MEDIEVAL INSTITUTE

Spring 2019 Course Descriptions

Graduate Courses

as of February 4, 2019

MI 60005 01 Latin Paleography

David Gura MW 3:30P-4:45P

The course is an intensive survey of Latin scripts from antiquity through the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Students will be able to accurately read and transcribe Latin scripts, expand systems of abbreviation, identify, date, and localize (when possible) different hands, and defend their interpretations. There will be a strong emphasis on the different varieties of Gothic script (textualis, cursiva, hybrida, etc.). Once the class reaches the twelfth century, students will work extensively with Notre Dame¹s medieval collection of 288 manuscripts and fragments. Aspects of practical applications and textual criticism will be addressed at the end of the course. All meetings will be held in the Special Collections Seminar Room.

MI 60118 01 Translating Anglo-Saxon Poetry

Chris Abram TR 12:30P-1:45P

The most famous Anglo-Saxon translator, King Alfred, recommended translating sometimes "word for word" and sometimes "sense for sense". But how would we apply his advice to poetry, where the relationship between the text's words and the sense(s) it conveys is particularly vexed, fluid, open, or strained? Or where making "sense" is not even the communicative goal of the text? In this course, we will examine all aspects of the art and science of translating Old English verse. We'll introduce ourselves to translation theory as it applies to poetry; we'll delve into Old English verse aesthetics in an attempt to understand what makes these poems worth translating, what we can hold on to and what we have lost from the poetic idioms available to us; we'll see how the Anglo-Saxons themselves translated poetry by looking at their renderings of Latin texts into the vernacular; we'll look at the history of translating Old English in the modern era, and we'll read and discuss many translations by professional Anglo-Saxonists and professional poets alike. Naturally, we will also translate lots of Old English poetry ourselves, but our goal will not be the production of sterile, philologically "correct" glosses to the texts, but to see how we might recapture the force and beauty of the poetry in modern English, or to see what we might gain from transforming or deforming it in a spirit of creative and critical experimentation. This course is open to all: students of modern poetry, practicing poets and Anglo-Saxon specialists alike will have much to contribute to our discussions. Knowledge of the Old English language is not a prerequisite for this course - students will be able to pick up the essentials as we go along. Alongside full participation in classroom activities, this course will require students to submit two polished, annotated translations of their own and one research paper.

MI 60405 01 Liturgical History

Maxwell Johnson MW 2:00P-3:15P

Survey of liturgical history and sources with regard to both Eastern and Western rites. Fundamental liturgical sources including basic homiletic and catechetical documents of the patristic period. Basic introduction to the methodology of liturgical study. Requirements will include short papers and exams. (Fall)

MI 60407 01 Introduction to Byzantine Theology

Alexis Torrance TR 2:00P-3:15P

This course introduces students to major theological sources, themes, and debates of the Byzantine Christian East. Beginning with formative texts of the Greek patristic era, students proceed to cover key areas and "moments" of Byzantine theology: Christological debates in the aftermath of Chalcedon; iconoclasm and icons; ascetic and monastic theology; developments in Liturgy and sacramental theology; approaches to Scripture; East-West relations; theological interactions with Islam; Hesychasm; and Byzantine Theology after 1453. The goal of the course is to equip upper-level undergraduate and Master's-level students with an accurate overview of this vast, intricate, and fast-growing field of study.

MI 60432 01 Inscriptions, Saints, Poets, and Philosophers: A Survey of Syriac Literature in Translation

Adam Bremer-McCollum W 8:00A-10:45A

This course will offer a tour, in English translation, of the abundant and still largely untapped corpus of Syriac literature. With close connections both to Greek Christian and philosophical literature and with its own characteristic concerns, Syriac literature (2nd cent. CE to the present day), beginning in the city of Edessa, includes an array of genres from inscriptions to history to varieties of overtly Christian texts in prose and in verse which bear witness to a rich spiritual tradition. In addition, some of the earliest sources on the beginnings of Islam come from Syriac literature. Together with discussions of the historical and theological backgrounds of these texts, students will have the opportunity to become familiar with selections from these genres, including pre-Christian inscriptions. We will study and discuss works from the earliest centuries on, from well-known authors such as Aphrahat, Ephrem, Jacob of Serug, Narsai, Jacob of Edessa, and Barhebraeus, anonymous theological and monastic texts, as well as the various versions of the Syriac Bible. The course will be of interest to students in the history of Christianity (earlier and later), liturgy, biblical studies, and Islam.

