

RELGH260. Getting Medieval: Tolerance, Persecution, and Religious Violence

Professor Travis Zadeh

E-mail: tzadeh@harverford.edu

Class Meeting: TTTh 2:30-4:00

Class location: Chase 101

Office: 206 Link INSC

Office Hours: Wed. 4-5:30pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course explores literary and philosophical exchanges, alongside religious violence and persecution, amongst Jews, Christians, and Muslims in late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Attention to methodological questions concerning the study of violence and religious identity will help address the challenges of applying modern notions of multiculturalism / fundamentalism to pre-modern religious expressions. Through an exploration into the historical interplay between Abrahamic traditions in the contexts of Europe and the Mediterranean basin, we will cover such topics as: cultural and literary exchanges; translation movements; theology and philosophy; martyrdom and pilgrimage; Holy war; the Inquisition and formations of orthodoxy / heterodoxy; and religious persecution and intolerance. Primary sources will be drawn from visual and textual material.



Course Design

In addition to lectures, this course serves as a forum to discuss issues raised by the material. Participation consists not only of attendance and completing the required readings, but also active involvement in discussion. There are weekly written responses to the readings (1-2 paragraphs), to be posted on Blackboard and to be due each Wednesday by 10pm. Throughout the semester films will be screened which will serve as examples of how the concept of the 'medieval' is treated in the modern imagination. Students will be responsible for two film response papers (4-5 pages), from the films shown through the semester, and two book reviews (4-5 pages), to be chosen from the texts purchased for the class. Additionally, there will be a mid-term and final exam.

Grading

Class Participation	10%	Book Reviews		15%
Blackboard Responses	20%	Midterm Exam	(11/2)	15%
Film Responses	15%	Final Exam	(12/14)	25%

Texts for Purchase

P. Geary, <i>Furta Sacra</i>	Week 5
D. Gutas, <i>Greek Thought, Arabic Culture</i>	Week 6
R. Moore, <i>The Formation of a Persecuting Society</i>	Week 10
C. W. Bynum, <i>Wonderful Blood</i>	Week 11
Francisco Núñez Muley, <i>Memorandum</i>	Week 13

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus are to be found on Blackboard.

Film Schedule

<i>Destiny</i> , Y. Chahine	10/20
<i>The Kingdom of Heaven</i> , R. Scott	11/3
<i>The Name of the Rose</i> , J. Annaud	11/10

Course Outline

Unit One: Methodologies

Week 1: Getting Medieval...

- 9/1 Medievalisms, teleologies and the modern state
- 9/3 'The Medieval' in the popular imagination and the *Torture Memos*
G. Spiegel, "Getting Medieval: History and the Torture Memos," pp. 3-6.*
Jay Bybee, "Memorandum for John Rizzo," pp. 1-18.*
C.I.A. *Special Review of the Inspector General*, May 2004, pp. 16-79.*

Week 2: Violence and the 'Primitive'

- 9/8 The Spectacle of Violence
M. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 3-16.*
R. Girard, *Violence and the Sacred*, pp. 1-67.*
- 9/10 A Jealous God
R. Schwartz, *The Curse of Cain*, pp. 1-76.*

Unit Two: Categories

Week 3: Martyrdom

- 9/15 Whence Martyrdom?
4 Maccabees, 3.20-18.24*
D. Boyarin, *Dying for God*, pp. 91-130.*
- 9/17 Christian and Muslim Martyrdoms
Gregory of Tours (d. 594), "Books 1 and 2," *The History of the Franks*, pp. 63-158, with particular attention to 1.20-48, 2.10, 23, 25-43.*
Tha'labī (d. 1035), "The Story of Jirjīs," *Lives of the Prophets*, pp. 750-60.*
'Aṭṭār (d. 1221) "Ḥallāj," *Memorial of God's Friends*, pp. 394-407.*

Week 4: Militancy and Conquest

- 9/22 Violence and Community
Deuteronomy 20-21.18*
T. Sizgorich, *Violence and Belief in Late Antiquity*, pp. 21-80.*
- 9/24 The Arab Conquests

- Ṭabarī (d. 923), *Ta'riḫ*, "The Missions to Foreign Rulers," pp. 98-115; "The Conquest of Jerusalem," pp. 189-207.*
- Balādhurī (d. 892), "The Battle of Yarmūk," *Futūḥ al-Buldān*, pp. 207-12; "Conquest of al-Sind," pp. 215-223.*
- T. Sizgorich, *Violence and Belief in Late Antiquity*, pp. 144-95.*

