

HIS 303
The Crusades and Medieval Society

Satisfies: SBS+

Thematic Categories: "Arts, Ideas & Cultures,"
"Empires, Violence & Global Connections," "Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities"

M/W 4:00PM - 5:20PM

Professor Sara Lipton

This course examines the various medieval military conflicts known collectively (and according to at least one historian, inaccurately) as The Crusades. We will investigate specific episodes such as the Latin conquest of Jerusalem, the Children's Crusade, the Shepherds' Crusade, the Albigensian Crusade, and the clashes known as the Political Crusades. There will be plenty of battles, but we will also explore such issues as the origins of the idea of crusade, the religious developments underlying the crusades, the role of women in the crusades, crusading culture and propaganda, the European encounter with the Muslim world, and the long-term effects of the crusades. Requirements include class attendance and participation, which includes completing the assigned readings **in advance** of every class and occasional reading quizzes (about 10% of final grade), a map quiz (about 5%), a midterm exam (about 25%), 8-10 pages of writing assignments of various sorts (about 25%), an end-of-term identifications test (about 10%), and a take-home final essay exam (about 25%). Please note that **attendance is mandatory**.