MI 60445 01 Moral Theology of Thomas Aquinas

Jean Porter TR 9:30A-10:45A

This course will offer students an opportunity to engage in an in-depth study of Aquinas' moral theology, focusing primarily, although not exclusively, on the Summa theologiae. Students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations of Aquinas' views through a close, critical reading of the texts, seen in the context of his sources and interlocutors. Topics to be covered include the moral

act, habits and virtues, natural law, grace as an active principle, and some specific virtues and sins. Students will be asked to lead the class in discussion of selected texts at least once in the semester, and to prepare a paper on a topic developed in consultation with the instructor.

MI 60477 01 The Qur'an and Its Relation to the Bible

Gabriel Reynolds TR 3:30P-4:45P

This course is an introduction to the Qur'an with particular attention to scholarship on the origins of the Qur'an and to the Qur'an's relationship with the Bible and early Christian literature. In this course we will examine the Qur'an itself, traditional Islamic teaching on the Qur'an, and academic controversies over the Qur'an. In addition we will examine the connection of the Qur'an to Christian theology. The Qur'an is fundamentally concerned with the great figures of Biblical tradition, including Abraham, Moses, Mary, and Jesus. Moreover, the Qur'an repeatedly refutes Christian doctrine. Thus it is an important text for anyone interested in the relationship between Islam and Christianity, or the relations between Muslims and Christians, in past centuries or in our age. *No background* at all in the Qur'an, Arabic, or Islam is necessary.

MI 60536 01 Introduction to Old French

Katherine Brown T 3:30P-6:15P

This course will introduce students to the French language as it was written in the Middle Ages and as a gateway to reading medieval literary works in their original dialects of langue d'oil. In addition to studying the grammatical paradigms and vocabulary of Old French through the texts themselves, this course will explore medieval manuscripts, variants, and the concept of mouvance as they relate to literary interpretation. We will also examine questions of authorship, translation, the creation of modern editions through a variety of medieval literary genres.

MI 60553 01 Dante II

Christian Moevs TR 11:00A-12:15P

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.

MI 60633 01 A History of the Greek and Latin Fable

W. Martin Bloomer MW 9:30A-10:45A

A history of the Greek and Latin fable. This class requires either intermediate Greek or intermediate Latin. In special cases upon consultation with Prof. Bloomer a student interested in the French, Italian, German or English traditions may focus on one of those (early) vernacular traditions. Students should have proficiency then in one language. We shall begin with the origins of the fable in the Near East and the transmission to Greece, and focus more on the transformation of this subliterary form through

ancient schooling into a literary genre, in a number of its strange twists. The poet Babrius and the anonymous prose Life of Aesop will be the principal Greek texts. The fables of Phaedrus, Avianus, and later medieval prose and verse versions will be the chief Latin texts. We will consider as well (in English translation) the medieval fortunes of the fables in France and England, chiefly Marie de Frances's Fables and Henryson's Moral Fables and Reynard the Fox. Some attention will be given to the history of booking and illustrating the fables. For Medieval Institute students this course may be taken as the medieval Latin seminar.

MI 60666 01 Miracles in Arabic Literature and Islamic Theology: Sorcerers, Poets, and Saints

Hussein Abdulsater TR 11:00A-12:15P

Miracles and wonders are ubiquitous in most religious and literary traditions; they satisfy diverse functions in terms of both the self-image and worldview. This course covers the idea of miracles in Arabic Literature and Islamic Theology. As such, it first discusses the concept of miracles in the broad philosophical tradition, then moves on to the cultural context that gave rise to Arabic literature and Islam. Then the discussion will proceed to cover the miracles ascribed to the Prophet and investigate their roots in the earliest sources, comparing them with the wonders described in Arabic poetry and miracles in other religions. There will be detailed case-studies concerning specific miracles, looking both at the aesthetic and religious significance of such occurrences. Finally, the miraculous nature of the Quran will be treated extensively, ranging from theological works that rely on its literary value to those ascribing to it healing powers. The expected outcomes include: (1) the development of a more robust concept of the function of miracles in classical Islamic theology and (2) a more nuanced understanding of the Quran's miraculous status.