Week 5: Holy Bodies

- 9/29 Sacred Space / Bodies
Benjamin of Tudela (fl. 1163), *Itinerary*, pp. 75-105.*
Ibn Jubayr (fl. 1185), "Journey to Mecca," in *Thousand Roads to Mecca*, pp. xiii-xxvii, pp. 33-50.*
P. Geary, *Furta Sacra*, pp. 3-86.
- 10/1 Competing Relics
P. Geary, *Furta Sacra*, pp. 87-148.
T. Zadeh "Charisma and Political Legitimacy," pp. 321-46.*

Unit Three: Under the Influence

Week 6: Translation Movements

- 10/6 'Abbāsīd Contexts of Translation
Ibn al-Nadīm (fl. 970), "Accounts of the Philosophers," *The Index*, pp. 571-630.*
D. Gutas, *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture*, pp. 1-60.
- 10/8 Patronage and Prestige
D. Gutas, *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture*, pp. 61-104.
L.P. Harvey, "The Alfonsine School of Translators," pp. 109-117.*

****Fall Break****

Week 7: Philosophies

- 10/20 Knowledge and Nations
Ṣā'id al-Andalusī (d. 1070), *Categories of Nations*, pp. 3-82.*
- 10/22 God and Human Reason
Ibn Rushd (d. 1198), *Faith and Reason*, pp. 17-77.*

****Film: Destiny — 10/20, 7:30pm****

Week 8: Exchanges and Representations

10/27 The Marvelous Other

al-Muqaddasī (fl. 980), *The Best Division of Knowledge*, pp. 1-8, 41-43, 293-5 *

Ibn al-Nadīm, *On Indian Religions*, Index, pp. 826-42.*

10/29 Adventures

Marco Polo, *The Travels*, pp. 33-73, 113-62, 260-94.*

J. Le Goff, "The Marvelous in the Medieval West," pp. 27-43.*

****11/2 MidTerm****

Unit Four: Persecuting Societies

Week 9: Holy War

11/3 The Crusades

Urban II (d. 1108), "Call for a Crusade," pp. 39-47.*

Bernard of Clairvaux (d. 1153), "Letter Calling for the Second Crusade," pp. 134-138.*

Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The First Crusade and the Idea of Crusading*, pp. 1-57; 135-55.*

11/5 Muslim Perspectives

Arab Historians of the Crusades, pp. 10-12; 87-113.*

Usama b. Munqidh (d. 1188), *I'tibār* pp. 93-100; 122-6; 159-70.*

****Film: The Kingdom of Heaven — 11/3, 7:30pm****

Week 10: Heretics and Sinners

11/10 Models of Heresy

Shahrastānī (d. 1153), *On Sects*, pp. 8-34.*

R. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society*, pp. 1-61.

11/12 Eschatology

Dante (d. 1321), *Inferno* (Cantos 1-4, 9-11, 28), pp. 67-108, 147-75, 325-34*

R. Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society*, pp. 94-116, 144-71.

****Film: The Name of the Rose — 11/10, 7:30pm****

Week 11: Persecuting Jews and Venerating Blood

11/17 Pogroms and Massacres

D. Nirenberg, *Communities of Violence*, pp. 3-17.*

C. W. Bynum, *Wonderful Blood*, pp. 1-81.

11/19 Cults of Blood

C. W. Bynum, *Wonderful Blood*, pp. 85-111, 195-258.*

Unit Four: 1492 and Beyond

Week 12: The Inquisition

11/24 Institutional Formations

The Spanish Inquisition, 1478-1614: an anthology of sources (selections).*

Henry Kamen, "Inventing the Inquisition," *The Spanish Inquisition*, pp. 305-320.*

11/26 ****Thanksgiving Break****

Week 13: The Moriscos

12/1 Forced Assimilation

Francisco Núñez Muley (d. 1570), *Memorandum*, pp. 55-99; read over the introduction, pp. 1-54, and appendix, pp. 103-119.

12/3 Prophecy, Translation, and Subversion

A. Harris, *From Muslim to Christian Granada*, pp. 1-46.*

L.P. Harvey, *Muslims in Spain*, pp. 291-332, 382-99.*

Week 14: New Worlds

12/8 'Savages' and 'Conquerors'

S. Greenblatt, *Marvelous Possessions*, pp. 1-25.*

D. Carrasco, *City of Sacrifice*, pp. 1-14, 140-87.*

12/10 The Go-between

S. Greenblatt, *Marvelous Possessions*, pp. 119-151.*

****12/14 Final Exam Due****