Medieval Institute
Fall 2014 Course Descriptions

Graduate Courses
As of April 15, 2014

MI 60001 01  Medieval Studies I
CRN 12426  TBA
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 60003 01  Introduction to Christian Latin Texts
CRN 12846  Müller, Hildegund
TR 12:30-1:45P

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 60102 01  Medieval Codicology, Literary Culture, Social Contexts: Reading MS Harley 2253
CRN 20638  TBA
T 3:30-6:15P

The Harley manuscript (London, British Library MS Harley 2253) is a book crucial to our understanding of Middle English literature as it was produced and circulated, read and used, in a nonmetropolitan region of England. Its rare contents bring into view a vibrant social and literary scene that existed in the West Midlands not far from the Welsh border. Without this book’s survival, we would not suspect that literary activity existed in such a concentrated way before the age of Chaucer, which came some forty years later. No other book preserves so rich a snapshot of what was clearly a vital world of poets, minstrel entertainers, preachers, and patrons. Because the scribe collected poems that were otherwise ephemeral, we can here recapture a world of trilingual social interaction, of performances in hall, of a taste for comedy mixed with edifying moralisms, of social pretensions mixed with low bawdy, of linguistic register matched to content. The Harley manuscript contains tantalizing love lyrics, poetry of fierce politics, verse of devout religion. It also has saints’ tales and outrageously funny fabliaux, satires and comedies of complaint, debates and interludes, proverbs and guides on etiquette, as well as outlaw tales, Bible stories, a dream handbook, and guides for travelers to the Holy Land. Bursting with texts in three languages, the book’s overall range is astounding. The scribal maker of this manuscript was a curious and acquisitive person, a connoisseur of popular literature and learning. Because the Harley manuscript has only just been made available in its entirety, its Latin and Anglo-Norman texts edited and translated for the first time, its more obscure English texts also made accessible; this course will offer students many opportunities for pursuing new research and generating
innovative ideas. Methodological possibilities include classic literary analysis, studies of gender and class status, explorations of social history, investigations of genre (poetry, romance, fabliaux, comedy), and crosslingual practice. As we read the divergent texts of Harley 2253 straight through, we will continuously examine the scribe and his practices, while also considering authors and audiences. To understand medieval contexts, we will simultaneously delve into areas pertinent to Harley studies: (1) the Middle English lyric (all kinds: religious, secular, political); (2) matter-of-Britain romance, with local notions of nation, politics, and history; (3) saints’ lives, pilgrimage texts, and views of the Jewish or Muslim Other; (4) fabliaux, both in French and English, and debates on the nature of women; (5) courtesy texts, proverbs, and practical lore; (6) comparable contemporary miscellanies of note (for example, Digby 86, Auchinleck, Laud misc. 108, the later Vernon); (7) the literary landscape of pre-1350 trilingual England, particularly in the West Midlands; and (8) issues of palaeography and codicology, along with the current critical boom in scribal studies.

**MI 60124 01  Conversion of Northern Europe**

*CRN 20649*

**Abram, Christopher**

*TR 12:30-1:45P*

The conversion of the Germanic and Celtic lands to Christianity was perhaps the greatest revolution in European history. It precipitated or hastened the spread of literacy, the development of the nation state, and the extinction or effacement of many indigenous cultural traditions. In this class, we will consider what it might have been like to be involved in this epochal shift. Whereas many historical studies of conversion concentrate on the causes and processes by which change took place, we will center our investigation on its effects and affects. How did individuals experience conversion and how did they or others relive or evoke these experiences in written narratives? We will read widely across the medieval literatures of Germany, the British Isles, the Frankish lands and Scandinavia. All primary texts will be read in translation. We will test various modern theoretical models as potential keys to unlocking the lived and narrated experience of conversion. This class is open to all interested graduate students.

**MI 60199 01  Introduction to Middle English Manuscripts**

*CRN 20650*

**Kerby-Fulton, Kathryn**

*M 6:30-9:15P*

This course will examine the culture of the book in late medieval English, including the important literary writers who made it a national literary language, the scribes who transmitted and often transformed their works, and the wide range of readers they reached. Among the writers to be studied will be Julian of Norwich, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Langland, the Gawain Poet, Thomas Hoccleve, Margery Kempe and James I of Scotland; among the topics to be discussed: literacy, book illustration, marginalia, social conditions of authorship, the rise of heresy, women and book production, nun’s libraries, patronage, household books, religious and political trends, and attempts at official censorship. Students will also learn both editorial theory and practice, and have a chance to transcribe and edit for publication in a forthcoming anthology of Middle English writings restored to their manuscript context.
**MI 60213 01  History, Science, Technology, Medieval to 1750**
**CRN 20120**

Goulding, Robert  
*F 10:30A-1:00P*

This course will be the first half of a two-semester survey of the main events in the history of natural philosophy and science from Greek antiquity to the early Enlightenment. The first half, taught by Professor Robert Goulding, will begin with Presocratic reflections and carry the course to the Renaissance. The second half, taught by Professor Sloan, will deal with the science of Galileo, Descartes, Boyle and Newton.

