

Medieval Economic Life and Thought
BC HIST3062,
Prof. Joel Kaye, x4-4350, jkaye@barnard.edu

Required Books:

--Le Goff, *Your Money or Your Life* (Zone/paper)
--Hunt, *A History of Business in Medieval Europe, 1200-1500*
(Cambridge/paper)

--Optional: Lopez and Raymond, *Medieval Trade in the Mediterranean World*
(Columbia/paper) (EBook)

These books are available at Book Culture, 112th st. (east of B'way).

In addition to the printed books:

--Most of our weekly readings in *secondary* sources will be available as files on Courseworks, under "Files and Resources." Most of our weekly readings in *primary* sources will be from a **xeroxed class reader** to be purchased at Columbia Copies, Broadway (East Side) between 108th and 109th streets. It might be best to call and order your copy: 865-1212.

I expect everyone to own a personal copy of the Xeroxed Reader of Primary Sources. It helps greatly to be able to read primary sources with a pen in hand--to underline and make comments and connections directly on the page. A portion of each class will be reserved for discussion of the week's primary sources, and your participation in these discussions is essential. It is important to bring your primary Sourcebook to each class.

Course Requirements: Weekly reading, class participation, weekly responses to the class Courseworks page, 3 papers.

Most weeks students will respond to the class readings by writing in to the Courseworks "Discussion" group. Often I will suggest one or two questions to focus the discussion, but at times I will simply ask for your impressions of a given reading, whether primary or secondary. Since it is important for all of us to read what our fellow students have written before class, all comments need to be mailed to the list **no later than the midnight before class**. Your written comments over the course of the semester will form an important part of your class grade.

I encourage taking notes in class *by hand*, rather than by computer. Studies show that this greatly improves both the attention to and the retention of the material. I ask those who have compelling reasons for using their computers in class to speak to me directly before doing so.

Grading:

Undergraduate: Paper 1 (15%); Paper 2 (25%); Final Paper (40%); Class and Courseworks participation (20%).

(Undergraduates may substitute a Research Paper for the Final Paper, providing that they have a topic solidified, bibliography sketched out, and research begun by week 7)

For all sources listed below, "C" = Courseworks; "P" = xeroxed Packet; "E" = EBook

Week 1.

Introduction.

Week 2.

Medieval Agriculture and Domesday Book.

Lopez, *Commercial Revolution*, 22-55 -**Need better chapter on agriculture** (C & E); Duby, *Early Growth*, selections (C); Postan "Legal Status in Medieval Villages" (and documents)(C); Hanawalt, "Peasant Women's Contribution" (C); Domesday book (call # DA190. D5 at Barnard Library).

Week 3.

The Development of Money and Commerce

Lopez, *Commercial Revolution*, ch. 3 (E-Book); Kaye, "The Shape of Money in the Middle Ages" (C); Postan, "The Rise of a Money Economy" (C); Lopez and Raymond, *Medieval Trade* (P); Selections from *Dialogue of the Exchequer* (P).

Week 4.

The New Economy ... and Its Discontents

(Packet): Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy*; Bouchard, *Holy Entrepreneurs*; Yunck, "Medieval Venality Satire," (C); Selections from the *Chronicle of Jocelin of Brakelond* (P).

For those who would like more on the process and implications of gift exchange (as distinguished from commercial exchange), see Marcel Hénaff, *The Price of Truth* (Stanford, 2010), esp. ch. 4; and for its continuing place in medieval life, see Howell, *Commerce Before Capitalism*, ch. 3 (assigned in wk. 13).

Week 5.

Money and Markets; The Champagne Fairs

Britnell, *Commercialisation*, 5-18, 79-101 (C); Spufford, *Money and Its Use*, 240-263 (Appendix is optional) (C); Verlinden "The Fairs of Champagne and Flanders" (C); Face, "Techniques of Business" (C); Goldberg, *Trade*; Fairs of Champagne sources (P).

Week 6.

The Town: Commercial and Industrial Expansion.

Hunt and Murray, *History of Business*, Ch. 2; Rossiaud, "The City-Dweller and Life in Cities and Towns" (C); R.H. Hilton, "Urban Social Structures" (C); Kaye, *History of Balance*, 263-98 (Ebook); Optional: Dyer, "Urban Standards of Living" (C); Description of the Most Noble City of London" (P); Town sources (P).

Week 7.

*****FIRST PAPER DUE*****

Medieval Economic Theory: a) Usury.

Le Goff, *Your Money* (entire); Kaye, *History of Balance*, ch. 1 on usury theory) (EBook); Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk I, 9-11 (P); St. Thomas on usury; Peter Olivi on usury; other sources on usury (P).

Week 8.

Medieval Economic Theory: b) Just Price.

Baldwin, *Medieval Theories of the Just Price* (C); Kaye, *History of Balance*, ch. 2 on price theory (EBook); Aristotle on Money and Price, *Ethics*, Bk. 5; Aquinas on just price; Olivi on price and value (C).

Week 9. . ***PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS WITH FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE.***

The Growth of Partnerships and Banking.

Hunt, *History of Business* 30-75, 98-121; Origo, *The Merchant of Prato* (C); Prestwich, "Italian Bankers" (C); Datini sources (P); Optional: Stacey, "Jewish Lending" (C).

Week 10. ***SECOND PAPER DUE***

Merchant Life.

Ogilvie, *Merchant Guilds* (C); Murray, "Bruges as Network," (C); Robbert, "Domenico Gradenigo" (C); Zibaldone da Canal (P); Chaucer, "Shipman's Tale" (P).

Week 11.

Government Economic Policies.

Hunt, *History of Business*, 75-98; Miller, "Government Economic Policies" (C); Jordan, "The Confiscations of 1306" (C); English, "Papal Banking" (C); Sources (P) [[Still to provide]].

Week 12.

The Plague and its Economic Aftermath: Restriction and Caution

Hunt, *History of Business*, 142-77, 204-18; (Packet): Hatcher, "Aftermath of the Black Death" (C); Horrox, *Black Death – documents* (P).

Week 13. ****FINAL PAPER DUE****

Medieval Economic Theory: c) Late Scholastic Interpretations of Money and the Marketplace.

Miskimin, "Town and Industry" (C); Howell, "The Gift" (C); Nicole Oresme, *De moneta* (P).

