Medieval Institute

Graduate Courses

Spring 2012 Course Descriptions

As of November 7, 2011

26529    MI 60005-01    Paleography
Ganz, David
T R - 2:00P - 3:15P
This course is an introduction to the study of medieval writing materials and practices and of Latin scripts from antiquity to the early Renaissance. Designed to provide students with the skills necessary to make use of Latin manuscripts in their research, the course will focus on practical exercises in identifying, transcribing, dating and localizing the various scripts, and it will provide an introduction to codicology. It will be of interest (1) to a wide variety of students whose courses are centered in or touch upon the Middle Ages and who wish to work with unpublished Latin materials of the medieval period; (2) to professional Latinists and other humanists who study the classical tradition and the transmission of texts before the age of printing; and (3) to librarians and others with an interest in manuscripts, diplomata, incunabula, and rare books. Two short papers and a final exam will be required, in addition to weekly transcription exercises.

29312    MI 60111-01    Beowulf
Hall, Thomas
T R - 9:30A - 10:45A
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.

29313    MI 60189-01    Rise of English Literature
Kerby-Fulton, Kathryn
R - 11:00A - 1:30P
The Ricardian "Golden Age" gave birth to what Chaucer's literary executors and disciples suddenly recognized as a national literature, largely the result of the immigration of a young, under-employed clerical "proletariat" who found jobs in the burgeoning Westminster civil service. This included alliterative poets of the West, Continentally influenced writers of the South and East, and less noticed contributors from the out-posted colonial civil service in Dublin. Recent discoveries in Manuscript Studies, alongside newer theories of medieval reading practices (which include performative, meditational, allegorical, mnemonic, and cognitive methods, to name but a few) have changed how we approach this "Rise of English." Scholars are now tracing its roots ever earlier, even back to the Anglo-Saxon period. The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Literature in English (Oxford, 2010), which will be one of our guides in this course, offers the first scholarly attempt to harness major critical approaches of the 21st century by integrating these book production and reading discoveries into mainstream criticism. It also departs from 20th-century criticism by integrating both Old and Middle English literature into each of its essays, emphasizing continuities between the eras rather than rupture. This course will cover book production, reading communities, courtly, clerical and bureaucratic elites, medieval subjectivities and emergent Englishness, diversities in the 'national literature', and the rising importance of travel writing, myth and legend. Authors to be covered, in whole or in part, may include: Bede (Ecclesiastical History, especially St. Hilda and St. Aethelthryth), Christina of Markyate, Gerald of Wales (Topographia Hibernica, and its later 15th c. Dublin translation), La3amon's Brut, Ancrene Wisse, Susannah, the A-Text of Piers Plowman, Mandeville's Travels, Chaucer (House of Fame, Parliament of
Foules, and Fragment I of the Canterbury Tales), Hoccleve (Complaint and Dialogue), Malory (Morte Darthur, Books 7 and 8). The course will work backwards chronologically to accommodate those newer to Middle English reading who want to join us. Students presenting papers at the Manuscript Studies and Reading Practices Conference in Honour of Derek Pearsall at the ND London Facility can use those as the basis for their term papers and seminar reports, with a goal to preparing them for publication.

29477 MI 60190-01 The Psalter: Lyric & Community
Zieman, Katherine

R - 2:00P - 4:30P

The Psalter was arguably the "soundtrack" of the Middle Ages and beyond: resource for lyric exploration of the subject as well as for the expression of religious community, the center of both clerical identity and lay devotion, the psalms were ubiquitous. This course will consider uses of the Psalter from the late medieval to early modern period. After familiarizing ourselves with the Psalter itself, we will examine various literary and liturgical practices involving the psalter as well as psalter translations and their (sometimes controversial) reception from the 14th through the 16th centuries. Our study will also introduce several different methodological approaches, including critical theory (theories of the lyric, theories of performance), manuscript studies, textual editing, and various historicisms. Individual projects can allow further exploration of any of these methodologies or a felicitous combination thereof. Primary texts beyond the Vulgate/Douay-Rheims Psalter will include selected Middle English and Early Modern lyrics, excerpts from Piers Plowman, and Psalter translations by Maidstone, Rolle, the Lollards, Lydgate, Sternhold and Hopkins, and Philip and Mary Sidney. Requirements will include a few short papers, presentations, and one seminar-length final project. The course can be used to satisfy the English Department's "theory" requirement if the final seminar paper is primarily based in critical theory.

