

# medieval

## HISTORY 200

Mrs. Drew

If the objective of teaching a survey of ancient and medieval history is to provide students with a certain body of knowledge—either as a part of their general education or as background for further study—then, according to the five course evaluation returns received for History 200, "Early Foundations of Western Civilization," as presented by Dr. Katherine Fischer Drew has very satisfactorily achieved its objective. Every student reporting on the course considered it worth taking, and four out of five considered the instruction "excellent."

For the most part, the virtues of Mrs. Drew's manner of instruction seemed to lie in her interesting and very well organized lectures through which she presented the course content in some depth. Reading assignments (mostly from the texts) were thought to be closely correlated with the lectures. Students felt that the texts were generally "good." In particular, the Haywood book was noted as being interesting and well written.

Mrs. Drew impressed students with her friendly manner and her openness to questions and discussion. In several instances, her professional ability was specifically acclaimed. Respondents felt that her evaluations of their work, their grades, were fairly based.

## Changes Recommended

Along with the general praise for the course came nevertheless some constructive suggestions for improvement. A majority of the reviewers doubted the value of the maps—one promoting their elimination; another suggesting as a replacement a study of the geographical aspects of the course through the writing of descriptive papers.

While most found the tests interesting, one thought they were dull and too full of facts. Another aimed the same criticism at the Swain text alone, suggesting that Haywood's Vol. II be adopted whenever possible. Only one student found fault with Mrs. Drew's lectures. He proposed that they be less completely organized and more extemporaneous in an effort to make them more interesting.

The five reviewers had all been attracted to the course because of the instructor. A history major who was interested in the course content, another academ, and two science-engineers found the course interesting and of high quality in nearly every respect. Three of them recommended it generally. One student taking it only to satisfy a requirement found it dull and of low quality. He would not recommend it generally and limited his recommendation solely to sophomore history majors.