

# The Middle Ages (MIDA) CTY Course Syllabus

## Texts

- *Middle Ages: An Illustrated History* by Barbara Hanawalt
- *Beowulf* Translated by Burton Raffel
- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver* by E. L. Konigsburg

## Optional Activities

Time line – have list on the wall, whenever a student finishes early, they can work on it. Have each student write a summary **first**, approve it, and then they may draw illustration. This is part of an ongoing project that builds along the wall as the course progresses. Students select major ideas, people, events, etc from what was covered in class. They write a short paragraph explaining its significance and then create an illustration. Make sure that you include the date. They are then posted in chronological order around the room.

Chronicle – have the students keep a chronicle like a medieval monk/nun. Have a handout with all the important dates then the students may write a description of the event to explain its significance. This is ongoing; whenever they get done with their work, they can make updates to their chronicle. Since the textbook jumps from subject to subject, this underlines what events were happening contemporaneously.

## Before Students Arrive:

Make posters: PERSIA, Map of Europe, Medieval Blender (Roman, Christian, and Germanic cultures)

## Syllabus:

### Opening Day – have roster, pencils, and paper

Top Ten list of things that are most important to know about the Middle Ages (keep to give to students on last day)

“The mighty storm was swiftly approaching, but Europeans were not only unaware of it; they were convinced that such a phenomenon could not exist. Shackled in ignorance, disciplined by fear, and sheathed in superstition, they trudged into the sixteenth century in the clumsy, hunched, pigeon-toed

gait of rickets victims, their vacant faces, pocked by smallpox, turned blindly toward the future they thought they knew – gullible, pitiful innocents who were about to be swept up in the most powerful, incomprehensible, irresistible vortex since Alaric had led his Visigoths and Huns across the Alps, fallen on Rome and extinguished the lamps of learning a thousand years before.”

- William Manchester *A World Lit Only by Fire – The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance*

What does the above quote indicate about how people view the Middle Ages? Why do some call them “the Dark Ages” or “one thousand years without a bath?”

### **Day One – Introduction and the Roman Empire**

- Question Box – anything that you want to know, but that isn’t relevant to the topic at hand, put it in the box
- Pre-Assessment
- Introduction to the Middle Ages
- P.E.R.S.I.A. (Political, Economic, Religious, Social, Intellectual, Artistic/Cultural elements of history)
- Medieval society is the blending of Roman, Christian, and Germanic cultures – look to see what is taken from each.
- The Late Roman Empire
  - [Hanawalt: pgs 10-13]
  - The calamitous 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries
  - Diocletian and Constantine
  - What gets passed on to the Middle Ages?
- The Early Church [Hanawalt: pgs 13-19]
  - Constantine and the Edict of Milan
  - Council of Nicaea, etc
  - Arian Heresy
  - Church Fathers: Ambrose, Augustine, & Jerome

- Women in the Church
- Classical Heritage
- Mind maps – What did we learn today?
- Optional Reading Assignments:
  - Constantine’s Conversion
  - Augustine’s Conversion
  - Physical timeline
- Journal

## **Day Two – The Germanic Invasions**

- *Germania* by Tacitus
  - Kin and Comitatus
  - Wergeld
- Germanic Migrations handout
  - “Barbarian” vs. “German”
  - The Huns
  - Galla Placidia
  - [Hanawalt: pgs 22-23, 25-26]
- *Beowulf*
  - Anglo-Saxon poetry
  - Read Preface through chapter 10.
  - Make a wanted poster for Grendel
- Causes for the Decline of the Empire: Political, Economic, Military
- “Dear Diary” write about the “Barbarian Invasions” from the point of view of a citizen of the Roman Empire or a member of a Germanic tribe

- Conversion of Clovis [Hanawalt: pgs 26-27]
  - Biography of Clotilda
- Theodoric [Hanawalt: pgs 27-29]
  - Odovacer
  - Diary entry from the point of view of Theodoric
  - Boethius and Cassiodorus
- Mind maps
- Journal

### **Day Three**

- Church architecture –St. Peter’s Basilica.
- Theories of Papal Supremacy [Hanawalt: pgs 29-31]
- St. Patrick and the Conversion of Ireland [Hanawalt: pgs 30, 32-33]
  - “How the Irish Saved Civilization” and the Synod of Whitby, Book of Kells, and Irish Monasticism
- Monasteries – Regular vs. Secular clergy [Hanawalt: pgs 30-31]
  - St. Anthony – Egypt
  - St. Daniel the Stylite
  - St. Benedict – communities of monks
  - Monastic Schedule
  - Oblate
- *Beowulf* Chapters 11-20
  - Students write the story from Grendel’s point of view in epic poetry
- Gregory the Great – [Hanawalt: pgs 31-32]
- Invasions of England: Angles, Saxons, and Jutes

