

CU/AH/HS 480 THE MEDIEVAL MINDSET
IES Abroad Freiburg

DESCRIPTION:

Analysis of chosen texts and pictures of European history from the late ancient world up to the 16th century. Visits to libraries and archives and field studies. The course material will be divided into different realms: Space and environment, social life, spirituality, relationship of the sexes, outsiders and conflicts. The content of the field trips will be prepared and planned by the students and the instructor together.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

PREREQUISITES: European history survey

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Exercises in art description and interpretations
- Text analyses
- Class discussions
- Oral and written presentations
- Visits to museums and exhibitions
- Group work
- Written work

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Students are required to write one short piece of ca. 2-3 pages and a research paper making some use of local/regional sites and materials (ca. 10 pages). Students will receive training in the use of such resources and in writing a formal piece of original research (NB. The University Library offers all necessary resources, as do the libraries of the various faculties. Many of these resources are available in English, and all of them are freely disposable to the students). The students will write two drafts before the final version, to be discussed in workshops. Abstracts, bibliographies and an oral presentation of the paper's argument will be given to the class during the seminar. (60 %).
- Participation in class and workshops is required. Field trips are part of the course; Day trips will take place outside of scheduled classed times. (40 %)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Analyse historical text and possess library/archive research skills necessary for historical research
- Have in depth knowledge of how people lived in Medieval Europe and which links exist between contemporary times and the medieval world

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance Policy

IES Abroad courses are designed to utilize the unique contribution of the instructor; the lecture/discussion format is regarded as the **primary mode of instruction**. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade. Deductions from grades due to absences are based on sessions (= 90 minutes). Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade (1 absence - 1%, 2nd absence -2%, 3rd absence – 3%).

Any student who has more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an "F" as the final grade in the course. Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an "F" as the final grade in the course. Students in the LAS program can excuse themselves once per course - to do so, they must notify the instructor and the Academic Dean in writing by e-mail before the start of the session. Any further excused absences must be excused by IES.



If you miss a class, it is **your responsibility** to make up on everything that was covered in class. Tests/presentations missed during unexcused absences **cannot be made up**.

Arriving late for class: Punctuality is important for the planned course schedule. If you are late for class, the late time will be recorded and added up at the end of the course. You will receive a grade reduction based on the accumulated amount of missing contact hours, according to the rule above (i.e., if you were late by 15 minutes for 6 sessions, your grade would be reduced by 1%).

LATE OR FAILURE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Late submission of assignments or failure of submission of assignment results in the grade F of that particular assignment. This does not apply to late or non-submission due to illness with an excused absence.

Excused absence: Please call the IES Center before the start of your first class if you are ill and would like to be excused from your course, as outlined in the "Cell Phone and Attendance Policy" handed out during orientation. Student Affairs staff will decide whether your absence can be excused directly or whether a doctor's note is necessary. Absences due to religious observances and family emergencies may be excused at the discretion of the Center Director, with written approval. A petition for an excused absence due to a religious holiday needs to be submitted 2 weeks in advance. If permission is granted, the student needs to inform the Academic Dean, the Student Affairs Team and their instructors. Absences due to private travel or travel delays cannot be excused, even with advanced notice

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Code of Academic Integrity. The detailed IES Abroad academic integrity code can be accessed on Moodle.

All work submitted by a student for academic credit should constitute the student's own original work. Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and/or an academic review and possible expulsion from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as "copying of materials from sources, without acknowledging having done so, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, buying materials such as essays/exams, and using AI-generated content without disclosure."

As AI tools continue to evolve, learning how to use them responsibly is an important emerging skill. Some of our courses allow students to explore the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools such as ChatGPT for some assignments and assessments. The instructor of each course will communicate whether GAI may be used in a course and provide specific guidelines and procedures for its appropriate use.

Updated information on your course and readings, including additional readings from journalistic articles, can be found on the Moodle platform at <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/login/index.php>

CONTENT:

The course examines the question of how people lived in Medieval Europe and how they experienced themselves and their environment. How did they orientate themselves in time and space, and which cultural forms of expression did they create for themselves? Finally: which links exist between the present world and the medieval world? The historic scenery in the area of the upper Rhine, Lake Constance, the Black Forest and the Alps offers various and very real opportunities of visualizing the meaning of these questions. They are a documentation of the medieval roots of European culture.

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	Time and Space Religious, historical and mathematical chronology, the "Reich", its structures and inhabitants. Introduction to the research library of the Historisches Seminar.	

