



**Gifted LearningLinks Program  
Course Syllabus**

**Instructor name: Francesca Gray  
E-mail address: xxx@xxx.xxx**

**Course Title: True Stories of the Middle Ages - Grades 3-5**

**Session Date: Winter 2012**

**Course Description:**

Castles, knights, princesses and dragons come to mind when we hear the words "Middle Ages," but the Middle Ages were also a period of tremendous social change, technological advances, international conflict, natural disasters, war and disease. Students examine historical documents, art, architecture and literature to uncover the true stories of the Middle Ages.

**Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course

Students will know:

- That the terms "Middle Ages" and "Medieval" are synonymous
- That the overall Medieval Period is divided into three time periods
- The origins, effects and lasting results of the Black Death
- The main industries and how goods were bought and sold in the Middle Ages

Students will understand:

- How the medieval manor functioned as a social and economic system
- The rules of knighthood
- Warfare (weapons, equipment and men) in the Middle Ages
- Science and medicine in the Middle Ages

Students will be able to:

- Explain the structure of feudal society and its economic, social, and political effects
- Describe life in a castle
- Compare and contrast life in the Middle Ages and life today
- Summarize the foundations of early medieval society
- Describe aspects of daily life such as work, the division of labor, family, clothing, housing and education
- Explain key features of community life including cultural expressions such as art and architecture
- Analyze the ways medieval societies were governed

**Resources and Materials:**

a. Websites

- <http://www.learner.org/interactives/middleages/>

- <http://www.timeref.com/index.htm>
- Other specific websites will be found on course site

b. Materials

- Paper, pencils, drawing paper, crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Digital camera would be useful for uploading project pictures
- World map or globe
- Other materials for activities will be listed on course site

### **Gifted LearningLinks Course Requirement**

- All Gifted LearningLinks (GLL) courses require a properly-maintained computer with broadband Internet access, a recent-version web browser (such as Explorer 6, Firefox, or Safari), and a stable email account (once a student is registered for a course, he/she should not change his/her email address unnecessarily, as difficulties in communication will greatly affect his/her success in the course).
- All GLL courses use the Blackboard Course Management System. Web browsers must be Java- and cookie-enabled.
- Most courses use Acrobat Connect (formerly called Breeze) for video conferencing. A headset with a microphone and a webcam are highly recommended.
- Students are expected to be familiar with standard computer operations (e.g., login, cut & paste, email attachments) and to acquaint themselves with the Blackboard Course Management System and Acrobat Connect (formerly called Breeze) software prior to the start of class. A sample Blackboard classroom, as well as tutorials featuring Blackboard and Acrobat Connect (formerly called Breeze) are available on our website (<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/learning/tutorials/index.html>).
- In order to be successful in an online course, the following skills are also needed: self-direction, independent time management, and the ability to meet deadlines.

### **CTD Statement on Third-Party Web Sites**

Instructors are required to thoroughly review any third-party web sites they intend to use in their courses for inappropriate content. However, because web content continuously changes, CTD disclaims any responsibility for any of the content contained on third-party web sites used in course materials. If you become aware of anything that may be inappropriate, please notify CTD staff immediately.

**Schedule:** True Stories of the Middle Ages

	<b>Topic/Focus</b>	<b>Activities &amp; Reading Assignments</b>	<b>What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?</b>	<b>What do I need to turn in?</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Orientation to Online Learning <b>Middle Ages History Part 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete introductions</li> <li>• Complete pre-activity: What do you know about the Middle Ages?</li> <li>• Read Background Information and vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>When was the Medieval Period &amp; how did it begin?</i></li> <li>• Final Project Ideas</li> </ul>	Introduce yourself on the Discussion Board Welcome Forum. Discuss pre-activity results with your course mates.	Answers to critical thinking question
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Middle Ages History Part 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity question</li> <li>• Read Background Information &amp; Vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>Some major historical events of the Middle Ages: War &amp; "Peace"?</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity question.	Reflections on Activity. Course site activities. Ideas for final project.
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Medieval Life Part 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity question</li> <li>• Read Background Information &amp; Vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>The Feudal System, Nobles, Knights &amp; Chivalry</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity question. Questions or comments about website/activities.	Answer critical thinking question in your own words. Ideas for final project.

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 4	Medieval Life Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity question</li> <li>• Read Background Information &amp; Vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>The Feudal System, Nobles, Knights &amp; Chivalry, cont'd; Life in a Castle</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity question. Questions or comments about website/activities.	Reflections on Activity. Course site activities. Ideas for final project.
Week 5	Medieval Life Part 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity question</li> <li>• Read background information/vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>Life in a Castle, cont'd; Country Life &amp; Agriculture</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> <li>• Begin working on final projects</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity question. Questions or comments about website/activities.	Answer critical thinking question in your own words. Course site activities.
Week 6	Medieval Life Part 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity question</li> <li>• Read background information/vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>Country Life &amp; Agriculture, cont'd; Town Life</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> <li>• Continue working on final projects</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity question. Questions or comments about website/activities.	Answer critical thinking question in your own words. Course site activities.

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 7	Medieval Life Part 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity questions</li> <li>• Read background information/vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>Town Life: Medicine, Health &amp; Hygiene; The Black Death</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> <li>• Continue working on final projects</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity question. Questions or comments about website/activities.	Answer critical thinking question in your own words. Course site activities.
Week 8	Medieval Life Part 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity questions</li> <li>• Read background information/vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>The Black Death, cont'd; Law &amp; Punishment; Industries &amp; Trading</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> <li>• Continue working on final projects</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity questions. Questions or comments about website/activities.	Answer critical thinking question in your own words. Course site activities.
Week 9	Medieval Life Part 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer pre-activity questions</li> <li>• Read background information/vocabulary</li> <li>• Web research: <i>Industries &amp; Trading, cont'd; Arts &amp; Entertainment</i></li> <li>• Complete activities specified on course site</li> </ul>	Post answers to pre-activity questions. Questions or comments on final projects.	Completed final projects

**Final Project Ideas:**

- Build a Castle
- Heraldry Game and/or
- Make a Shield
- Medieval Presentation — *A Day in the Life of A . . .*
- Feel free to suggest an idea on a specific course topic of interest

Guidelines for final projects will be on the course site.

**Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Enrichment Courses:**

Since this is an enrichment class, a narrative evaluation will be written at the conclusion of the course. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their work, participation in activities and discussions, and performance on labs and projects.

Students will also be evaluated on timely submission of assignments and ability to work and learn with some independence.

**Instructor Biography:**

Mrs. Gray loves the adventure of delving into history and social science. Her goal is to reach the “adventurer” inside every child by inspiring the excitement of discovery. She taught five years in the Bellwood School District; spending four years teaching the district’s Academy Class (gifted/talented). Previously, she taught ten years at James Memorial Christian Academy—a private school in Maywood, Illinois. Mrs. Gray began working for Northwestern’s Center for Talent Development Saturday Enrichment Program in the spring of 2010 and has been teaching for Gifted LearningLinks since the fall of 2010. Mrs. Gray holds a BA in Communications (Graphic Design) from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts and a MAT in Elementary Education from Chicago State University.

**Contact Information:**

My email address: xxx@xxx.xxx