

## MEDIEVAL INSTITUTE

Fall 2015 Course Descriptions

Graduate Courses

as of April 8, 2015

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### **MI 60001 01 Introduction to Medieval Studies**

CRN 12337

**Van Engen, John**

M 5:05-5:55P

A one-credit-hour course designed to introduce students to the basic bibliographies, handbooks, and research tools in medieval studies. Professors from various disciplines will participate.

### **MI 6003 01 Introduction to Christian Latin Texts**

CRN 12738

**Muller, Hildegund**

MW 3:30-4:45P

This class surveys the development of Christian Latin language and literature from their origins through Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. It introduces students to the various important linguistic, stylistic and literary influences that contributed to Christian Latin poetry and prose. Students will also be introduced to the varieties of Christian Latin texts and the bibliographical and research skills needed to pursue research into these texts. All along we will be concerned to improve our abilities to read and understand the Latin of the tradition that stretches from the first translations of scripture to the treatises of Jerome and Augustine. The survey of Medieval Latin language and literature in the spring semester follows and builds upon this course.

### **MI 60100 01 Old and Middle English Philology**

CRN 20657

**Machan, Tim**

TR 12:30-1:45P

This course focuses on four inter-related aspects of medieval English: translation, pronunciation, dating, and regional localization. With the aid of modern grammars and critical studies of both language structure and usage, we will examine a range of texts dating from the eighth to the fifteenth centuries. Familiarity with at least either Old or Middle English is necessary. Requirements include weekly readings and assignments, presentations, and brief papers.

### **MI 60327 01 Boethius and His Commentators**

CRN 20659

**Gersh, Stephen**

TR 11:00A-12:15P

The first part of this course will provide an introduction to Boethius' life and works, and to his relation to the earlier Greek and Latin traditions. Although we will consider *De Consolatione Philosophiae* to be his most important text, devoting some weeks to the reading of the work sequentially through its five books, some attention will also be paid to Boethius' theological *opuscula* and to his writings on logic, rhetoric, music, and arithmetic. The second part of the course will be devoted to the tradition of Latin commentary on Boethius during the western Middle Ages between the early Carolingians and the thirteenth century with special reference to the writings of Eriugena, Remigius of Auxerre, Bovo of Corvey, and William of Conches. Again, the primary emphasis will be placed on the afterlife of *De Consolatione*, although there will also be some opportunity to consider the commentaries on the theological treatises, and also the numerous Boethian citations and resonances in literary, theological, and philosophical works that are not "commentaries" on this author in the strict sense. Students may write their required final essays on Boethius himself or on the Latin or vernacular traditions of Boethian reading.

**MI 60162 01 The Alliterative Revival**  
CRN 20658**Kerby-Fulton, Kathryn**  
W 6:30-9:15P

One of the few indisputable facts of the history of English literature is that Anglo-Saxon England already had an arresting, beautiful and complex literary culture when the French conquered in 1066, and imposed a new literary language on its elite. But something we often forget when we think of English today as the language of Chaucer and a great modern poetic tradition is that it was not inevitable after 1066 that English would ever rise again to expel the French of its conqueror. The rise, phoenix-like, of English literary culture, especially via the “Alliterative Revival” of Anglo-Saxonese metrical styles - was never to be taken for granted. To what and whom do we owe this rebirth? This course traces the post-Conquest revival of alliterative poetics. From its regional Early Middle English beginnings through to the full flowering of alliterative texts that took even late fourteenth-century London by storm, the course follows the trajectory of its rise in popularity. Starting with what George Kane once called “the language of a degraded people”, we will look at selections from Early Middle English works that use or incorporate alliteration, such as the *Ancrene Wisse*, the *Brut*, the *Arundel Bestiary*, and some of the best alliterative lyrics of the late thirteenth and early fourteenth-century. Continuing with the Edwardian era, which produced enigmatic pieces such as *The Chorister’s Lament*, *Winner and Waster*, and the strange, fragmentary “mini-version” of the A text of *Piers Plowman* known as “Z,” we will move to the other famous “Alliterative Revival” classics: *Pearl*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, and *St. Erkenwald*. We will examine the role that the legal community, the civil service, and clergy writing for the laity played in the early development of post-Conquest English. Other themes will include: relations with the literature of the French in England, the trilingual contexts of early book production, court culture, authorial self-representation, social and political dissent. We will also look at an underappreciated dimension of alliterative poetry: works written for women or via a female patron: Susannah, and Aseneth, from the “heroines of the Old Testament” canon, and the lay guild-inspired “Alliterative St Katherine” lyric. Time permitting, we will look at the alliterative taste for history and tragedy, with extracts from the fiercely anti-Semitic *Siege of Jerusalem*, and the tragic Alliterative *Morte d’Arthur*. The course will take in historicist and formalist approaches to the study of regional, “national” and more intimate reading circles, along with pertinent aspects of medieval literary theory, and newer methodologies such as history of the book, poetics and issues of material culture. The course will involve close reading of original texts throughout.