Week 2	Natural Resources and Settlements The Breisgau in late antique and early medieval times (4th - 10th century). Peasant life and rural conditions. History of medieval Freiburg and its Münster. > Course-related trip to the Archäologisches Museum Colombi-Schlößchen	Paper 1 due (summary)
Week 3	European Culture in the Early Middle Ages. The monastic centres Life in a monastery, the Benedictine Order, Books and bookmen. Study of medieval manuscripts in the Manuscript and Rare Books Department of the Stadtarchiv Freiburg. The manuscripts range over a period of more than five centuries (9 th - 15 th century).	
Week 4	Economic Expansion and Innovation since the Year 1000 The Cistercians and technical progress. Mining in the German Empire, particularly in the Black Forest Region. Silver as basis of the monetary system and as the economic condition for the growth of Freiburg. Course-related trip to the Collection of Coins and Metals at the Augustiner Museum.	Presentation of Paper 1

Week 5	The Age of Reform in the High Middle Ages (Time of the 'Investiture Contest'). New Centres of Religious Life and the 'Birth of the Nobility' The rise of the high nobility in south western Germany during the 11th/12th centuries: the dynasties of the Staufer, Welfen, Zähringer (founders of Freiburg im Breisgau) and Habsburg. Castles, daily life and representation. Cloisters as dynastic burial-places. Course-related trip: on the leads of the Zähringer and the Habsburger in Freiburg	
Week 6	The Flowering Knighthood Tournaments and Minstrels. Ideology and reality of high medieval court life. Additional: listening to audiodocuments (minstrel songs).	
Week 7	The Medieval Town Legal privileges and constitution; social life and welfare; gender relations; epidemics Course-related trip: Museum of Town history, study of the town models of Freiburg in the Middle Ages	
Week 8	Religious life, Mysticism, Magic and Heresies in the Medieval Town The mendicant orders in the cities of the upper rhine region; the movement of the 'Beguines'; messianic ideals and heresies; forms of superstition and witch-hunt. > Course-related trip: Augustiner Museum	Draft 2 due
Week 9	Intellectual Life and Late Medieval Culture The Growing of the University Study of the oldest articles of student's association in Freiburg (15th century; combined text-image-manuscript in the Universitätsbibliothek Freiburg).	
Week 10	Inventions and printing The change of the medieval world. Catastrophes and inventions (the "black death" and medicine). The development of the printing press with moveable metal type and its consequences.	
Week 11	Piety and reformation	

	Piety in the late Middle Ages and the way to Reformation. The way to a new world, times of change. The discovery of America.	
Week 12	Conclusion and Presentation of Papers	Paper 2 due

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

Variety of possible fieldtrips, depending on students' interest and schedule

- Freiburg: Cathedral/Glass Paintings; and Chorus
- Freiburg: Museum für Ur- und Frühgeschichte im Colombi-Schlößchen
- Freiburg: Uniseum (history of the University)
- Freiburg: Stadtarchiv (Freiburg in old documents)
- Freiburg: Augustiner Museum, Museum für Stadtgeschichte

Day trip:

→Alpirsbach (Black Forest): Cloister of the Benedictines from the 11. century. Guided tour about the history of the cloister and about brewing beer in the Middle Ages. Afterwards: Snack with Alpirsbacher beer and bread.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Borst, Arno. Lebensformen im Mittelalter. Berlin: Ullstein, 1997.
- LeGoff, Jacques. Kultur des europäischen Mittelalters. München: Knauer, 1970.
- Hartmann, Martina. Mittelalterliche Geschichte studieren. Stuttgart: UTB, 2007.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Eco, Umberto. Der Name der Rose. München: Hanser, 1982 (novel).
- Adler, Israel et al. (eds.). Herrscher und Heilige. Europäisches Mittelalter und die Begegnung von Orient und Okzident. Leipzig and Mannheim: Brockhaus, 1997.
- Kalchthaler, Peter. Kleine Freiburger Stadtgeschichte. Regensburg: Friedrich Pustet, 2006. Trescher, Stephan (2003) Schnellkurs Kunst der Gegenwart. Köln: DuMont.
- Ulrich, Ferdinand (Hg.) (1996). Kunst des Westens. Deutsche Kunst 1945-1960. Cologne: Wienand Verlag.
- Wagner, Monika (2001) Das Material der Kunst. Eine andere Geschichte der Moderne. München: C.H. Beck.
- Zimmermann, Rainer (1980) Die Kunst der verschollenen Generation. Deutsche Malerei des expressiven Realismus von 1925-1975. Düsseldorf, Wien: Econ.
- Zuschlag, Christoph (1995) Entartete Kunst – Ausstellungsstrategien im Nazi-Deutschland. Worms: Hirmer.