

Course Descriptions (Undergraduate)

Spring
2010

(MI 10000-MI 59999)

MI20001 - 01 The World of the Middle Ages

Noble, Thomas M W - 10:40A - 11:30A

The Middle Ages have been praised and reviled, romanticized and fantasized. The spectacular popularity of *Harry Potter*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *Narnia* have brought a revival of interest in and curiosity about the Middle Ages. But what were they like, these ten centuries between Rome and the Renaissance? In this course, we will explore major themes and issues in medieval civilization in an attempt to offer some basic answers to that question. We will have in view three kinds of people: rulers, lovers, and believers. But we will also study carefully those who wrote about those kinds of people. We will constantly ask how can we know about the Middle Ages, and what kinds of things can we know? We will consider major literary texts as both works of art and historical documents. We will explore various kinds of religious literature. We will try to understand the limits, boundaries, and achievements of philosophy and theology. Some lectures will incorporate medieval art so as to add a visual dimension to our explorations. This course will constitute an extended introduction to the dynamic and fascinating world of the Middle Ages.

MI20286 - 01* Heroic Quests

Dodson, Joel M W F - 4:05P - 4:55P

Stories of questing knights and unending, heroic landscapes have enjoyed popularity in recent film versions of *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and even *Beowulf*. This course will explore the foundations of the heroic quest narrative in early British literature, focusing in particular on the transformations of the epic and romance genres in Medieval and Renaissance literature. What ties heroic tales to a given nation or culture? How do stories of knights, ladies, monsters, and faeries become vehicles for other ideas, such as religion, sex, and politics? And what happens when these stories become reimagined in early "modern" genres of drama, satire, and the novel? We will approach these questions by considering the epic ideal of the English warrior hero, and then follow it through the wanderings of the poetry, prose, and drama of Chaucer, Malory, Spenser, Shakespeare, and others. While we will spend the majority of our time on earlier British literature, we will consider, in class discussions and student presentations, contemporary versions and film representations of English epic and romance.

MI20494 - 01 * Mary in the Catholic Tradition

Roy, Neil T R - 11:00A - 12:15P

A study of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, as her figure and role in the history of salvation emerge in Scripture and the Tradition of the Church. An examination of the Church's understanding of Mary as expressed in sacred and historical text, theological reflection, liturgical expression, iconographic representation, magisterial pronouncement, and the life of devotion. The course will also consider the relationship of Mariology to other branches of theology, such as protology, christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology, as well as the impact of the cultus of the Virgin Mary on western art, music, and literature.

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MI20609 - 01 * Reading & Writing Latin Prose

Krostenko, Brian M W F - 10:40A - 11:30A

This second-year language course continues the review of grammar begun in CLLA 20003 and introduces students to stylistic analysis through close readings of Latin prose authors such as Cicero and the younger Pliny. A special feature of the course is that students learn to write classical Latin for themselves.

MI30160 - 01 * Latin History-Writing

Hernandez, David M W - 11:45A - 1:00P

(Recommended for students who have completed CLLA 20003 or equivalent.) This third-year course builds on CLLA 20003 and CLLA 20004, and offers close reading of passages from the works of the historical writers Caesar and Sallust. Latin historiography is a sophisticated instrument for narrating past events, for showing how notions of cause and effect and change over time develop in historical thinking, and for indicating the relevance of the past to the present. The political and social conditions of Rome that informed the writings of Caesar and Sallust are discussed, and the compositional techniques of their works are examined. The course prepares students for advanced offerings in Latin literature, especially CLLA 40022, CLLA 40032, and CLLA 40052.

MI30214 - 01 * Italian Renaissance

Meserve, Margaret T R - 11:00A - 11:50A

This course examines the political, cultural, social, and religious history of Italy from about 1350 to 1550. Starting with an extended study of Florence, its economic foundations, social and political structures, artistic monuments, and key personalities, the course then examines how the culture of the Florentine Renaissance spread to the rest of Italy, especially to the papal court of Rome and the princely courts of northern Italy, and, finally, to the new nation-states of northern Europe. Key topics will include: the growth of the Italian city-state; the appearance of new, Renaissance "characters" (the merchant, the prince, the courtier, the mercenary, the learned lady, the self-made man); Renaissance humanism and the classical revival; the relationship between art and politics; and Renaissance ideas of liberty, virtue, historical change, and the individual's relationship to God. The course will not tell a story of steady progress from medieval to modern institutions, societies, and modes of thinking; rather, we will consider the Renaissance as a period in flux, in which established traditions thrived alongside creative innovations and vigorous challenges to authority. Students will write one long paper and take a midterm and a final exam.

