

Professor Thomas F. Madden  
 St. Louis University  
**THE MEDIEVAL WORLD II:**  
 SOCIETY, ECONOMY, AND CULTURE

An award-winning, widely recognized expert on pre-modern history, Professor Thomas F. Madden concludes this two-part series on the medieval world. In this course, we will see the error of the commonly held assumption that the "Dark Ages" was a time of superstition, ignorance, and violence. Rather than a time of darkness, the Middle Ages saw extraordinary innovation, invention, and cultural vitality. It was the Middle Ages that gave us universities, vernacular literature, and the extraordinary beauty of Gothic architecture.

To study the medieval world is to study a time of the birth of a new culture that matured into the modern West. Whether we know it or not, the world we live in today is itself the product of the Middle Ages—not "Dark," but remarkably bright.



THOMAS F. MADDEN is a professor of history and director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University. His numerous scholarly publications include *Empires of Trust: How Rome Built—and America Is Building—a New World* (Dutton, 2008), *The New Concise History of the Crusades* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005), and *The Fourth Crusade: The Conquest of Constantinople* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997), coauthored with Donald E. Queller. He is a recognized expert on pre-modern history, frequently appearing in such venues as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, National Public Radio, the Discovery Channel, and the History Channel. His scholarly awards include the Haskins Medal of the Medieval Academy of America and the Otto Grundler Prize of the Medieval Institute.

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