29314 MI 60322-01 Founders of the Middle Ages
Gersh, Stephen

T R - 11:00A - 12:15P

The course will introduce the work of four Christian writers of late antiquity who can be considered foundational with respect to the early medieval understanding of the relation between the trivium and quadrivium and biblical study, and therefore to the early medieval approach to the intellectual life in general. We will take a predominantly historical and biographical approach in order to examine the life, sources, works, and ideas of Augustine, Boethius, Cassiodorus, and Isidore of Seville by means of selected readings in Latin and in English translation. Using similar methods, we will also look more briefly at the influence of the four writers on certain later figures such as Bede and Alcuin who were themselves foundational with respect to medieval pedagogy. Although some of the textual materials will be read in class in the original language, demonstrable knowledge of Latin will not be required in order to take the course. Requirements: one oral presentation and one final paper of ca. 20 pp, these two projects being either related to or independent of one another.

29315 MI 60374-01 Hermeneutics: Ancient & Modern
Gersh, Stephen

T R - 12:30P - 1:45P

The course will be a study of general hermeneutics (with special reference also to philosophical, theological and literary hermeneutics) through the staging of an encounter between classic texts dealing with this subject from the late ancient period and from the twentieth century respectively. From the earlier time-period the texts will include Origen: On First Principles, book IV, Augustine: On Christian Teaching, On the Literal Interpretation of Genesis, books I-IV, and Proclus (selections from exegetical works dealing with Homer and Plato); from the later time-period, Heidegger: Being and Time,
introduction, Elucidations of Holderlin's Poetry, Gadamer: Truth and Method, Derrida: Of Grammatology, Dissemination. In addition to studying the texts carefully - the first requirement of an exegete - we will consider such questions as: Is a "non-hermeneutic" view of reality possible?; What is the difference between philosophical-theological and literary hermeneutics?; What is the relation between translation and hermeneutics?; Can one have a theory of hermeneutics independent of its practice. Requirement: one final paper of ca. 20 pp.

**29489** MI 60429-01 Spiritual Masters: Early Chris
Young, Robin

An examination, through primary sources and selected interpretive studies, of the lives and works of ten accomplished male and female guides to the life of prayer and contemplation. The class will study their social contexts, sources and disciples as well as their formation in communal worship. Requirements: attentive reading and note-taking on each author, with notes submitted bi-weekly; one paper; one in-class presentation.

**29316** MI 60474-01 Scrmmnt Mystry in Med Theo
Avvakumov, Yury Dunkle, Brian

The course will provide an overview of the history of sacramental theology in the Middle Ages, on the basis of the reading of primary texts. We shall start from St. Augustine's ideas on the sacraments and follow the formation of the a systematic treatise on the sacraments in the Early Scholasticism of the 12th century. Special attention will be given to the most important theologians of the High Scholastic period, such as Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, and Duns Scotus. The students will also be introduced to the main personalities of the Byzantine theological interpretation of the liturgy, ritual and mysteries of the church, in particular Nicolaos Cabasilas and Symeon of Thessalonike.

**22123** MI 60553-01 Dante II
Moevs, Christian

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.

**25184** MI 60609-01* Reading & Writing Latin Prose
Krostenko, Brian

This second-year language course continues the review of grammar begun in CLLA 20-003 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. Offered each spring semester.

**29317** MI 60610-01 Latin History-Writing
Hernandez, David

(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.

24160  MI 60632-01  Medieval Latin Survey
Bloomer, W. Martin  
MW - 1:30P - 2:45P
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. Those with interests in particular text types should inform the instructor well in advance so that he can try to accommodate their interests.

28694  MI 60639-01  Latin Saints' Lives
Muller, Hildegund  
MW - 11:45A - 1:00P
"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, Eugippius, 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.

29318  MI 60724-01  Gothic Art and Architecture
Joyner, Danielle  
TR - 2:00P - 3:15P
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.

29319  MI 60726-01  Northern Renaissance Art
Rosenberg, Charles  
TR - 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 Duerer. 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.

29433 MI 60787-01 Getting Back to the Sources
Blachly, Alexander
TR 2:00P - 3:15P
The course will focus both on how to interpret early notations and how to make computerized modern editions using MakeMusic's Finale program for Mac or PC. Topics to be addressed will include "barlines: yes or no?", "when to use musica ficta and how to indicate it," "problems of text underlay," "when to transpose for the convenience of the singers," "reduce the original note shapes or make a diplomatic transcription?" and "the advantages and disadvantages of computer programs that create quadratic Gregorian notation."

29320 MI 63209-01 Proseminar II: High Middle Ages
Van Engen, John
T 7:00P - 9:30P
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.