- Offa's Dyke
- Sutton Hoo burial mound [Hanawalt: pg 21] and slides
- St. Augustine and the conversion of the British Isles
  - Augustine in Canterbury
  - Northumbrian Renaissance – The Venerable Bede and *The Ecclesiastical History*. Jarrow Monastery
  - Book of Kells
  - Biography on Hilda, Abbess of Whitby
- Justinian: the last of the Roman Emperors [Hanawalt: pgs 33-36]
  - Nika Revolts
  - Theodora
  - *Corpus Juris Civilis*
  - Hagia Sofia – slideshow of church and Byzantine influence on Ravenna
  - Reunification of the Empire
  - Plague, Internal Dissent, External Threats (Persians, Slavs, Avars, Bulgars)
- Mind maps – How dark were these “Dark Ages” in reality?
- Journal
- Optional:
  - Memorial Chapel – architecture and iconography.
  - Read from the Rule of St. Benedict.
  - Tour Stanford to see how CTY is like a monastery.
  - Draw your own monastery.

## Day Four – The Three Heirs of Rome

- Rise of Islam – guest lecture [Hanawalt: pgs 36-37, 50-53]  
Charlemagne [Hanawalt: pgs 39-44]
  - The Carolingian Renaissance
  - Itinerate Monarchies and the Missi Dominici
  - Slideshow of Aachen
- Social History [Hanawalt: pgs 44-47]
  - Peasant life in Carolingian Europe
- Post Charlemagne [Hanawalt: pgs 47-49]
  - Louis the Pious
  - The Treaty of Verdun
- The Byzantine Empire
  - Conflict between the Patriarchs and the Popes
  - Successors to Justinian:
    - Empire, Contraction, Reorganization [Hanawalt: pgs 49-50]
  - Eastern Roman Empire vs. Byzantine Empire: What's the difference?
  - Venn Diagrams: Three Heirs of the Roman Empire – who preserves what?
- Mind maps
- Journal
- Optional:
  - *Beowulf* – Beowulf fights Grendel's mother. Chapters 20-31
  - Iconoclasm: Strained relations between Byzantium and the Popes
    - Emperor Leo III (r. 717-741) iconoclast vs. Pope Gregory II (r. 715-731)

- Emperor Constantine V (r. 741-775) iconoclast vs. Pope Gregory III (r. 731-741)
- Empress Irene (r. 780-802) iconodule

### **Day Five – Vikings, and Magyars, and Muslims**

- Vikings [Hanawalt: pgs 55-58]
- Muslim pirates in the western Mediterranean and attacks on Byzantium
- Magyars
- Early English History – Alfred the Great and the Danelaw [Hanawalt: pgs 57-58]
- Essay: What is the most important event, idea, person, etc. from 500-1000 C.E.?
- Mind maps
- Journal
- Optional:
  - Beowulf – Beowulf’s Death. Chapters 31-end. Students act out the final battle with the dragon.

### **Day Six – Feudalism and Manorialism – 1066 and all that**

- Year 1000 AD
- Motte and Bailey Castles – [Hanawalt: pg 59]
- Feudalism [Hanawalt: pgs 59-62]
- Song of Roland [Hanawalt: pg 62]
- Manorialism and the life of a peasant [Hanawalt: pgs 63-66]
- Early Agricultural Revolution [Hanawalt: pgs 65-66]
- Norman Invasion [Hanawalt: pgs 66-68]
  - Bayeux Tapestry as propaganda
  - Domesday Book
- Women [Hanawalt: pgs 62-63]

- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*
- Ottonian Germany. [Hanawalt: pgs 68-69]
- Cluniac Reform Movement. [Hanawalt: pgs 71-72]
- Romanesque Architecture. [Hanawalt: pgs 72-73]
  - Slide show on architectural solutions
- Mind maps
- Journal

### **Day Seven**

- Reform of the Church [Hanawalt: pgs 73-74]
  - Gregory the Great
  - Leo III
  - Emperor Henry III
  - Investiture Controversy [Hanawalt: pgs 74-76]
    - Gregory VII vs. Emperor Henry IV
    - Canossa
    - Concordat of Worms - 1122
  - Peace of God and the Truce of God [Hanawalt: pg 62]
- Rise of Towns
  - [Hanawalt: pg 76]
- Expansion into Eastern Lands
  - [Hanawalt: pgs 76-77]
- Expansion into Sicily and the Reconquista
  - [Hanawalt: pgs 77-78]
  - Cappella Palatine -1132