**MI 60412 01 Popes, Patriarchs, and Councils:**  
**Medieval Ecclesiology West and East**  
CRN 20660**Avvakumov, Yury**  
MW 12:30-1:45P

This course examines medieval theological thinking about the Church--her unity, her boundaries, the variety of cultural traditions within her, her place in the world, and the ways the Church should be structured and governed. We shall base our discussions upon the reading of the medieval Latin texts in translation from the time of the Gregorian Reform in the 11th century to the age of Conciliarism and the Pre-Reformers in the 15th century. The course will also provide an introduction into the main texts, figures and tenets of Byzantine ecclesiological thinking from the 11th century up to 1453 (about one third of the course material). We shall also explore and discuss the opportunities and challenges medieval thinking poses to contemporary ecclesiological discourse.

**MI 60414 01 Introduction to Early Christianity**  
*CRN 17916***Daley, Brian**  
*TR 9:30-10:45A*

From its origins in the Judaism of first-century Palestine, early Christianity spread quickly into Aramaic-, Greek-, and Latin-speaking communities of the Roman Empire. This course will introduce the institutions created by Christianity as it separated from Judaism, as well as its interaction with the cultures into which it spread around the Mediterranean basin and into Mesopotamia and the Caucasus. From these interactions came an articulated church structure, with literary and liturgical cultures specific to particular territories, and a cluster of beliefs both shared with and differentiated from Graeco-Roman and eastern cultures. Along with the history of these cultures, the course will consider the book cultures of early Christianity and its catechists, who gave rise to a web of teachings modulated in controversy and ecumenical councils. The resultant theology, particularly teachings about the divine nature of Jesus and the related doctrine of the triadic godhead, is an important philosophical legacy of early Christianity, and will be the focus of inquiry as the course progresses.

**MI 60531 01 Introduction to Old French**  
*CRN 20216***Boulton, Maureen**  
*TR 11:00A-12:15P*

This course is designed to be an introduction to the language and dialects of medieval France, including Anglo-Norman. Readings will include texts written between the twelfth and the fourteenth centuries, such as the *Lais of Marie de France*, *trouvère* poetry, the prose *Lancelot*, Machaut, and Froissart.

**MI 60535 01 Lyric and Narrative in Medieval French Literature**  
*CRN 20661***Boulton, Maureen**  
*W 3:30-6:15P*

A study of narrative transformations of the themes of the courtly lyric in the 13th and 14th centuries.

**MI 60552 01 Dante I**  
*CRN 20217***Baranski, Zygmunt**  
*TR 2:00-3:15P*

Many have considered Dante's *Comedy* to be the greatest poetic achievement in Western literature. It is also perhaps the most perfect synthesis of medieval culture, and the most powerful expression of what even today remains the foundation of the Catholic understanding of human nature, the world, and God. This course is an in-depth study, over two semesters, of the entire *Comedy*, in its historical, philosophical, and literary context, with selected readings from the minor works (e.g., *Vita Nuova*, *Convivio*, *De vulgari eloquentia*). Lectures and discussion will be in English; the text will be read in the original, but all who can follow with the help of a facing-page translation are welcome.

**MI 60703 01 Introduction to Early Christian and Byzantine Art**  
*CRN 20921***Jensen, Robin**  
*TR 9:30-10:45A*

This course will introduce students to Christian visual art from its evident beginnings (ca. 200), attend to its transformation under imperial patronage, and consider the aftermath of controversies regarding the veneration of icons during the eighth and ninth centuries. Working with both objects and texts, core themes include the continuity between Christian and pagan art of Late Antiquity, the influence of imperial ceremonies and style, the emergence of holy icons, the development of Passion iconography,

and the divergent styles, motifs, and theological perspectives on the validity and role of images from the Byzantine East to the early Medieval West.