MI30234 - 01 * Early Modern Ireland

Rapple, Rory T R - 11:00A - 12:15P

This course offers new perspectives on the struggle for mastery in Ireland from 1470 to 1660. Though keeping in mind the traditional view of the "English reconquest" (decades of rebellion, dispossession, and plantation until, in the aftermath of Cromwell, all Ireland was finally subjected to English rule) this course will take a different approach. By investigating a range of primary sources from the period, students will explore the interactions between the three different models of conquest: (1) descendants of the old Norman colonists (e.g., Fitzgeralds and Butlers) seeking to finish the job; (2) Tudor reform (inspired by Renaissance optimism), by which the English attempted to establish rule by means of legal, social, and cultural assimilation; and (3) unabashed exploitation by English private entrepreneurs

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on the make. The most important effect of these "contending conquests" was the way they shaped the diverse responses of the native Irish, ranging from accommodation and assimilation to outright rebellion and national war.

MI30260 - 01 * The Black Death

Perett, Marcela T R - 2:00P - 3:15P

In the winter of 1347, a deadly epidemic infiltrated Europe's Mediterranean ports and quickly spread inland. Three years later, the disease, known to later generations as the Black Death, killed an estimated 30-50 percent of the continent's entire population. Such a drastic reduction of Europe's population had immediate as well as long term effects, both quantitatively (extreme demographic shifts and a radically contracted economy) and qualitatively (a re-ordering of religious priorities and a re-thinking of the individual's relationship with the church). Malnutrition, poverty, disease and hunger were rampant, and war, growing inflation and fear continued to cripple medieval Europe. This was a society in crisis, and it is perhaps not surprising that renewed religious fervor, mass hysteria and persecutions followed in the plague's wake. This course aims to understand the causes, immediate impact, and long-term consequences of the Black Death as students learn to appreciate how a highly developed society deals with extreme crisis.

MI30261 - 01 * Pol & Rel in Medieval Europe

Van Engen, John M W - 1:30P - 2:45P

This course considers the intersection between political action and religious claims in medieval Europe. Virtually all the powers--kings and popes, princes and bishops--claimed to act on religious principle and in accord with transcendent notions of virtue or world order. And yet they fought bitterly with each other, with words and with swords, and mutually condemned one another. The course will begin with the showdown between emperors and popes known as the investiture contest, then take up pivotal figures like Pope Innocent III, King Frederick II, and Pope Boniface IX, and conclude with sections on the spiritual Franciscans and on conciliarism. Two papers based on primary sources, one midterm, and a final.

MI30301 - 01 * Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

Dumont, Stephen T R - 12:30P - 1:45P

This course will concentrate on major figures and persistent themes. A balance will be sought between scope and depth, the latter ensured by a close reading of selected texts.

MI30370 - 01 * Platonic Love

Gersh, Stephen T R - 11:00A - 12:15P

This course will study the theme of platonic love from Plato (via Augustine and Aquinas) to Marsilio Ficino, focusing on half a dozen key texts in English translation.

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MI30500 - 01 * Survey of Spanish Lit. I

Juarez-Almendros, Encarnacion T R - 11:00A - 12:15P

A survey of Spanish literature through 1700. Readings of selected texts in prose, poetry, and theater from the medieval, Renaissance, and baroque periods.

MI30500 - 02 * Survey of Spanish Literature I

Vitulli, Juan M W - 11:45A - 1:00P

A survey of Spanish literature through 1700. Readings of selected texts in prose, poetry, and theater from the medieval, Renaissance, and baroque periods.

MI30530 - 01 * From Perceval to Puss in Boots

Douthwaite, Julia T R - 11:00A - 12:15P

Reading of selections and complete works of outstanding French authors from major genres and periods. Students are expected to have already taken ROFR 30310.

