

21H.311
Fall 2004

Paper Topic #2: The Black Death

Requirements

- 1) Your paper must be 400-500 words (around two pages) long. The text should be double-spaced. It is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 29.
- 2) Your paper must be computer-processed. It must have an informative title. Citations to Montaillou can be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to something discussed by Leroy Ladurie on page 57, indicate this in the following manner at the end of the sentence: (57). Please put your name on the back of the last page **ONLY**.

Topic

Read the “Report of the Paris Medical Faculty” (distributed in class), which served as an official explanation in France and elsewhere in European Christendom for the outbreak of the Black Death. Keep in mind that no one at the time had knowledge of modern germ theory or the transmission of the disease via rats and fleas. Analyze the Medical Faculty’s report: is it a logical, consistent explanation of the plague within the context of fourteenth-century thought and belief?