**MI 60723 01 Art in the High Renaissance in Florence and Rome**  
*CRN 20804*

**TBA**  
*MW 2:00-3:15P*

Leonardo, Michelangelo, Bramante, and Raphael provide the basis for a study of one of the most impressive periods of artistic activity in Italy - the High Renaissance in Florence and Rome. It was Leonardo da Vinci's revolutionary example that imposed extraordinary artistic and intellectual changes on an entire generation of painters, sculptors, and architects. Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan, the new Republic of Florence, and the imperial papacy of Julius II recognized that the genius of Leonardo, Bramante, Michelangelo, Raphael, and others, could be brought into the service of the State. Under Julius, the Papal State became the supreme state in Italy, and for the first time in centuries, the papacy ranked as a great European power. With the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's (redesigned on a colossal scale by Bramante), the Vatican Palace (its city facade and Belvedere by Bramante, and papal apartments decorated by Raphael), and the Papal tomb (designed by Michelangelo), Rome, for the first time since the time of the Caesars, became the center of Western art.

**MI 63209 01 Proseminar: Late Middle Ages**  
*CRN 20662*

**Van Engen, John**  
*R 12:30-3:00P*

This course is designed to introduce students to major topics under discussion in the history of the high and later middle ages, roughly the years 1100-1400. Among the topics to be treated, with the historians now at work on them, are: law, government and literacy; the church as an institutional and cultural force; social class and mobility as economic realities and cultural images; the university in society and culture; and the cultivation of the human person in literary sensibility and religious devotion. Most of the course will consist of intensive secondary readings, with regular written reports, occasional primary readings, and a major bibliographical paper at the end.

**MI 63216 01 Ancients, Medievals, and Moderns:  
A Short History of Science and Philosophy to 1750**  
*CRN 20663*

**Joy, Lynn  
Goulding, Robert**  
*TR 11:00A-12:15P*

This graduate seminar examines changing conceptions of nature and scientific knowledge from their origins in ancient Greek thought and practice through their transformations in medieval and modern science and philosophy. One focus of the course consists of the contributions of the Platonic tradition in natural philosophy to developing the mathematical scientific disciplines. A second focus consists of the multiple roles of the Aristotelian tradition in developing both natural philosophy and the empirical sciences. This seminar will also examine several of the paradigmatic medieval and modern revisions or rejections of these Platonic and Aristotelian traditions. We will consider how such revisions or rejections made possible important innovations in astronomy, physics, chemistry, and biology in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

**MI 63246 01 Proseminar: The Medieval Islamic World**  
*CRN 20664***Tor, Deborah**  
*W 12:30-3:00P*

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major historiographical issues and modern scholarly interpretations of the medieval Islamic world, from the rise of Islam in the early 7th century until the Mongol conquests in the 13th. Such issues will include the rise of Islam and the official biography of the Prophet Muhammad; the early formation of the religion; the meaning and role of the Caliphate at different periods; the 'Abbasid Revolution; the respective role of the various ethnic groups, Arab, Persian and Turkish, in Islamic history; military slavery; the break-up of Islamic political unity and the rise of the autonomous Persianate dynasties; and the transition from Persian to Turkish political primary in the Seljuq period.

**MI 63425 01 Patristics Seminar: Early Christian Asceticism**  
*CRN 17917***Cavadini, John**  
*R 3:30-6:15P*

Asceticism is now rightly understood as being a central theological and social phenomenon in the early church. A sharpened appreciation for this centrality over the past few decades has resulted in a proliferation of theoretical approaches. The aim of this course is to acquaint you with some of these new insights and methodologies, as well as with a representative selection of the broad array of ascetic texts and options within early Christianity.

**MI 63455 01 The Hesychast Controversy**  
*CRN 20665***Torrance, Alexis**  
*W 3:30-6:15P*

This course focuses on later developments in Byzantine theology, particularly as they relate to the tumultuous theological debates over Hesychasm in the fourteenth century. To many Byzantines, at stake in these debates was nothing less than a correct understanding of God and the knowledge of God, a sentiment that has carried through into modern Eastern Orthodoxy. By way of introduction, key theological sources directly preceding the Hesychast Controversy will be examined, including Gregory II of Cyprus, Nikephorus Blemmydes, Gregory of Sinai, and Theoleptus of Philadelphia. From here the historical and theological contours of the Controversy itself will be studied, with an emphasis on the works of Gregory Palamas, Barlaam of Calabria and Gregory Akindynos. Together with analysis of the theology on both sides of the debate, special attention will be paid to the thought of perhaps the most peaceable theologian of the period: Nicholas Cabasilas. The latter part of the course will involve the study of the afterlife of the Hesychast Controversy in Eastern Orthodoxy, and its ramifications for modern theological discourse.

