

# The Medieval Mediterranean

History 11  
Pomona College  
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## Description

This course explores the principal cultures of the greater Mediterranean world from the first through the fourteenth centuries. The Greek, Latin, and Arabic heirs to the Roman and Persian Empires periodically struggled with one another for hegemony in the region, but their similarities actually outweighed their differences. For one thing, each regarded military and political success as a sign of divine favor, a tendency that helps account for the unusual amount of influence that religious leaders exercised over what we would consider political matters. In addition, Latin, Greek, and Arabic scholars alike felt compelled to reconcile the wisdom of their respective religious traditions with the philosophical truths inherited from the ancient Greeks. The sources that make up the readings for this course have been selected with these two over-arching themes in mind.

## Schedule

### 1. Background: The Hebrew Legacy

- Hebrew Bible: Genesis 1-22, Exodus 1-20, I Samuel 1-31

### 2. Background: The Greek Legacy

- Plato, *Republic* [selections]
- Aristotle, *Politics*, books 1 & 3

### 3. Hellenism, Rome, and the Jews

- I Maccabees, 1-8
- Philo, *On Creation*
- Philo, *On the Life of Moses* books I, II.1-9

### 4. Christianity in its Greco-Roman Milieu

- Luke, Acts
- Justin, *First Apology*

### 5. The Christian Roman Empire

- Eusebius, *Life of Constantine*

### 6. Christian Division and Foreign Invasion

- Augustine, *The Political Writings*, pp. 1-153 [ISBN: 9780895267047]

#### 7. The Rise of Islam and the Umayyad Caliphate

- Donner, *Muhammad and the Believers*, pp. 1-144, 194-224 [ISBN: 978-0674064140]

#### 8. The Abbasid and Carolingian Empires

- Al-Farabi, *The Enumeration of the Sciences and The Political Regime*, pp. 22-57.
- Avicenna, *On the Divisions of the Rational Sciences, Healing: Metaphysics X, and On the Proof of Prophecies*, pp. 95-121.

#### 9. Papal Monarchy and Latin Christian Expansion

- Tierney, *Crisis of Church and State*, pp. 7-73.
- Fulcher, *Chronicle of the First Crusade*, Book 1, pp. 9-82.

#### 10. Latin Christian Expansion and the Greeks

- Anna Comnena, *Alexiad*, pp. 3-7, 29-49, 109-146, 153-185, 274-331 [ISBN: 9780140455274]
- Odo of Deuil, *The Journey of Louis VII to the East* (parts 1 and 2), pp. 3-143 (alt. pages).

#### 11. Islamic Resurgence, East and West

- Gabrieli, *Arab Historians of the Crusades*, pp. 86-181, 208-37, 246-52 [ISBN: 9780520052246]

#### 12. Aristotle in the West: Córdoba, Toledo, and Paris

- Averroes, *The Decisive Treatise*, pp. 163-185.
- Maimonides, *Guide for the Perplexed*, Part 2, chapters 32, 36-40, 45.
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa contra Gentiles*, Book 1, chapters 1-13

#### 13. Aristotle and the Challenge to Papal Monarchy

- Marsiglio of Padua, *The Defender of Peace* I:1-19, II:1-4, 25-26, III:1-2 (pp. 3-126, 331-64, 425-32). [ISBN: 9780231123556]

#### 14. Aristotle and the Dialectic of Muslim History

- Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddimah*, pp. 3-48, 65-74, 91-142 [ISBN: 9780691120546]