

HIS 235
The Heirs of Rome: The Early Medieval World, 300-1000

MWF (9:15am-10:10)
Satisfies: GLO [DEC: I]

Professor Mohamad Ballan

This course introduces the political, social, cultural and intellectual history of early medieval Europe and the Mediterranean world. Tracing the legacy of Rome through its three successors (Byzantium, the Latin West and Islam), this class will familiarize you with the major processes, institutions, ideas and communities that shaped Europe and the Mediterranean during the Early Middle Ages. We will closely examine an array of primary documents and material sources in order to problematize the notion of “the Dark Ages,” while exploring the various ways in which the period known as the Early Middle Ages was equally an era of crisis, transition and transformation. The course will make extensive use of primary sources from all three cultures (Germanic, Byzantine, Islamic), both as evidence of post-Roman civilizations and in order to refine skills of historical interpretation and analysis of evidence.