

ANTH 361

MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Erin McGuire

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction to the theory and practice of medieval archaeology, illustrated case studies and experimental archaeology. Explores a range of themes including status, gender, technology, religion, and daily life.

When we think of the Middle Ages we tend to think of lords and peasants. It's an image of the striking social inequalities that has come to us through the literature and history associated with the period. The reality of the Middle Ages was far more complicated. In this course, we will explore a range of themes relating to status, gender, technology, and daily life. The course offers an introduction to the theory and practice of medieval archaeology, illustrated by a series of case studies. A special feature of the course is that we will learn by doing – using experimental archaeology as a means to explore medieval cultures.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Identify and discuss key theoretical developments within Medieval Archaeology;
2. Assess the contribution archaeology makes to interpreting the Middle Ages (including assessing excavation reports, material culture, settlement studies, funerary remains, and textual sources);
3. Critically evaluate case studies as tools for analyzing theoretical perspectives to archaeological data;
4. Design an experimental archaeology project and evaluate its effectiveness for studying medieval technologies; and
5. Demonstrate effective group communication and project development skills within limited time constraints.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Skills include: undertaking effective primary and secondary research; critically assessing research; designing, implementing, and reflecting on experimental research; communicating orally, in written format, and electronically; and working collaboratively.