- Schism with the Eastern Orthodox Church – 1054 [Hanawalt: pg 79]
- The First Crusade
  - [Hanawalt: pgs 78-82]
  - Indulgences and anti-Semitism (the first victims were Jews living in Germany)
  - Urban II’s speech
  - The People’s Crusade and Peter the Hermit
  - Constantinople and the West
  - Fall of Jerusalem: Harwadi’s speech vs. William of Tyre
  - Impact – political and cultural
- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*
- Mind maps
- Journal:

### **Day Eight**

- Chivalry [Hanawalt: pg 82]
  - Eleanor of Aquitaine [Hanawalt: pgs 83-84]
  - Jousts, tournaments, melées [Hanawalt: pgs 86-87]
- Courtly Love: *Chanson de Roland*, Troubadour Poetry, Arthurian Legends [Hanawalt: pgs 84-85]
  - Andreas Capellanus
    - “What the effect of love is”
    - “A man of the higher nobility speaks with a woman of the simpler nobility”
  - William of Aquitaine
  - There are three “matters” (subjects) for the chansons:
    - France (and the Crusades)

- Britain (King Arthur)
  - Rome (Classical Antiquity: Trojan War, Alexander the Great, Caesar, etc)
- The Song of Roland:
  - Stanza 131
  - Stanza 176
- Chansons de Geste (action, loyalty to the king)
- Troubadour Poetry (chivalry, love, loyalty to lady)
- Romances (conflicted loyalties)
  - See biography of William the Marshall [Hanawalt: pg 89]
- Historical origins of Arthur
  - Geoffrey of Monmouth (c 1100 – c 1155)
  - Chrétien de Troyes (late 12<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Thomas Malory (1405-1471)
- The Rise of the Cistercians and St. Bernard of Clairvaux [Hanawalt: pgs 85-86]
- Second Crusade
- Castles [Hanawalt: pgs 93-96]
  - Defense, Residential, and Psychological Aspects
  - Design your own castle. Make sure that you have **graph paper** for the students.
- Heraldry
  - Design your own coats of arms
- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*
- Mind maps
- Journal
- Optional: Macaulay video of “Castle”

## Day Nine

- Cult of Mary [Hanawalt: pg 86]
- Peter Abelard and the Rise of Universities [Hanawalt: pgs 87-88]
  - *Sic et Non* – reconciling contradictions
  - Paris --the Latin Quarter
- Early Gothic Architecture [Hanawalt: pgs 91-93]
  - St. Denis, Notre Dame (Chartres), Notre Dame (Paris), Sainte Chapelle (Paris)
  - Beauvais and the imperfect understanding of architectural forces
  - Regional variations.
  - Stained Glass
- Dynastic Marriages: women as power brokers or pawns? [Hanawalt: pg 96-97]
- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*
- Case Study: England
  - William II
  - Henry I [Hanawalt: pgs 97-98]
  - Stephen and Matilda [Hanawalt: pg 98]
  - Henry II [Hanawalt: pgs 98-100]
    - The Trans-Channel Angevin Empire
  - Becket [Hanawalt: pgs 99-100]
    - As Chancellor
    - As Archbishop
      - Benefit of the Clergy
    - Murder in the Cathedral
    - The Shrine of Becket

- Mind maps
- Journal
- Optional: Macaulay’s “Cathedral” video

## Day Ten

- Richard the Lion-Heart
  - Third Crusade [Hanawalt: pgs 100-101]
  - Robin Hood – See Michel Woods article.
  - Eleanor of Aquitaine’s letter to Pope Celestine
- Philip Augustus [Hanawalt: pg 102]
  - Conflict with John of England)
  - Territorial acquisitions
  - Battle of Bouvines 1214
  - Administrative reforms – *Baillis*
- The Holy Roman Empire [Hanawalt: pgs 101-102]
  - Frederick Barbarosa
    - Expansion into Burgundy
    - Expansion into Northern Italy
  - Henry IV
    - Expansion into Naples and Sicily
- John [Hanawalt: pgs 103-104]
  - Magna Carta
- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*
- Journal: Write a letter from King John to a modern historian trying to rehabilitate his reputation.

- Optional:
- “The Lion in Winter” video
  - Castle life
  - Plotting and scheming
  - Do Henry and Eleanor love each other?

### **Day Eleven**

- Fourth Crusade [Hanawalt: pg 107]
- Innocent III and the Apex of the Papal Monarchy [Hanawalt: pgs 102-103, 104-105]
  - Fourth Lateran Council (1215)
- Notions of Justice [Hanawalt: pgs 105-106]
  - Ordeals
  - Inquisition
- The Albigensian Heresy [Hanawalt: pgs 106-107]
  - The Albigensian Crusade
  - Waldensians
- Franciscans and Dominicans [Hanawalt: pgs 107-109]
- Finish *A Proud Taste of Scarlet and Miniver*
- Mind maps
- Journal: What would a page from the diary of Innocent III look like? What are his concerns? His plans?