**MI 60330 01  The Philosophy of Augustine**
**CRN 20121**

Gersh, Stephen  
*TR 11:00A-12:15P*

The course is intended as an introduction to Augustine’s work from the philosophical viewpoint, although necessarily certain theological questions will also be examined. The emphasis will fall partly on the reading of selected texts (in English translation) beginning with dialogues of Cassiciacum such as *Against the Academics*, *On Order*, *Soliloquies*, *On the Teacher*, continuing with *On the Quantity of the Soul*, *On Music*, *On the Immortality of the Soul*, *On Free Choice of the Will*, and concluding with *The City of God*. The course will also identify certain philosophical themes as particularly worthy of discussion, including Augustine’s ideas about the nature of God, his theories of knowledge and language, and his notions of the relations between good and evil, providence and free will. Requirement: one final paper (ca. 20 pp.) and an oral book report.

**MI 60364 01  Anselm & Nicholas of Cusa: God as Maximum**
**CRN 20520**

Gersh, Stephen  
*TR 12:15- 1:45P*

A study of two of the most important non-scholastic philosophical writers before 1500 -- Anselm of Canterbury and Nicholas of Cusa -- laying emphasis upon the methodological and doctrinal continuities and contrasts between them. Of Anselm, we shall read *Monologion*, *Proslogion*, and *De Veritate*, and of Cusanus *De Docta Ignorantia*, *De li Non Aliud*, and *De Possest*. Among the philosophical issues selected for discussion will be 1. starting from Anselm's notion of God as “That-than-which-a-greater-cannot-be-thought” -- the theological and cosmological notion of maximum; 2. the contrast between Anselm's Aristotelian-Boethian logic and the alternative logic(s) of Cusanus; and 3. the contrast between Anselm’s (appearing) Augustinian Platonism and the more Dionysian and “Chartrian” Platonism(s) of Cusanus. Requirement: one final written paper of ca. 20 pp.

**MI 60401 01  Introduction to Medieval Theology**
**CRN 20521**

Astell, Ann  
*MWF 9:25-10:15A*

The high middle ages witnessed tremendous creativity in theology, and the writings of theologians as diverse as Anselm, Bernard of Clairvaux, Peter Abelard, Thomas Aquinas, and Mechthild of Magdeburg have proven to be of enduring significance. This course examines the high medieval achievement in theology, both scholastic and spiritual, through close study of selections from many of the most important theologians from the 12th through the early 14th centuries. While considerable attention will be given to doctrinal development and intellectual
disagreement, cultural as well as literary questions will also receive their due - to what extent did institutional and educational changes stimulate theological progress? Why did theologians employ such a broad range of genres, and are different genres better suited to certain theological tasks? How do earlier writings, both Christian (scriptural, patristic, and early medieval), and, non-Christian (especially, but not exclusively, Aristotelian), figure in the high medieval theological enterprise? Heavy emphasis will be placed on the analysis, both oral and written, of primary texts. Thematic continuity will be provided by focusing on medieval discussions of ‘theology’ as science and as wisdom; the understanding of Scripture; providence and predestination; and, Christology. To facilitate future research, students will also be introduced to the principal scholarly resources for the study of medieval theological history.

**MI 60414 01  Introduction to Early Christianity**  
**Cavadini, John**  
*CRN 20522  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 60552 01  Dante I**  
**Moevs, Christian**  
*CRN 20122  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 60612 01  The History of Latin**  
**Krostenko, Brian**  
*CRN 20736  MW 12:30-1:45P*

This course will examine the phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic and stylistic development of the Latin language from Proto-Italic to early medieval Latin. Analysis of sample texts will alternate with discussion of relevant topics, which will include the principles of historical and comparative linguistics, Latin and its sister languages, the creation of the Latin
inflectional system, the varieties of classical Latin, the development of Latin poetics and metrics, and the influence of Greek on Latin.