MI30639 - 01 * Latin Saints' Lives

Muller, Hildegund T R - 2:00P - 3:15P

Recommended for students who have completed CLLA 20003 or equivalent. Hagiography is one of the most versatile literary genres of Late Antiquity, and saints' lives are among the most famous and celebrated texts of that age. Starting out as simple eye-witness accounts of martyrdom and minutes of the martyrs' trials (Acta), they soon evolved into far more sophisticated literary forms: they served not only for the edification, but also for the amusement of the Christian people, replacing the pagan novel with their fanciful narratives of persecution and constancy, and they merged with the traditions of classical poetry to create a wide range of poetic forms: epigrams for martyrs' tombs (by Pope Damascus), hymns for liturgical use (Ambrose of Milan) and private piety (Prudentius), epic poems (the highly influential Life of St Martin of Tours by Venantius Fortunatus) and the laudatory "Birthday Poems" that Paulinus of Nola wrote for the patron saint of his city. In this course, we will cover both prose and poetic texts (authors, apart from the abovementioned, will include Jerome, Eusebius, Vita Severini, and the Passio Perpetuae and Felicitatis). Due to the historical importance and the wide later tradition of ancient hagiography, we will frequently refer to art and archaeology, history, and music. The texts are suitable for students with intermediate and advanced Latin knowledge. Some experience with classical poetry (Vergil) will be helpful.

MI30664 - 01 * Islamic Religious Thought

Mirza, Mahan M W - 1:30P - 2:45P

This course traces developments in the first few centuries of Islam in theology (kalam), law (shari'ah and fiqh), and mysticism (tasawwuf or sufism). Students will gain a solid understanding of diversity within Islam including and beyond the typical distinction between Sunnism and Shi'ism. Beginning with a brief overview of Muhammad and the Qur'an, the course explores the issue of succession, codification of hadith, formation of major schools of thought, and development of consensus. Students will receive both a historical survey and read primary texts in translation. Given

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that most modern Islamic movements view the first few centuries of Islam as a "golden age"- this course provides essential background for students to engage debates that are taking place within contemporary Islam.

MI30700 - 01 * Introduction to Medieval Art

Joyner, Danielle T R - 12:30P - 1:45P

This course will introduce the visual arts of the period ca. A.D. 300 to ca. A.D. 1300. In the course of the semester, we shall devote much time to considering the possibility of a history of medieval art, as the objects and practices of the Middle Ages will be shown to make our assumptions about the nature of art history problematic. Working from individual objects and texts we will construct a series of narratives that will attend to the varieties of artistic practices available to the Middle Ages. From these, it will be shown that art was a vital, complex, lucid, and formative element in the societies and cultures, both secular and sacred, that shaped this period.

MI30724 - 01 * Gothic Art and Architecture

Joyner, Danielle T R - 3:30P - 4:45P

The first monument definitively labeled as "Gothic" is the Abbey church at St. Denis, yet no correlating monument or object exists to mark the finale of Gothic art. The term "Gothic" carries a wide range of connotations and it is applied to European art and architecture from the mid-12th century to roughly the 15th century. In examining the architecture, sculpture, manuscripts, metalwork, wall-paintings & textiles from these centuries, this class will compare the implications historically ascribed to "Gothic" with the ideas promoted by the cultures & individuals actually creating these objects. Although the focus of this course will be France, comparative material from Germany, England, Austria, & Italy will be included.

MI40111 - 01 * Beowulf

Hall, Thomas T R - 11:00A - 12:15P

An intensive study of Beowulf and the critical literature surrounding it. We will first read the poem in translation, then move slowly through the text in Old English, addressing the key problems and questions that have dominated recent scholarship. Previous experience reading Old English will be necessary. Requirements include regular reading and contribution to class discussion, a lexicography project, a translation exercise, and a research paper.

MI40153 - 01 * Chaucer

Zieman, Katherine M W - 3:00P - 4:15P

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote in a time of great social, political, and religious upheaval, a time in which the stakes of English writing were uncertain. This course examines Chaucer's efforts during that period to create sustained fiction in English through his most ambitious and experimental work, The Canterbury Tales. Ultimately, we will find out what earned Chaucer the title "Father of English poetry."

MI40371 - 01 * Medvl Theories Cosmic Harmony

Gersh, Stephen T R - 12:30P - 1:45P

A study of Pythagorean tradition in the Middle Ages using both philosophical-theological and music-theoretical texts.

