

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: History

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: The Crusades: War, Religion and Ideology

Course Code: HST 5415

Course Leader: Professor Alex Seago

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course addresses evidence for crusader motivation and experience through sources relating to crusading activity in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa from the Early Middle Ages to the Modern Era. The students will seek to understand how crusaders saw themselves and their enemies, their experiences and activity on crusade and as settlers, and how this horrifying yet enduringly fascinating process has been interpreted historically. It also aims to show how the crusading theology that started the religious conflict between Europe and the Middle East evolved over time and developed into a mutual antagonism and fascination that exist to this day.

Note: Visits require some travel and entrance costs.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: None.

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this course is to show how the Crusades from their original creation have shaped and transformed the relations between the West and the Middle East through history. The students will explore chronologically how the rise of Islam and the crusades developed and produced a series of conflicts that have shaped the relations between both cultural constructs. The student will also explore the historiographical debates that continue to exist over the definition of the 'Crusades'.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

5A(i); 5A(ii); 5B(i); 5B(ii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Analyzes primary and secondary materials in order to formulate questions and conceive a critical understanding of the idea of the Crusades as it has been interpreted throughout history
- Demonstrates the accumulation of a detailed body of historical knowledge regarding the crusades
- To acquire and develop historiographical skills through the study of the crusades
- To present research orally in a convincing and accessible manner.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Historiography of the Crusades
- Primary Sources on Crusades
- History of the Crusades in the East and West
- Transformation of Warfare and Ideology
- Impact of the Crusades in the Modern World
- Transformation of the theological argument for Crusades

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning. The course also makes use of class visits, and there will be some travel and entrance cost requirements. Students are expected to use these class visits as an opportunity to apply concepts and ideas developed in lectures, as well as to collect further information and impressions to provide a basis for subsequent class discussion.

Bibliography:

