Instructor: Dr. S. McGrath  
Phone number: Cell (text) (571) 214-2500  
E-mail address: smcgrath@gmu.edu  
Class: Research Hall 202 – Thursdays 4:30-7:10pm  
Office hours: Thursdays 3:00-4:00pm - Robinson B 371B

First Crusade: Godfrey of Bouillon leading his army (13th century, BN MS Fr. 9084, f. 20v)

This class is designed as part lecture and part discussion with emphasis on the interaction between the Christian East, the Muslim World and the Christian West. We will examine primary sources (in translation) and secondary sources that render a wide spectrum of ideologies and scholarship on the crusading movement. Emphasis will be on themes of cultural interaction and transmission, warfare and coexistence between competing societies from Western Europe, Byzantium and the Middle East.

Please take the time to familiarize yourselves with these useful web resources:

* Medieval sourcebook:  
  https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/sbook.asp

* Crusades: A Guide to Online Resources, Section Editor: Paul Crawford:  
  http://the-orb.arlima.net/encyclop/religion/crusades/crusade.html

* De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History:  
  http://deremilitari.org/

* The University of Wisconsin Digital Collections:  
  http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WebZ/BookMark?sessionid=01-34700-1779722944&action=add&next=currentstate

*Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades* by Jonathan Riley-Smith accessed through George Mason Library, Pro-Quest ELibrary:

For select translations of Crusader letters into English from *The Hanover Historical Texts Collection*:
https://history.hanover.edu/project.php#medieval

[If you do not already have a copy of Turabian please make note of the most recent edition: *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing)* by Kate L. Turabian, Wayne G. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams (Paperback – March 28, 2013)]


**Schedule**

**January 24**  
**Introduction and Concepts: The eastern Mediterranean before the 1st Crusade. Holy War in the East and West.**

If you are interested in background reading to better understand the ideas of Holy War and Jihad these are some options:

- George T. Dennis, *Defenders of the Christian People: Holy War in Byzantium* (Blackboard)
January 31  Understanding the Crusader movement and Historiography of the Crusades

- Paul Cobb, *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*, 1-70
- Giles Constable, “Historiography of the Crusades”, in *The Crusades from the Perspective of Byzantium and the Muslim World* (Blackboard)

February 7  1st Crusade

- Paul Cobb, *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*, 70-103
February 14 The Military Orders.

- Helen Nicholson, *Knights of Christ? The Templars, Hospitallers and other military orders in the eyes of their contemporaries, 1128-1291*
- *Military Orders: The Primitive Rule of the Templars (ORB): http://the-orb.arlima.net/encyclop/religion/monastic/t_rule.html*

Christian and Muslim playing chess from *The Book of Games* of Alfonso X, el Sabio, c. 1285. The game of chess originated in India, but was transmitted to Europe by the Islamic world.
February 21 Kingdom of Jerusalem: Cultural Interactions

- Paul Cobb, *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*, 104-123
- Angeliki Laiou, with an Appendix by Cécile Morrisson, “Byzantine Trade with Christians and Muslims and the Crusades” in *The Crusades from the Perspective of Byzantium and the Muslim World* (Blackboard)

February 28 2nd Crusade

- Jonathan Riley-Smith, 138-161
- Paul Cobb, *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*, 124-196
- Pope Eugenius, *Call for Second Crusade*: [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/eugene3-2cde.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/eugene3-2cde.html)
March 7  Meet with Dr. George Oberle (History Librarian - Research Services) in 1014A Fenwick Library at 4:30 pm for introduction to Library and Zotero. After meeting your assignment is to do research in the physical library for bibliography suitable to your final essay topic and begin compiling your bibliography that will be due on April 11. You may work in small groups or on your own.

Topics for final paper due – please email a one paragraph description of your topic of interest for approval by the instructor by the end of the day

March 14  Spring Break

March 21  3rd Crusade
  • Jonathan Riley-Smith, 163-175
  • Paul Cobb, The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades, 196-204

March 28  Literary Outlooks and Cultural Perceptions
  • Elizabeth Jeffreys and Michael Jeffreys, “The ‘Wild Beast from the West’: Immediate Literary Reactions in Byzantium to the Second Crusade”
April 4

4th Crusade

- Jonathan Riley-Smith, 173-186
- Paul Cobb, *The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades*, 204-206

April 11

Crusades in Europe – The Albigensian Crusade, The Children’s Crusade

Bibliographic Essay Due

- Jonathan Riley-Smith, 188-201
- "The Albigensian Crusade, 1209–1229." In *Crusade and Christendom: Annotated Documents in Translation from Innocent III to the Fall of Acre, 1187-1291*, edited by Bird Jessalynn, Peters Edward, and Powell James M.,
April 18  Fifth/Sixth Crusades

- Jonathan Riley-Smith, 197-207
- Paul Cobb, The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades, 207-265
April 25  The Crusades of St. Louis
- Jonathan Riley-Smith, 216-223, 234-241

May 2  Varieties of Crusading and the Decline of the Crusading Movement.
- Jonathan Riley-Smith, 275-344
- Paul Cobb, The Race for Paradise: An Islamic History of the Crusades, 265-279

May 9  Final Papers Due

In addition for the assigned electronic readings please acquire a copy of:

Assignments and Grades

- **Participation in class discussion counts for 20% of the grade.** Students are expected to arrive in class having prepared the assigned readings and ready for discussion.

- **Bibliographic essay** – Each student must prepare a 4-5 page bibliographic essay on the topic of his/her final paper. This essay is due on April 11 [20% of your final grade]. It must identify the topic of the final essay and the primary materials and secondary scholarship that is relevant to the discussion in the form of an annotated bibliography.

- **Oral Presentations** – Each student must present one oral presentation based on themes from class meetings during the semester. Class presentations must be done individually and should include visual and/or auditory materials. Each presentation should be approximately 10-15 minutes and should **expand discussion on themes from that week’s readings**. Each student will turn in the subsequent week a 5-7 page research essay highlighting the main points of the presentation. Topics will be discussed at the first class meeting. [The paper and presentation will each count for 15% of your grade – a total of 30%]

- **The Final paper will be a research essay due no later than May 9.** The papers should be approximately 13-15 pages in length, double spaced, with footnotes/endnotes and bibliography. [30% of your total grade].

- **Class participation constitutes a significant part of your grade.** If you cannot attend class you must notify the instructor in advance, if possible, and make every effort to keep up with the work of each week’s reading assignments.