The American University of Beirut
History 227
J. Meloy
Dept. of History and Archaeology
Cultures in Contact: The Crusades
College Hall 440; ext. 4185
WF 1-2:15
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Nicely 211
Office hours: TWF 9-10 am,
Fall 2009-10
and by appt.

The Course and its Objectives: This course is a survey of the history of the Crusades. The course will deal with the origins, definitions, and social and cultural consequences of the Crusades. After completing this course, you will be able to explain these issues and you will be able to critique historically works of contemporary culture like the movies “Kingdom of Heaven” (R. Scott, 2005) or "al-Nasir Salah al-Din" (Y. Chahine, 1963). In addition, you will develop your critical skills in the analysis and evaluation of historical sources and your writing skills in the composition of two essays based on assigned readings. If possible, the class will visit a number of important Crusader sites in Lebanon.

Requirements and Grading: Students should complete the assigned readings, and be prepared to discuss them, prior to the week they are assigned. A mid-term will be held on Friday, November 27 (unless announced otherwise). Two essays, both based on analysis of the assigned primary source readings, will be assigned during the semester. The first essay of not more than 5 pages will be due on Friday, November 13. The final essay, of no more than 10 pages, will be due on Friday, January 22. Late essays will not be accepted. Further details will be announced. Plagiarism will result in failure. The final course grade will be based on the following: class participation, miscellaneous assignments and quizzes (10 percent), the first essay (20 percent), mid-term (20 percent), and final essay (25 percent) and final exam (25 percent).

Readings: Class readings are taken from a variety of primary sources in translation and various selections by modern historians. The university bookstore has the following book for sale:
This book is also on reserve in Jafet Library.
Other readings, available on Moodle and as a reading packet from the university bookstore include:
Primary sources taken from:
Secondary studies by modern historians are taken from:
All these books will be available in the Reserve Reading Room of Jafet Memorial Library.

Other useful resources: A useful reference is The Atlas of the Crusades, edited by Jonathan Riley-Smith, in the Reference Collection of Jafet Library [R 911:A881:aa]. Maps are also available at:
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbookmap.html. These are taken from Muir’s Historical Atlas (1911). This site is part of the Medieval History Program at the Department of History at Fordham University:
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1k.html which has a wide collection of sources, although the translations are sometimes dated.

Field trips: If possible, we will visit relevant sites in Lebanon: Beirut, Jubayl, Enfeh, Tripoli, Sidon, ‘Akkar? Beaufort?

Schedule of topics and readings
October 7, 9: Introduction, definitions, and concepts: What is a crusade?

October 14, 16: Political and Geographical Contexts
Primary sources: Allen and Amt, selections 10, 11.

October 21, 23: Motivations: Society, Economy, Religion
Primary sources: Allen and Amt, selections 2, 6, 9.

October 28, 30: First Crusade: Clermont, Waves, The first crusade in Europe
Madden, Chapter 1.
November 4, 6: First Crusade: The Crusade as an idea, The first crusade in the Near East
Primary sources: Allen and Amt, selections 20, 21, 22.
Madden, Chapter 2.

November 11, 13: Crusade and Counter-Crusade: Nur al-Din and the Muslim Crusade; Second Crusade, Jerusalem, Salah al-Din
Primary sources: Allen and Amt, selections 33-35, 36-42.
Madden, Chapter 3, pp. 52-61; Robert Irwin, “Islam and the Crusades, 1096-1699,” Oxford History of the Crusades, Ch. 10, pp. 211-257.

November 13 (Friday): First essay due.

November 18, 20: Crusade and Counter-Crusade: Nur al-Din and the Muslim Crusade; Second Crusade, Jerusalem, Salah al-Din
Read and re-read.

November 25, 27: Read and re-read.
November 27 (Friday): Mid-term.

December 2, 4: Crusader States and Societies
Primary sources: Allen and Amt, selections 23-32.
Carole Hillenbrand, The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives, pp. 69-84.
Madden, Chapter 3, pp. 37-52.

December 9, 11: Crusading: Zenith or Nadir? European Politics, Crusading Heroes
Riley-Smith, “Crusading at its Height,” Crusades: A Short History, Ch. 6, pp. 109-30, 141-151.
Madden, Chapter 4.

December 11 (Friday): Last day to drop classes.

December 16, 18: Crusading in Europe: Overview, Politics, Society
Primary sources: Allen and Amt, selections 59, 60-61, 64-70.
Madden, Chapter 5.

December 23: Crusading in Europe: Overview, Politics, Society
Riley-Smith, “Crusading at its Height,” Crusades: A Short History, Ch. 6, pp. 130-41.
Madden, Chapter 6.

December 30, January 1, January 6: Happy Holidays.

January 8: Crusading in Europe: Overview, Politics, Society
Read and re-read.

January 13, 15: Assaults from East and West
Madden, Chapters 7 and 8.

January 20, 22: Conflict, Exchange, and Cultural Interaction in the Near East
Madden, Chapters 9 and 10.

January 22 (Friday): Second essay due.

Other important dates
Holidays: Al-Adha (tentative: Saturday, 28 November through Monday, 30 November); Hijra New Year (Friday, 18 December).
Last day to drop classes (Friday, 11 December).
Final Examinations (Tuesday, 26 January through Saturday, 6 February).