MI 60677 01 A Divine Vernacular: Old Irish

CRN 20639
Mulligan, Amy

TR 3:30-4:45P

Early Irish sources record that at the Tower of Babel, when faced with the disordered confusion of languages Fénìus Farsaid and Goìdeol Glas deployed a team of scholars to take what was best of every language and what was widest and finest; from these choice linguistic elements they made the Irish language, Goìdelc, Gaelic or (Mod. Irish) Gaeilge. These origin myths tell us that Irish was created to restore and preserve God’s language and heavenly speech, and that eventually it was brought from the Holy Land to Ireland, where Irish linguistic and literary culture flourished. Old Irish was at a very early period used extensively as a language of learning and literature: Irish is Europe’s oldest vernacular, or native, literary culture, and Old Irish texts are some of the most diverse and intriguing of the Middle Ages, as we will explore in this course. When the Irish began to create literature in their native language, what ideas, stories and aspects of their culture were they most interested in exploring? Operating in a culture with a vibrant oral, story-telling bardic culture, how did the Irish use their native language to preserve and develop these spoken traditions in writing? In this course participants will divide their time between 1) learning the fundamentals of the Old Irish language (no previous experience necessary!) and 2) studying key texts which give us insight into medieval Irish thinking about the role and importance of language and literary culture. We will examine early heroic sagas, saints’ lives, myths about legendary poets and the act of literary creation, stories of pre-Christian women warriors and otherworldly prophets, monstrous human heroes and poems as diverse as those celebrating the natural world, praising God, recording fears about Viking raids and even pondering the difficulty of getting thoughts down on paper. All literary texts will be available in English translation, though as our Old Irish skills develop over the course of the semester, we will also increasingly engage with the texts in their original Old Irish forms. No previous knowledge of Irish (modern or otherwise), or other medieval languages, is necessary for this course. Course requirements will include completion of language exercises, translation of a text of the participant’s choosing (creative adaptations as well as linguistically precise translations are possible), a paper on any aspect of medieval Irish literary, linguistic or textual culture, and 1-2 exams. Graduate students will be expected to undertake additional reading, writing and translation.

MI 60807 01 Machiavelli’s Political Thought

CRN 20641
Zuckert, Catherine

MW 2:00-3:15P

“Machiavellian” politics are usually understood to be manipulative and self-interested, if not simply evil. Yet Machiavelli himself was a loyal officer of the Florentine Republic. How did he get his reputation? What sort of politics did he actually recommend? We will read his two most comprehensive works, The Prince and his Discourses on Livy, in an attempt to find out.
MI 63209 01  Proseminar II: High Middle Ages  
*Hobbins, Daniel*

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 63283 01  Heresy, Inquisition, Society 1100-1450  
*Van Engen, John*

Over the past generation heresy and dissent has represented one of the most active fields of medieval historical research. This course aims to accomplish two ends. It will introduce students to the interpretative literature broadly and to selected famous cases by way of reading extensively in English and other modern languages. It will also, in the nature of a seminar, read intensively in selected primary sources involving two cases, the so-called Spiritual Franciscans and the Lollards. The goal is to practice research and interpretation on the basis of selected texts. This means Latin, and Middle English. Students will write a major research paper to complete the course.

MI 63425 01  Patristics Seminar  
*Leyerle, Blake*

This course considers the development of reading practices in early Christianity that, in concert with developing community life and ritual, led to mystical approaches to scripture with the goal of reaching contemplative states. Seminar members will consider the sources for this broad approach in ancient interpretive practices, including the disciplines of ancient Jewish reading, both as predecessors and interlocutors. We will focus on primary sources from the second through the fourth centuries, from Clement of Alexandria through Augustine of Hippo.

MI 63470 01  Medieval Latin Reading  
*Astell, Ann/Wawrykow, Joseph*

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 63471 01  Islamic Origins  Reynolds, Gabriel
CRN 20526

In 1851 the French scholar Ernest Rénan wrote: “one can say without exaggeration that the problem of the origins of Islam has definitely now been completely resolved.” In 2012, however, scholars are more divided than ever over the question of Islamic origins. Rénan’s confidence stemmed from the appearance in his day of medieval Muslim biographies of Mu’ammad, which in their detailed descriptions of the Muslim prophet seemed to offer reliable historical data. Yet they are also late sources. The earliest Islamic biographies date from approximately 150 years after the traditional death date of Muhammad (632). The only earlier sources that scholars have to work with are the Qur’an --a text marked by Biblical allusions and religious exhortation, not historical narratives -- and the early Greek, Syriac and Armenian literature (primarily Christian) which alludes to the rise of a new religious movement in the Near East, but not in the manner of later Islamic works. All three sources the Qur’an, early non-Muslim literature, and classical Islamic sources present particular interpretive challenges. In this seminar we will address the question of Islamic origins by appreciating the particular types and functions of these sources. At the same time we will examine the debate over these sources in recent scholarship, with particular attention to the theories of those (esp. Wansbrough, Crone, and Luxenberg) who argue that the origins of Islam are more closely related to the development of Christianity in the Late Antique Near East than is traditionally assumed. In this regard the present seminar is not a foray into Religious Studies as much as a studied examination of a movement (Islam) that is closely connected to Christianity, and of a text (the Qur’an) that itself claims to present the proper exegesis of Biblical narratives. Accordingly students are not assumed to have any special background in Islamic Studies or in Arabic. They will be asked, on the other hand, to apply their knowledge of the History of Christianity (and Judaism) and Biblical Studies to the study of Islamic origins.

