

## The Crusades

The purpose of this seminar is to describe the history of the Crusades, the motivation for people from all social statuses to join the Crusades, and to what extent the Crusade battles presaged the struggles of modern times.

<b>Moderator:</b>	Dean Poli
<b>Co-moderator</b>	Chuck Aulino
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Tuesday 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting February 20, 2018
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Location:</b>	UMass Transit Center, Amherst

**Description:** While cities like Ramala, Acre, Jaffa, Damascus, Edessa, Jerusalem and Antioch have been places of tension or combat in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, this was not for the first time. The Middle East suffered through major battles and minor skirmishes for 196 years beginning in the year 1095. This seminar covers the events and trends leading up to the Crusades and the key personalities who inspired this series of wars. The important Crusade battles, the consequences to the immediate aftermath as well as the course of history since the carnage finally ended will be discussed.

**Role of participants:** Participants will select and present an overview from a broad range of topics such as: the Popes and how they encouraged "enlistment;" one of the nine Crusades; the role of Medieval Knights such as the Knight Templars; the effects of the Crusades on European society; or a biographical portrait of any of the important leaders among the Crusaders and/or defenders, such as Saladin. A complete list of topics will be available at the Preview.

**Resources:** Recommended resources include: *The Crusades: The Authoritative History of the War for the Holy Land*, Thomas Asbridge; *A History of the Crusades*, Steven Runciman; *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*, Amin Maalouf; *God's War, A New History of the Crusades*, Christopher Tyerman.

**About the Moderators:** Dean Poli has moderated or co-moderated approximately 10 LIR seminars, most of which have dealt with history. Chuck Aulino has participated in a number of seminars over the last 3 1/2 years, many dealing with history, and has been the moderator for one.

**Maximum number of participants:** 16

**Emeriti accepted:** yes

**Course #** 18SCR