MI 60667 01 The Arabic Literary Heritage

Li Guo TR 3:30P-4:45P

This course introduces students to classical/medieval Arabic literature from its beginnings in the pre-Islamic period to the eve of the Ottoman Empire (600-1517). Its emphasis is on direct examination of Arabic literature through a close reading of the representative texts in English translation. Among the topics to be discussed: the impact of Islam on the Arabic literary tradition, the relationship between convention and invention, the emergence of lyric genres and the development of a concept of fiction. Readings include pre-Islamic Arabian poetry, the Qur'an (as literary text), lyric poetry and Sufi poetry, the Arabian Nights and medieval Arabic narrative romances. No knowledge of Arabic is required.

MI 60668 01 Introduction to Classical/Quranic Arabic

Li Guo TR 12:30P-1:45P

The goal of this course is to develop a basic knowledge of the Classical/Koranic Arabic, with emphasis on an overview of grammar and syntax, vocabulary acquisition, and serial readings of Islamic texts. We read selections from Qur'an, Qur'anic exegeses, hadith (Prophetic tradition), and other related material. We learn how to use Arabic dictionary and bibliographical references (in print and online). (Prereq.: one year of college level Modern Standard Arabic)

MI 60679 01 Landscape of Words

Amy Mulligan M 9:30A-12:15P

The medieval literatures of the North Atlantic -- Medieval Irish, Icelandic, English and Welsh literature (Latin and vernacular) -- feature a high concentration of sophisticated narratives invested in mapping the North Atlantic zone, and the movement, migration, and transformation of people as they move through these landscapes and seascapes. All unified by their conscientious use of a poetics of place, the texts we will examine variously focus on the movement of men and women, migrants and settlers, heroes, saints and colonizers through challenging and transformative geographies; some tales probe both individual and community reactions to being shepherded to or driven from the places, both mundane and otherworldly, they would like to call home; bountiful hunts and harvests demonstrate the happy union of a people with an intended homeland; these lands also show agency by catching fire or flooding in furious protest of a leader's bad judgments or wholesale rejection of an invader. Rooted in the physical geographies of Ireland, Iceland, England and Wales, these narrative topographies move beyond the land itself and become powerful, portable worlds that can be accessed and occupied by readers anywhere and at any time. All readings will be in English translation -- no previous linguistic knowledge is assumed. Primary texts may include: Bede's Historia Ecclesiastica; various saints' lives; Irish immrama or voyage tales; Old English poetry; Irish texts including T'in B' Cuailnge ("Cattle Raid of Cooley"); Mesca Ulad ("Drunkenness of the Ulstermen"); Togail Bruidne Da Derga ("Destruction of Da Derga's Hostel"); Acallam na Senorach ("Colloquy of the Ancients"); Dindshenchas or "lore of high places" poetry; the Welsh Mabinogi; topographical writings on Ireland and Wales by Gerald of Wales; and Old Norse-Icelandic poetry and sagas about voyaging, settlement and "land-taking". We will also examine some contemporary environmental writing and placelore, including novels (The Wake, Paul Kingsnorth, and City of Bohane, Kevin Barry) and perhaps film to compare how and why medieval and modern authors create and deploy narrative topographies (and how audience members respond to them). Critical readings will be wide-ranging and will include material from anthropologists, environmentalists, geographers, literary and cultural studies theorists, and numerous medievalists.