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MI40433 - 01 * Augustine

Daley, Brian T R - 12:30P - 1:45P

Augustine of Hippo was arguably the most influential theological thinker in the history of western Christianity. A brilliant professional rhetorician and a profound student of Neoplatonic philosophy, Augustine brought his gifts and training to the service of the Church when he was baptized, after a long struggle of faith, in 387. Yet perhaps because of his gifts, he was always surrounded by controversy, and has remained so down to the present - appearing to many to be responsible for some of the main shortcomings of the Church's theology and practice, even as his writings largely set the agenda for later theological discussion in the West. In this course, we will read a representative sample of his major works - some of his early philosophical treatises, the *Confessions*, his homilies on I John and on some of the Psalms, some of his controversial works on grace and human freedom, and parts of *On Christian Teaching*, *On the Trinity*, and *On the City of God*. Our goal will be to discover Augustine's characteristic blend of exegesis, pastoral concern, philosophical speculation, and spirituality, and to let it challenge and nourish our own reflective faith.

MI40442 - 01 * Thos Aquinas & Pursuit of Wisd

Wawrykow, Joseph M W - 3:00P - 4:15P

This course offers an orientation to the theology of Thomas Aquinas through his account of "wisdom," which in Thomas refers to the contemplation of divine things and the ordering of all else in that light. The theme of "wisdom" threads its way through the entire range of Thomas's theology, and attention to "wisdom" will make clear many of Thomas's most important convictions about the nature of the theological enterprise; the interrelated doctrines of God, and, of Christ; and, the specific character of Christian discipleship.

MI40504 - 01 * Cervantes: Don Quixote

Vitulli, Juan M W - 1:30P - 2:45P

A close reading of Cervantes' novel in relation to the prose tradition of the Renaissance: novella, the pastoral romance, the romance of chivalry, the humanist dialogue, and the picaresque novel. We will also pay attention to the historical, social, and cultural context of the work. Students in this seminar must participate actively in class discussions. Each student will be required to make a presentation (15 minutes) upon the subject of his/her term paper. The term paper, of approximately 8-10 pages, will be on a topic individually agreed upon and discussed by each student with the instructor. No prior knowledge of Cervantes is necessary to take this course, but a solid knowledge of Spanish is required.

MI40553 - 01 * Dante II

Moevs, Christian T R - 12:30P - 1:45P

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 in English; the text will be read in the original with facing-page translation. Students may take one semester or both, in either order.

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MI40564 - 01 * Machiavelli NOW

Cachey, Theodore M W - 11:45A - 1:00P

In this seminar we will approach Machiavelli through the careful study of his major works, read against the background of the political crisis of the Italian Renaissance, and with particular attention to their resonance for subsequent political analyses of the condition of modernity. Reading will include: On the method of dealing with the Rebellious Peoples of Valdichiana; A Description of the Methods Adopted by the Duke Valentino when Murdering Vitellozzo Vitelli, Oliverotto da Fermo, the Signor Pagolo, and the Duke di Gravina Orsini, The Prince, Mandragola, Belfagor, the Discourses on the First Decade of Livy, and the Dialogue on the Language. The course will be offered in English.

MI40613 - 01 * Christianity in Roman World

MacCormack, Sabine T R - 9:30A - 10:45A

The course studies continuity and discontinuity in the Mediterranean world during a formative period, the transition from Roman Empire to early medieval European kingdoms. Christianity played a vital role during this transformation, but not the only one. Beginning with a review of Roman institutions, law, culture and religion, we will observe the changes they underwent between c. 150 CE and c.750 CE. At this latter point in time, some people were still thinking of themselves as living within the Roman empire, even though the local potentate was a non-Roman king. Also, Roman law had become Christian law, and Latin was beginning to generate the languages now collectively described as 'Romance.' On the fringes of Europe, in England and Ireland, meanwhile, missionaries shared with their converts not just Christianity but also the Latin language and Latin literature along with certain Roman concepts of culture and political organization.

MI40632-01* Medieval Latin Survey

Muller, Hildegund T R - 3:30P - 4:45P

The aim of this course is to experience a broad spectrum of Medieval Latin texts. Readings representative of a variety of genres (literary and subliterary), eras, and regions will be selected. Students planning to enroll in this course should be completing Introduction to Christian Latin Texts or they must secure the permission of the instructor.

