

# HIST 536: Francis of Assisi and the Medieval Church (DE)

Dr. Steven Watts

Winter 2023

Distance Education: Pre-Recorded Lectures & Live Classes via Zoom (Thursdays, 1:00pm–2:00pm Pacific)

2 or 3 graduate credit hours; or 2 audit hour

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes the remarkable holy man, Francis of Assisi, as its guide through an exploration of the medieval Church and the wider cultural phenomenon known as Christendom. In addition to studying Francis in detail, the course will also encounter such subjects as the vibrant sacred architecture of the period, the mystical works of visionary women, the rise of the first universities, and causes and mentalities that guided the earliest crusades.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the successful conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Give a thorough account of Francis of Assisi's life, ministry, and spirituality.
2. Articulate the origins and nature of both the medieval Church and the wider cultural phenomenon known as Christendom—particularly with respect to the 12th and 13th centuries.
3. Use, analyze, and interpret a variety of translated primary sources in order to cultivate further knowledge of Francis and the medieval Church.
4. Engage thoughtfully with the major questions related to the study of both Francis's life and the most significant events, themes, and developments of the period in which he lived.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Class time for this course will be divided between asynchronous pre-recorded lectures (2 hours each week) and live classes via Zoom (1 hour each week). Prior to the first live class, students should view both recorded lectures (available on Moodle) and complete the reading for that day. Live classes will take place on Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 pm (Pacific Time). Students who cannot participate due to their time zone will have access to recordings of the live classes for one week. Please notify the instructor if you are unable to participate in live sessions. Students should refer to the DE handbook (available on the DE [website](#)) for more information that will help with the successful completion of this course.

## ESTIMATED TIME INVESTMENT

	<b>2 credits</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
Lecture recordings	24 hrs	24 hrs
Class Time (Zoom)	12 hrs	12 hrs
Reading	26 hrs	34 hrs
Reading Responses	—	30 hrs
Reflective Essay	4 hrs	—
Research Paper	24 hrs	35 hrs
<b>Total</b>	<b>90 hours</b>	<b>135 hours</b>

Please note: the amount of time taken by students will vary. This information is intended to be used as an approximation for planning purposes.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Vauchez, André. *Francis of Assisi: The Life and Afterlife of a Medieval Saint*. Translated by Michael F. Cusato. New Haven, CT: Yale, 2012. ISBN 9780300198379 [available electronically through the Regent's Allison Library]

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students:

[moodle.regent-college.edu/login](https://moodle.regent-college.edu/login)

