

MI 60005 Latin Paleography

David Gura

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 Dame's 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 60023 The Medieval Islamic World

Denis Robichaud

The Corpus Dionysiacum is a pillar of Medieval Christian theology, philosophy, and mysticism. Its author was venerated as St Denis, as Dionysius the Areopagite (i.e., Paul of Tarsus's convert on the Areopagus mentioned in Acts 17:34), and according to various accounts as the first bishop of Athens, Corinth, or Paris. The fifteenth century was a period of intense work on the CD. New Greek to Latin translations of the CD were produced (Traversari and Ficino). New commentaries were written (Denys the Carthusian and Ficino). Philologists (Valla, Gaza, and later Erasmus) called into question Dionysius's apostolicity by demonstrating that the CD was a late ancient pseudepigraphic work. Some scholars (Bessarion, Balbi, Denys the Carthusian, Cusanus, and Ficino) began to explore its Platonism while others argued against this approach (George of Trebizond, Traversari, Pico, and later Lefèvre and Clichtove). Modern scholars now acknowledge the dependence of the CD on the Athenian philosophical school of Platonism (most notably on Proclus and Damascius), but already in the fifteenth-century, Marsilio Ficino (the first person to translate all of Plato and Plotinus into Latin) carefully argued that the best way to understand the CD is within late ancient philosophical traditions of Platonism. This seminar will examine Ficino's commentaries on the CD (the *Mystical Theology* and *On Divine Names*) and discuss its context and sources. No prerequisites are required for the course, but familiarity with ancient and medieval philosophy would be useful. Students will be invited to read Latin texts but no specific level of Latin is required. The course will be designed to allow students to work with their level of Latin, whatever it might be. No knowledge of Greek is required nor of other modern languages (e.g., Italian, French, German) but some linguistic training in these languages would be beneficial. The course plans to include visits to ND's rare books and special collections.

MI 60401 Intro to Medieval Theology

Ann Astell

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 60426 Patristic Exegesis

John Cavadini

This course will be an examination of traditions of biblical interpretation in the early Church. Since the greatest proportion of exegetical literature in the early Church was homiletic, this course will also entail an examination of traditions of preaching. We will devote considerable attention to ancient allegorical schools of interpretation (Origen), to reactions against it ("Antiochene" exegesis), and to Western exegetes (Augustine, Gregory the Great). We will also look at the uses of the Bible in ascetical literature (desert Fathers and Mothers, etc.).

MI 60553 Dante II

Theodore Cachey

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 60632 Medieval Latin Survey

Hildegund Müller

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.

MI 60673 Celtic Literature in Medieval Ireland & Wales

Amy Mulligan

In this class we will read and analyze a range of poetry and prose composed in medieval Ireland and Wales. The readings (in English translation, but with attention to the original Latin, Irish and Welsh languages - no experience with these languages necessary!) will allow participants to gain insights into the medieval cultural contexts which produced stories as diverse as those of pious saints like Patrick, Brigit and Brendan, warriors like Finn mac Cumhaill, Cú Chulainn and some fierce Welsh giants, shapeshifting poet-prophets like Taliesin and Amairgein, otherworldly women and powerful queens such as Rhiannon and Medb, political leaders such as King Arthur, and humorous and satirizing social poetic commentators like Dafydd ap Gwilym. At the end of the semester, we will also consider the presence of Celtic literature, myth, and tradition in contemporary pop culture. Requirements will include an exam, multiple writing exercises, oral presentations, and 1-2 longer papers.

MI 63252 Byzantium and the Crusades

Alexander Beihammer

This course explores crucial aspects of the encounter between the Frankish West, Byzantium, and the Muslim East in the time of the early crusades in the eleventh and twelfth century. It mainly focuses on the analysis of primary sources referring to topics of cross-cultural encounter, exchange, and perception in the period under discussion. In an interdisciplinary approach, we will compare Latin, Byzantine, and Arabic primary sources of the period with respect to their intellectual background and intended audience, their ideological framework, thought world, and the ways different authors belonging to the three spheres perceived and conceptualized the other in their historical writings. This course invites graduate students, who are interested in the medieval West, Byzantium, or Islam, to work together, juxtaposing and comparing the particularities of each sphere, and thus to arrive at exciting new conclusions.