**MI 63467 01 Medieval Liturgies**  
*CRN 20666***Driscoll, Michael**  
*W 8:00-10:45A*

The purpose of this seminar is to examine the various sacramental rites in the Middle Ages, especially the Eucharistic liturgy, and to attempt to reconstruct them within the context of liturgical enactment, architectural space, artistic and musical decoration, etc. The seminar must necessarily deal with liturgical texts, but this is only a first step for understanding the broader dimensions of the liturgy. Architectural, artistic and musical components will be taken into consideration. Numerous commentaries on the liturgy are also an important source for garnering the medieval understanding of

the liturgy, especially in its allegorical interpretation. A tangential but key element for the understanding is the devotional and spiritual practices that grew up alongside the official liturgy. Therefore, some attention will be given to these dimensions, including liturgical drama.

**MI 63470 01 Medieval Latin Reading**  
*CRN 17918*

**Wawrykow, Joseph**  
*M 11:00A-12:00P*

The course aims to give graduate students the opportunity to read in Latin, to translate, and to comment upon primary texts from the medieval Western theological tradition. Each semester the Latin readings for translation reflect a specific genre of theological prose writing. Prerequisite: two semesters of Latin grammar or the equivalent.

**MI 63514 01 The Spanish Baroque and the Creole Identity:  
A Transatlantic Dialogue**

*CRN 20667*

**Vitulli, Juan**

*R 3:30-6:15P*

The course will focus on the Baroque era during the Spanish Empire and its relationship to the construction of the Creole identity in Latin America. The seminar analyzes the cultural production in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-century Spain, through its interaction with its colonies (Mexico and Peru). The goal of this approach is to reflect how this connection has played a crucial role in the configuration of Spain and Latin America identity. Canonical readings on the seventeenth-century colonial Baroque have conceived it as a mere reflection of the European tradition. Despite these beliefs, my approach tends more toward the premises of a group of scholars who have pointed out that the intellectual production written in Latin America--also known as the Baroque of the Indies--cannot be reduced to an isolated reproduction of peninsular aesthetical forms. This theoretical perspective has demonstrated instead that some texts of the period anticipate the question of a distinctive continental identity. During the seminar, we will examine the intersection between the consolidation of the Creole identity and the development of Baroque culture. This Creole intervention in the transatlantic dialogue will be studied through the mechanisms of re-elaboration and appropriation of the baroque canon used by the "*letrado criollo*" during the second half of the XVII Century. The Creole performance would be understood as a sign of political and aesthetical distinction (using Bourdieu's concept) within the walls of the Latin American lettered city.

**MI 66020 01-38 Directed Readings-Graduate**

**TBA**

Offers graduate students a possibility, normally in their second or third year, to work closely with a professor in preparing a topic mutually agreed upon. Student and professor must sign a form that records the readings.

**MI 67001 01-06 Second-Year Research Tutorial I**

**TBA**

An intensive program of reading in primary sources (preponderantly in the original language) and scholarly literature with a view to identifying a worthwhile, original research project, for completion in the following semester.

**MI 77001 01 Field Examination Preparation**  
*CRN 11221***Van Engen, John**

Offers students a possibility, normally in their second or third year, to work closely with a professor in preparing for one of their field examinations.

**MI 77002 01-38 Dissertation Proposal Preparation****TBA**

Offers students the opportunity to work with their adviser in preparing their dissertation proposal.

**MI 88001 01-38 Resident Dissertation Research****TBA**

Independent research and writing on an approved subject under the direction of a faculty member.

**MI 88002 01-38 Nonresident Dissertation Research****TBA**

Required of nonresident graduate students who are completing their theses in absentia and who wish to retain their degree status.

**MI 98200 01 Dissertation Completion**  
*CRN 16378***Van Engen, John**

This course is a required course for graduate students who have completed 8 years of study.