26801 MI 63421-01 Early Christianity Seminar
Cavadini, John
R 3:30P - 6:00P
Studies of selected patristic texts and early Christian history. (Offered with varying topic each spring)

29321 MI 63467-01 Medieval Liturgies
Driscoll, Michael
W 9:00A - 11:30A
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.

29322 MI 63585-01 Rlg & Lit: In the Light of Job
Montemaggi, Vittorio
M 3:30P - 6:15P
A study of religion and literature through the works of Gregory the Great, Dante, Shakespeare and Primo Levi.

29323 MI 63614-01 The Disticha Catonis
Bloomer, W. Martin
F 2:00P - 5:00P
S 9:00A - 12:00P
This seminar will explore the reciprocal relationship between transmission and reception of texts, using as a case study Cato's Distichs, one of the most widely read and studied texts of the medieval and early modern period. Transmission means the deliberate communication of a text from one generation to subsequent ones, involving a network of paratextual elements that make it attractive, accessible, and useful to future readers. Reception means the active receiving of a text, conditioned by these paratextual elements and by the newly developing requirements of the time. Written down about 200 AD, Cato's versified proverbs collection became a "set book" of elementary education throughout Europe from the ninth through the seventeenth centuries, and so was continually copied, frequently printed, and subject to various commentaries, Latin paraphrases, vernacular translations, and new editions - all witness to the extent and character of the transmission and reception of the Distichs. As the culmination of the class, there will be a one-week research visit at the Bibliotheca Ambrosiana in Milan. Enrollment by permission of the instructor.

29492 MI 63761-01 Seminar: Iconoclasm
Barber, Charles
M - 2:00P - 4:30P
This seminar considers the implications of contesting and destroying the work of art. We will seek to understand manifestations of these phenomena as historical and philosophical/theological events. As we do this, we will problematize the power of verbal discourse over visual materials and give thought to the sacredness of art. Our focus will be on the debates found in primary and secondary readings that address the origins and nature of Byzantine iconomachy. This early Medieval controversy provides the primary moment for the formulation of definitions regarding the possibility of a Christian art. A thorough examination of the varieties of argument brought to bear on this issue will provide paradigms for the consideration of the power and limits of representation in other periods. Student research papers will be able to address other manifestations of iconoclasm, including those of the Carolingian period, of later Medieval Europe, of the Reformation, and of the Modern era.

29324 MI 63808-01 Prosem in Early Christian Stdy
Leyerle, Blake
T - 8:15A - 10:45A
The Proseminar in Early Christian Studies will examine some of the most prominent theoretical models used in the study of early Christianity. We will read selections from classic works by Weber, Engels, Douglas, Freud, Foucault, Bourdieu, DeCerteau, and Bhabha, among others. At the same time, we will discuss a selection of recent articles and chapters, which draw on these theoretical models and insights to illuminate aspects of early Christianity.

Various MI 66020* Directed Readings-Grad
Various
Various
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.

22377 MI 67002-01 2nd Year Research Tutorial II
Van Engen, John
TBA
Second-year graduate students in medieval studies produce a substantial, original research paper based on the intensive program of reading in primary sources (preponderantly in the original language) and scholarly literature undertaken with a teacher in the previous semester. Alternatively, by permission of
the Medieval Institute’s director, students may use the tutorial to expand and polish a paper prepared originally for a previous research seminar.

22823  MI 67002-02  2nd Year Research Tutorial II  Noble, Thomas
23371  MI 67002-03  2nd Year Research Tutorial II  Barber, Charles
23983  MI 67002-04  2nd Year Research Tutorial II  TBA

Various  MI 77001  Field Examination Preparation  TBA
Various  MI 77002  Dissertation Proposal Prep  TBA

Various  MI 83030-01  Topics in History of the Book  Ganz, David  

In this course students will be introduced to various ways of working with medieval manuscripts. Topics will include: Copying an exemplar, attitudes to the page, medieval punctuation and what it can teach, the evidence of annotation, the transmission of texts, medieval libraries, the ordering of books, medieval manuscripts and fragments on the web. The main focus will be the digitized manuscripts from the libraries of Cologne, Lyons, the Reichenau and St. Gall, and the digitized microfilms of manuscripts from St. Amand in the library of Valenciennes. This course will allow students to use the evidence of art history, liturgy, patristics, hagiography, intellectual history, and canon law to supplement their skills in paleography, codicology, and textual scholarship.

Various  MI 88001  Resident Dissertation Research  TBA
Various  MI 88002  Nonresident Dissertation Rsrch  TBA

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