MI 63455 The Hesychast Controversy

Alexis Torrance

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

MI 63562 The Hermeneutics of the Book

Laura Banella

The course explores the book as a textual object, and the ever-changing and dynamic relationship between the literary work and its material form. Students will investigate how literary texts engaged and challenged the book form and, in turn, the ways in which the material form shaped their transmission and interpretation. Case-studies will include authors who actively made their works one with the book (e.g., Rabanus Maurus, Petrarch, Boccaccio), texts whose circulation shaped literary history (e.g., Dante's *Commedia*, Shakespeare's plays), anthologies, *Sammelbands*, artists' books, visual poetry, readers' responses (e.g., Tasso's annotations on Dante, or Renaissance readers of Chaucer), along with a selection of fictional and critical writings engaging the book as a cultural symbol and a literary device. Students will have the opportunity to engage hands-on with Hesburgh Libraries' Special Collections, and to explore languages and periods other than the course's main focus.

MI 80219 Topics in Natural Philosophy

TBD

This course will focus on several natural philosophical topics, such as matter theory and atomism, time, motion, and causation. In each case, we will consider solutions offered by philosophers of the classical, Hellenistic, and late-antique periods, with a particular emphasis on Neoplatonism and the commentary tradition of late antiquity. If time permits, at the end of the course we will also briefly consider their influence in late-medieval and Renaissance natural philosophy.

MI 83351 Albert the Great

Therese Cory

In this course, we will do an in-depth reading of selected writings of the important 13th century philosopher and theologian, Albert the Great. We will especially focus on metaphysical and anthropological questions, with additional topics to be determined by student interests. Good reading knowledge of Latin is a requirement for this course, as few English translations of the works of Albert exist.

MI 83467 Hymnody

Jeffrey Wickes

This course has three foci: Liturgical Theology, Ritual Theory, and Eastern Christian hymnody (primarily Syriac and Greek). Conceptually, its aim is to assess the current states of liturgical theology and ritual theory in themselves and as they relate to (as well as fight against) one another. Historically and textually, its aim is to lead students through the formative hymnic voices of the late antique eastern Christian world (especially, Ephrem, Jacob, Narsai, and Romanos) and the liturgical contexts in which they operated. A central question will be how late antique hymnic sources can speak to movements in ritual studies and liturgical theology, and how those discourses can in turn inform readings of late antique hymnody. Students will be allowed and encouraged to set the agenda for certain aspects of the seminar, bringing in additional hymnic, ritual, and liturgical materials that move us beyond late antique Greek and Syriac (e.g., later Latin, Greek, Arabic, Armenian).

MI 83468 Patristic Christology

Khaled Anatolios

This course will trace the development of doctrine about the person and work of Christ in the early Church, from the Alexandrian Origen in the third century to the Arabic-speaking theologian Theodore Abu-Qurrah in the 9th century. Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Arabic sources will be studied in translation. In the final phase of the course, we will consider some modern efforts to build on Patristic doctrine in order to address new questions, such as how to understand the extent and character of Christ's human knowledge and how to articulate the salvific efficacy of the cross in light of modern critiques.

MI 83482 Qur'anic Exegesis

Mun'im Sirry

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 tafsir 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 93210 Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean
and Modern Scholarship

Thomas Burman

This course will both introduce students to the large bibliography of modern scholarship on the Medieval Mediterranean and explore some central texts and sources for doing Medieval Mediterranean history. It is recommended that students have solid reading knowledge of either Latin or Arabic, but all are welcome.

MI 66020 Directed Readings (Graduate)

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 Field Examination Preparation

Various

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 Dissertation Proposal Preparation

Various

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

MI 77011 Nonresident Field Exam Preparation Various

Offers nonresident 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 88001 Resident Dissertation Research Various

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

MI 88002 Nonresident 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 Dissertation Completion Various

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