MI 63218 01 Magic, Causation, and Scientific Explanation

Robert Goulding T 9:30A-11:45A

This course examines the intertwined histories of pre-modern magic and natural philosophy. As the title suggests, there are three principal foci to the course. We will get an overview of the history of magic, from antiquity to the early-modern period, as well as the varieties of modern historiography of magic. We will also study the Neoplatonic tradition, in particular, on causation, natural and occult. And we will familiarize ourselves with the modern scholarship on the relationship between the development of science (particularly during the "Scientific Revolution") and the "magical worldview."

MI 63265 01 Medieval Communication

Daniel Hobbins

R 2:00P-4:30P

This course is designed to introduce students to the rich literature on late medieval communication from a historian's perspective. It can serve as the basis for a field examination in medieval history; it may also provide ancient and early-modern historians and medieval literary scholars with the basis for a fruitful comparative approach to their fields.

MI 63403 01 Medieval Latin Reading

Ann Astell and Joseph Wawrykow M 11:00A-11:50A

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 63425 01 Early Church Seminar: Roman North Africa

Robin Jensen M 8:00A-10:45A

This course will analyze the conceptions of Christian salvation in representative voices of the Patristic and Medieval Traditions, in the contexts of their distinctive theological frameworks. It will also evaluate the elements of continuity and discontinuity between Patristic and Medieval conceptions of salvation and inquire into the intelligibility and relevance of Patristic and Medieval soteriology for contemporary efforts at proclaiming the Christian doctrine of salvation.

MI 63764 01 Medieval Seminar: The Art of Time

Marius Hauknes W 2:00P-4:30P

In the European Middle Ages, time distinguished the created world from eternal realms, it structured monastic and agricultural lives, and it was a compelling topic for philosophical debate, theological inquiry, scientific definition, and artistic challenge. This class examines the nature of time as it was considered separately and conjointly in visual and verbal realms. Some of the art we will analyze includes late antique mosaics, narrative sequences in wall paintings and sculpture, calendars, cosmological and computus diagrams, personifications, and late medieval constructions of time-telling devices. Some of the texts to be discussed include Augustine's Confessions, Bede's The Reckoning of Times, Bernardus Silvestris's Cosmographia, Heinrich Seuse's Wisdom's Watch Upon the Hours, and Petrarch's Triumph of Time. The goal of this seminar is to gain a better understanding of how medieval artists, authors, poets, and others formulated questions and answers regarding the ubiquitous yet intangible phenomenon of time.

MI 66020 02-38 Directed Readings-Grad

Various

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 77001 01 Field Examination Preparation

John Van Engen

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 02-38 Dissertation Proposal Preparation

Various

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

MI 83482 01 Qur'anic Exegesis

Mun'im Sirry M 2:00P-4:45P

This course begins with close readings with selected Qur'an commentaries (tafsir) written by Muslim scholars through the centuries. In the course of those readings, key questions of interpretation will be raised. The core topics this course are those passages in the Qur'an that are interpreted in the tafs'r tradition as reflecting a polemical environment within which the Qur'an engaged other religious communities, notably, Jews and Christians. We will critically examine how those difficult passages of the Qur'an have been understood in various historical, cultural and political contexts, and to what extent scriptural interpretation serves a number of theological as well as political purposes. NO KNOWLEDGE OF ARABIC IS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE.

MI 83483 01 Eastern Liturgies

Gabriel Radle W 3:30P-6:15P

This seminar begins with an introduction to the Christ East and the phenomenon of its multiple rites. We survey the extant liturgical traditions of the Christian East, their origin, historical evolution and distinctive features. Our aim is to discover the main factors influencing the development of the rites, and to discern aspects of the distinct Christian witness codified in each rite. A close reading and analysis of the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Byzantine Rite follows. By studying this liturgy, reviewing the relevant secondary literature, and making comparative observations from other rites where appropriate, our goals are twofold: to gain greater familiarity with the Byzantine Rite; and to engage in a kind of apprenticeship in the structural and comparative study of liturgy. A research project invites deeper insight into specific aspects of one eastern rite and some of the scholarship pertaining to it.

MI 88001 01-40 Resident Dissertation Research

Various

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

MI 88002 01-39 Non-Resident Dissertation Research

Various

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

Various

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