MI40665-01* Family in Muslim Societies

Guo, Li T R - 3:30P - 4:45P

High rates of divorce, often taken to be a modern and western phenomenon, were also typical of pre-modern Muslim societies. How was that possible, insofar as "Marriage is half [fulfillment of one's] religious duties," as the Prophet Muhammad once famously dictated? What, then, is the Islamic ideal of marriage? What were the patriarchal models advocated by medieval Muslim jurists and moralists? Did the historical reality of marriage and family life in the Islamic Near East have anything in common with these models? Do the assumptions about the legal inferiority of Muslim women and their economic dependence on men hold truth? These are the questions this course will try to address. To that end, we will read and discuss a wide range of primary sources (all in English translation) - the Koran and Hadith (Muhammad's saying and deeds), legal writings, narrative (chronicles, belles-lettres) sources, and documentary (archives, contracts) materials' as well as recent scholarship on the subject. While our theoretical

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framework is that of social history, we will also pay close attention to intimate accounts of, and reflections on, individual medieval lives. We will conduct case studies as for group projects. While the focus is on the Islamic Near East (700-1500), we will extend our inquiry to include the modern Middle East as well. Prerequisites: Two years of college Arabic or by instructor's permission.

MI40726-01* Northern Renaissance Art

Rosenberg, Charles T R - 9:30A - 10:45A

This course traces the development of painting in Northern Europe (France, Germany, and Flanders) from approximately 1300 to 1500. Special attention is given to the art of Jan Van Eyck, Rogier van der Weyden, Heironymous Bosch, and Albrecht Dürer. Through the consideration of the history of manuscript and oil painting and the graphic media, students will be introduced to the special wedding of nature, art, and spirituality that defines the achievement of the Northern Renaissance.

MI43295-01* Sem: Travel in Mid Age & Beyond

Constable, Olivia M W - 1:30P - 2:45P

Many familiar events (from Exodus, to the voyages of Columbus, the Crusades, or the American Gold Rush) can be seen as examples of travel in history. This seminar will examine the phenomenon of travel, and will look at different types of travelers, including soldiers, pilgrims, explorers, missionaries, adventurers, and merchants. We will concentrate on the medieval period (500-1500 CE), but will also consider travel in other periods. The chronological scope of the course will be broad in order to trace changing perceptions of the world from the early Middle Ages up through the voyages of Marco Polo and Christopher Columbus. We will read the writings of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim travelers, and will discuss the differing motives, interests, and concerns of these itinerant men and women. We will also discuss the evolution of cartography, and shifting views of the world as revealed in early maps. The course will cover the technical aspects of medieval travel, with a discussion of roads, bridges, inns, overland transport, and shipping. We will also consider less physical aspects of travel and the ways in which medieval writers employed the metaphor of travel in different genres of literature such as the epic quest and accounts of spiritual journeys. Students will write a research paper based on primary sources broadly concerned with issues of travel in a historical period of their choice.

MI43343-01* Aquinas on Human Nature

O'Callaghan, John T R - 9:30A - 10:45A

A close study of St. Thomas Aquinas's philosophical anthropology, based on questions 75-101 of the First Part of the *Summa Theologiae*. Some topics include: the human soul and its powers, the sentient appetite, higher human cognition and willing, and the production of the first human beings in the state of innocence.

MI46020-01* Directed Readings-Undergrad

Constable, Olivia TBA

Offers advanced undergraduate students a possibility to work closely with a professor in preparing a topic mutually agreed upon.

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MI46020-02* Directed Readings-Undergrad

TBA TBA

Offers advanced undergraduate students a possibility to work closely with a professor in preparing a topic mutually agreed upon.

MI46020-03* Directed Readings-Undergrad

TBA TBA

Offers advanced undergraduate students a possibility to work closely with a professor in preparing a topic mutually agreed upon.

MI50783-01* Vocal Sacred Music I

Blachly, Alexander T R - 2:00P - 3:15P

Vocal Sacred Music I is devoted primarily to Gregorian chant, with some study toward the end of the semester of medieval polyphonic works based on chant. The course will cover matters of liturgy, performance practice, musical forms, notation, and sources. The course is open to upper-class music majors and graduate students in the Master of Sacred Music Program.

MI58002-01* Sr. Honors Thesis II-Writing

Constable, Olivia TBA

This course is part of a two-semester sequence open only to seniors in the Medieval Studies honors program who have completed MI 58001 successfully. Guided by a faculty adviser, students will use the research completed in the fall to write drafts and a final version of their senior honors thesis. Specific deadlines and requirements for the written stages of the thesis are available from the Director of Undergraduate Studies.