38, V, 54, 55  
Riley-Smith, Chapter 5  
For the Discussion Leader: St Bernard of Clairvaux preaching the second crusade, pp 91-95  
Odo of Deuil, *The Journey of Louis VII to the East*

**WEEK SEVEN**  
Thurs, Oct 8  
**Film: The Kingdom of Heaven**  
Begin reading Maalouf for next week.

**WEEK EIGHT**  
**Through Arab Eyes**  
Thurs, Oct 15  
Maalouf, 1-201

**WEEK NINE**  
**Background to the 3rd Crusade in Europe**  
Thurs, Oct 22
WEEK TEN
The Third Crusade
Thurs, Oct 29

Allen and Amt, IV, 41-42
Villehardouin
Riley Smith, 137-149

WEEK ELEVEN
The Fourth Crusade
Thurs, Nov 5

Riley-Smith, 149-160
Allen and Amt, VI, 56-58
For the Discussion Leader: Robert de Clari, The Conquest of Constantinople

WEEK TWELVE
The Albigensian Crusade and other early 14th c. Crusades
Thurs Nov 12

Riley-smith, 160-182
Allen and Amt, VI, 60-63

WEEK THIRTEEN
The Crusades of St. Louis
Thurs, Nov 19
Riley Smith, 189-195, 207-212,
Joinville

WEEK FOURTEEN
Nov 26 Thanksgiving

WEEK FIFTEEN
The Fall of the Outremer, the end of the Templars
Thurs, Dec 3

Riley-Smith, Chapter 9
Maalouf, 201-260
Honor Code:
MALS and DLS students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor Code Pledge stated below:
In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor; and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Disabilities Statement:
If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.