

HIS 501/CEG 516 Field Seminar

Medieval & Early Modern Europe

Thursday 3:30-6:20PM SBS N-318

Professor Alix Cooper

This seminar aims to provide an introduction to important topics and approaches in the history of medieval Europe (roughly 500-1450) and early modern Europe (roughly 1450-1789). The goal will be both to survey the history of these eras and to discuss debates among historians about them. Themes we will discuss include, among others, the origins of European culture and society in the Middle Ages; the concepts of the "Dark Ages" and of "Early", "High", and "Late" Middle Ages; the impact on Europe of cross-cultural encounters both before and after the Crusades and Columbus; the relationship between elite and popular cultures in both the Middle Ages and the early modern period; conflicts over emerging state power in both the Middle Ages and the early modern period; changing attitudes towards knowledge and belief in Renaissance and Reformation Europe; the rise of the witch-hunts in early modern Europe; the origins and unfolding of the so-called "Scientific Revolution" of the early modern period; the rise of absolutism; and the significance of the Enlightenment and French Revolution. Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of both participation and writing assignments. **MA & PhD students register for HIS 501; Social Studies MAT students register for CEG 516.**