

**HIST 585-3: Special Topics in History:**

Topic: After Rome's Fall (OPUS title)

AFTER ROME'S FALL: Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (Complete course title)

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Evans-Grubbs	W	4:30 – 7:30 pm	12

**Semester Description:**

The sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410 had a psychological impact on the Romans similar to 9/11 in the U.S. Over the next four centuries, the Roman Empire in the west was destroyed and/or transformed (depending on one's interpretative framework) and replaced by a mosaic of kingdoms and caliphates in the western and southern Mediterranean, with the Empire itself surviving in much-reduced form centered on Constantinople in the east. The first half of the semester will explore social, religious, and political developments from c.400-700, with special attention to the very different paths taken in Italy and Britain. In the second part of the semester, topics explored and readings will be determined by the interests and suggestions of the students.

**Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:**

1. *Empires of Faith: The Fall of Rome to the Rise of Islam, 500-700*, by Peter Sarris. Oxford University Press, 2013. Paperback.  
**ISBN: 978-0199675357.**
2. *Europe after Rome: A New Cultural History 500-1000*, by Julia M.H. Smith. Oxford U. Press, 2005. Paperback.  
**ISBN: 978-019289263.**
3. *After Rome*, by Thomas Charles-Edwards. Oxford U. Press (Short Oxford History of the British Isles), 2003. Paperback.  
**ISBN: 978-01992982-4.**
4. *Bede: The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, ed. and trans. Judith McClure and Roger Collins. Oxford U. Press (Oxford World's Classics), 2009. Paperback.  
**ISBN: 978-0199537235.**
5. *From Roman to Merovingian Gaul: A Reader*, ed. and trans. Alexander Callander-Murray. University of Toronto Press, 1999. Paperback.  
**ISBN: 978-1442600959.**
6. *Gregory the Great and his World*, by R.A. Markus. Cambridge U. Press, 1997. Paperback.  
**ISBN: 978-0521586085.**

Fall 2017

**Grading:**

Assessment will be made on the basis of: discussion of the readings; oral presentations; a short (6-10 page) midterm paper on a primary source; and a 20-25 page final research paper.