An exploration of the first three Crusades & the role of the Knights Templar gives fascinating insights into the medieval mind and attitude to the new concept of ‘holy war’, and also to older established ideas of the importance of pilgrimage & veneration of holy sites & relics.

The First Crusade of 1096-1099 controversially offered absolution of sins through the recapture of sacred Christian sites in the Holy Land. A precarious Crusader kingdom was established, protected by the Knights of St John & the Knights Templar. Saladin re-conquered the Holy Land for the Muslims, leading to an epic confrontation with the most charismatic of all the crusaders, Richard the Lionheart.

The origins of the Knights Templar is shrouded in legend and there are many dubious modern myths about them. The Order, uniquely of fighting monks, united the knightly & religious roles at the core of medieval society and evolved because of a need after the First Crusade. But many contemporaries thought them greedy for money and power. They were involved in banking and commercial concerns which brought huge wealth, and were confidants to kings and popes. But this wealth, combined with the ultimate failure of the Crusader kingdom in the Holy Land, led to their dramatic downfall, accused of heresy, indecency and idol worship.

Suggested reading
Nicholson, Helen, *The Knights Templar* (Sutton, 2002)

Additional information
No prior knowledge is required. This course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment

Intended learning outcomes
- to acquire a factual knowledge of the first 3 Crusades & the issues.
- to acquire an appreciation of the range of motives, religious & secular, amongst crusaders.
- to separate fact from fiction & legend in the accounts of the Templars.

About the tutor
Dr Geoff Doel has a PhD on Thomas Hardy and lectures on literature and history. He is co-author of 15 books and has made several television appearances.
Short Course Programme
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- **Online Booking is preferred.** Please visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge)
- **By post** to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course has been confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:
- exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly.
- cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
For details of our other courses, news, events and location visit [www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge](http://www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge).

- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk). No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically included in our postal mailings, to update you about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

*Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.*

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