

**HIS 235**  
**The Heirs of Rome: The Early Medieval World, 300-1000**

Satisfies: GLO

Thematic Categories: “Arts, Ideas & Culture,”  
“Empires, Violence & Global Connections,” “Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities”

M/W, 2:00 – 3:20 PM

Professor Sara Lipton

This course introduces students to the political, social, religious and intellectual history of early medieval Europe, as well as to the techniques of critical source analysis. Major topics to be covered include the fall of the Roman Empire in the West, the Christianization of Europe, the preservation and transformation of classical culture, Viking invasions and the disasters of the ninth century, commercial disintegration and recovery, and early medieval kingship and warrior culture. Particular attention will be paid to the interactions of material conditions and human society (we will also meet at least one elephant!). Requirements include 1) class participation (this consists of completing the readings prior to the relevant lecture, contributing to discussions, and taking occasional reading quizzes; 2) two brief writing assignments of about 2-3 pages each; 3) one in-class midterm exam; and 4) cumulative final exam.