### **Day Twelve**

- The medieval sense of community [Hanawalt: pgs 111-112]
- Life in the Towns and the Rise of Trade [Hanawalt: pgs 118-120]
  - Town Government and the Guilds

- Women
  - Roles
  - Christine de Pisan [Hanawalt: pg 140]
    - Compare Pisan vs. Goodman of Paris
  - Eve vs. Mary: two archetypes for medieval women.
- Debate: Should Eleanor of Aquitaine be allowed into heaven?
  - May utilize any source we have from the class (*Scarlet and Miniver*, “Lion in Winter,” or Hanawalt)
- Education and the 12<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance [Hanawalt: pg 112-118]
  - Universities [Hanawalt: pgs 112-117]
    - Guilds (*universitas*) of students or teachers
    - Town vs. gown problems
    - Thomas Aquinas and scholasticism
  - General Education [Hanawalt: pg 117]
  - Women and education [Hanawalt: pgs 117-118]
    - Hildegard of Bingen [Hanawalt: pg 117]
  - Medicine [Hanawalt: pg 117]
- Village Life [Hanawalt: pg 120-121]
- English history after John [Hanawalt: pgs 121-123]
  - Simon de Montfort’s Parliament
  - Edward I
  - Edward II
  - Edward III
- Late Gothic Architecture:

- Sainte Chapelle in Paris
- Lady Chapel at Westminster Abbey
- King's College Chapel at Cambridge
- Mind maps
- Journal
- Optional: Medieval Lives DVD – The Peasant

### **Day Thirteen**

- Successors to Charlemagne: France and Germany in the High Middle Ages
  - France [Hanawalt: pgs 123-124]
    - St. Louis and the Crusades
    - Blanche of
    - Philip the Fair
  - Frederick II [Hanawalt: pgs 124-125]
  - The Sicilian Vespers [Hanawalt: pg 125]
- 1212 Children's Crusade
- Fifth Crusade 1217-1221, later Crusades, and the military orders
- Papacy [Hanawalt: pgs 125-127]
  - Boniface VIII and *Unam Sanctam*
  - Beginning of the Babylonian Captivity
  - Problems with the papacy [Hanawalt: pgs 130-131]
- Rise of Trade
  - Marco Polo [Hanawalt: pg 126]
- The High Middle Ages: Agricultural, Commercial, and Demographic Revolutions
- Jews in Europe

- Jews in the Late Empire
- Jewish learning – Moses Maimonides
- Minorities in medieval Europe
- The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century [Hanawalt: pg 129-130]
  - Famine, Pestilence, War, Death
- Mini-Ice Age and Famine [Hanawalt: pg130]
  - Europe’s Black Death [Hanawalt: pgs 135-137]
  - Routes
  - European Response
  - Consequences
- Peasants’ Revolts [Hanawalt: pgs 138-139]
  - Jacquerie, Ciompi, English Peasants’ Revolt
- Mind maps
- Journal

#### **Day Fourteen**

- Hundred Years’ War [Hanawalt: pgs 132-135, 141]
- Babylonian Captivity to the Schism [Hanawalt: pgs 143-144]
- Heresy [Hanawalt: pgs 142-143]
  - Lollards and Hussites
- Popular Piety [Hanawalt: pg 143]
  - Margery Kempe
  - Anchorites and Anchoresses
    - Mass of the Dead
    - Compare Julian of Norwich with Margery Kempe

- Mechanical salvation
- *Everyman* and Morality Plays.
  - Write *Everyman* in your own words and act out the revised play.
- England [Hanawalt: pgs 141-142]
  - Wars of the Roses
  - Henry Tudor and the New Monarchy
- Fall of Constantinople [Hanawalt: pg 144]
- Printing Press [Hanawalt: pg 144]
- Feuding Italian City States
  - Guelphs (pro-pope) and Ghibellines (pro-emperor)
- Italian Renaissance [Hanawalt: pg 141]
- Food
- Music
- Vernacular Literature
  - Boccaccio [Hanawalt: pg 137]
  - Dante [Hanawalt: pgs 139-140]
    - Salvation
  - Chaucer [Hanawalt: pg 140]
  - Pisan [Hanawalt: pgs 140-141]
  - Petrarch [Hanawalt: pg 141]
    - Sonnets
    - Father of Renaissance Humanism
- For further reading over the summer, refer to page 152.
- Mind maps

- Journal

### **Day Fifteen**

- Write a list of the Top Ten most important things about the Middle Ages. Compare with the list from Opening Day.
- Optional:
  - Jeopardy