MI 63472 01  Ordo Romanus Primus  Jeffery, Peter
CRN TBA

The First Roman Ordo, dating from the early 8th century, is the oldest description of how the pope celebrated Mass in Rome, evidently written to instruct Frankish bishops and priests in how to celebrate the Roman rite in their own country. The text varies quite a bit in its many MSS, reflecting several stages of editing as the text was transmitted across Europe, encountered both non-Roman practices and different varieties of Latin and proto-Romance dialects. Thus there are complex interrelationships with many other Roman ordines and liturgical texts. This seminar for students who can read Latin will examine many issues involving textual transmission, early medieval Latinity, the hybridization of the Romano-Frankish liturgy in the Carolingian era, and the survival of imperial and court ceremonial from Greco-Roman antiquity. Since the First Roman Ordo has often been described as Byzantine and contains many Greek terms, students with Greek will be encouraged to undertake comparative, parallel studies Byzantine ceremonial texts like the De Caeremoniis of Emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenitos. Roman and non-Roman church buildings from the period will also be studied in detail.
MI 63486 01  Mystical Theology: Current Theological Perspectives  
Cunningham, Lawrence  
CRN 20527  
T 8:00-10:45A

This seminar will begin with a quick survey of the current research on mystics using William Harmless’s recent book (Oxford University Press). We will then read some current theological discussions in books like those of, Denys Turner and Mark McIntosh. We will assume as background Bernard McGinn’s survey of the literature (philosophical, psychological and theological) in the first volume of his work on the history of Western Mysticism. Students will lead discussions of the readings and make class presentations on a topic of their own choosing inspired by the readings. Such presentations will be anterior to a major paper on a topic chosen after consultation with the professor.

MI 63496 01  Latin West and Byzantine East  
Avvakumov, Yury  
CRN 20528  
W 3:30-6:15P

The course is based upon reading and informed discussion of source texts referring to the main events and topics in the history of relations between Latins and Byzantines from the 11th to the 15th century: the so-called “Schism of 1054”; Pope Innocent III and the establishment of the Latin Empire in Constantinople (1204); Councils in Nicaea and Nymphaion (1234); II Council of Lyons (1274); scholastic theologians of the “classical era” and their attitudes towards Byzantine theology and culture; Byzantine humanists and latinophones of the 14th century their appeal for Christian unity; and the document of the Council of Florence (1439) on the union with Greeks. The course will focus on ecclesiological self-understanding of conflicting Churches, and their respective perception of a theological and cultural “other.” Special emphasis will be placed upon the developments in Latin theology that resulted from or was inspired by the encounter with the Byzantines (ecclesiology, sacramental and moral theology, canon law). An intermediate Latin and Greek is required for the course.

MI 63818 01  Philology: A Critical and Comparative History  
Bloomer, Martin / Dutt, Carsten  
CRN 20735  
R 3:30-6:15P

Philology is the historically dynamic set of theories, methodologies, and techniques that seek to provide an appropriate understanding of oral and written discourse in its proper context of production and original reception. A traditional philology understands this recuperation to be difficult because and to the degree that the text is foreign, distant, sacred, or just highly complex. Philology in the West through the Renaissance had been a set of textual practices asserting continuity with an authoritative past, classical and scriptural. Thereafter ideas of the nation state were anticipated and strengthened by the recuperation or even fabrication through vernacular philologies of a worthy and empowering past. It is not then the case that philology is simply the servant of intact “tradition.” Furthermore, philology is essentially interdisciplinary, since it is an indispensable substrate for other disciplines like philosophy, theology, literary criticism, and linguistics. Indeed, the desacralization and academic institutionalization of philology led to the development of such disciplines as linguistics and the vernacular languages and literatures. In cooperation with the Nanovic Institute and in collaboration with an international conference to
be held Sept. 22-23 and with a number of visiting speakers thereafter, this seminar will meet five times in the fall semester and five in the spring (students may take a single semester). The fall semester will examine, in addition to fundamental conceptions of philology, the topics of philology and religion and philology and education. In the spring we shall turn to philology and nationalism and philology and interdisciplinarity. We shall consider as well non-Western and non-traditional philologies.

**MI 66020 01 through 38 Directed Readings: Graduate**

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 through 06 Second Year Research Tutorial I**

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**

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 through 38 Dissertation Proposal Prep**

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

**MI 88001 01 through 38 Resident Dissertation Research**

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

**MI 88002 01 through 38 Nonresident Dissertation Research**

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