

TERM: Fall 2026

COURSE CATEGORY: ENGL 31XX: Pre-1800 Literature

COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: 3106 Pre-1800: Crusaders and their Critics

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: W 6:00-9:20 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Shepherd

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This course examines one of the most enduring legacies of the Middle Ages, the Crusades, as they were first defined in the 11th century, then radically redefined, encouraged, despised, and critiqued by some of the most famous English-language writers of the later Middle Ages, including Chaucer, Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe, Sir Thomas Malory, John Wycliffe, the Capistranus-poet, various romance writers, as well as propagandists, chroniclers, and even Middle-Eastern critics. The course will also examine the impact of this legacy on the foundation of modern California.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will become familiar with the broad history of the Crusades, from their beginnings in the 11th century, up to their late anti-Turkish and intra-Christian phases in the 15th and 16th centuries. Students will also become familiar with the various roles literature played over that time, and especially amongst writers in English, in both promoting and critiquing the idea and implementation of crusade. Students will also learn about the ways in which crusade could be redefined away, through the assistance of fictive literature, from the classic Christian-vs.-Muslim paradigm to include conflicts against fellow Christians (often deemed heretics), subordinated classes, and different ethnicities and religions beyond Islam (e.g., Scottishness, Judaism, and the ways of Native Americans).

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Junior/Senior Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

- DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- PRE-1800 (UD)
- CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

N/A