

**MI 60003 Intro to Christian Latin Texts**

Hildegund Muller

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 60006 Greek Paleography**

David Gura

This course is an introduction to Greek paleography and provides an overview of uncial and minuscule scripts used in papyri, manuscript books, and the early imprints. Students will develop the skills necessary to read, transcribe, and contextualize Greek manuscripts. Areas include: letter forms, abbreviations, ligatures, dating, localization, formal vs. informal hands, scriptoria, and individual scribes. Emphasis is placed on manuscripts and scripts from Late Antiquity through the Byzantine period and Italian Renaissance. Students will work with Notre Dame's small but illustrative collection of papyri, Byzantine manuscripts, and Greek imprints. Intermediate knowledge of Greek is required.

**MI 60110 Introduction to Old English**

Tim Machan

In this course - in just one short semester! - students will acquire a reading knowledge of Old English, the form of English used in Anglo-Saxon England. We begin with an intensive introduction to Old English grammar (interspersed with short readings) and move quickly to the translation of representative poetry and prose about battles, visions, journeys, and hope. Though our focus is Old English language, attention is also given to Old English literary strategies and to Anglo-Saxon culture.

**MI 60404 Syriac Christianity**

Jeffrey Wickes

Historical Christianity is commonly depicted as a Western European religion. According to this view, Christianity, though born among Aramaic-speaking Jews in Palestine, quickly moved westward – from Rome to the North – where it eventually split into European Catholic and Protestant varieties. Underlying this geographic shift, moreover, was a shift in theological discourse, moving from a Semitic emphasis on poetry, metaphor, and symbol, to a Greco-Roman emphasis on philosophical questions and legal answers. The purpose of this course is to offer an alternate history of Christian theology that looks East rather than West, one which focuses on Christianity as it developed and was propagated in Syriac—a dialect of the Aramaic language that Jesus spoke. The course will focus especially on the great Syriac theological masters, the unique genres of poetry in which they wrote, and the rich liturgical contexts in which they worshipped.

MI 60414 Introduction to Early Christianity

Jeffrey Wickes

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 60452 St. Maximus the Confessor

Alexis Torrance

This course examines the life and thought of St Maximus the Confessor (c. 580 - 662), widely regarded as one of the most important and influential of all Byzantine Theologians. The course will move progressively through a large swathe of the Confessor's corpus, which includes an abundance of interconnected ascetic, mystagogical, cosmological, eschatological, and Christological material. The aim is to get a handle on the Confessor's complex and multi-layered theological vision, discuss his sources, as well as his ongoing relevance for the discipline of theology.

MI 60473 Eucharist

Tim O'Malley

The Church makes the Eucharist and the Eucharist makes the Church. The goal of this course is a comprehensive understanding of the nature and development of the Christian Eucharist. It provides perspective on the origins and historical development of the eucharistic liturgy across traditions, examines the structure and content of eucharistic liturgies (esp. the Roman Mass, but also other liturgical rites), the historical relationship between the Eucharist and the arts (esp. music and architecture) and undertakes a systematic reflection on various theological issues (e.g. real presence, transubstantiation, the role of the priest, excommunication, etc.). Illumined by historical and theological reflection, students will also engage in critically examining contemporary pastoral issues as well as current debates in the "liturgy wars".

MI 60478 Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations

Mun'im Sirry  
Gabriel Reynolds

In our course we will consider Christianity's encounter with Islam, from the Islamic conquests of the 7th century to the internet age. The first section of the course is historical. We will examine how various historical contexts have affected the Christian understanding of Muslims and Islam, from the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad to September 11 and beyond. The second section of the course is systematic. How are Christians today to respond to Islam, in light of recent world events and recent Church teaching? In addressing this question we will analyze primary theological sources that express a range of responses, from pluralism to dialogue to evangelism. Students in this class will be introduced to the Quran, to the life of Muhammad, to the difference between Sunni and Shi'ite Islam, to Church teaching on Christianity's relationship with Islam, and to trends in the theology of religions.

*Medieval Institute Graduate Course Descriptions Fall 2024*

MI 60483 The Song of Songs in Jewish and Christian Exegesis

Ann Astell  
Jeremy Brown

The Song of Songs is the great love song of the Bible. It occasions intensive reflection on the affective and especially amorous nature of the divine-human relationship. This course, which will be co-taught by two scholars of medieval Jewish and Christian theology respectively, provides an historically-nuanced theological survey of major trends in the interpretation of the Song of Songs developed by Jewish and Christian readers throughout the formative medieval period. Students will learn about allegorical, typological, philosophical, eschatological, pietistic, and mystical/symbolical modes of interpretation, and also the mutually polemical tensions that characterize Song of Songs exegesis across traditions. Jewish readers to be considered will include Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac of Troyes (i.e. Rashi), the Andalusian figures Abraham Ibn Ezra and Moses Maimonides, and Ezra of Girona, whose range of innovative readings are indebted to earlier rabbinic approaches to the Song as a national-historical allegory concerning Israel's unfolding redemption. Christian exegetes will include Hippolytus of Rome, Origen, Bruno of Segni, Honorius Augustodunensis, Alain de Lille, Rupert of Deutz, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Aelred of Rievaulx. Originally closely tied in Christian exegesis to sacramental mystagogy (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), the Song of Songs came to be read by Christians in additional contexts: the consecration of virgins, the Investiture Controversy, ecclesiology, Marian devotion, bridal mysticism, and marriage as a sacrament.

MI 60577 Medieval-Renaissance Italian Literature and Culture

TBD

An introduction to the close reading and textual analysis of representative texts from the Duecento through the Renaissance, including Lentini, Guinizzelli, Cavalcanti, Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Poliziano, Machiavelli, and Ariosto. We will trace the profile of Italian literary history in this period, setting the texts in their cultural and historical context (including music, art, and architecture), with attention to the changing understanding of human nature and the physical world in these centuries. Taught in Italian. Required for majors and supplementary majors in the Literature and Culture concentration; either this course or ROIT 30721 is required for majors in the Italian Studies Concentration.

MI 60612 The History of Latin

Brian Krostenko

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 60659 Islamic Theology: From Classical Origins to Modern Challenges

Hussein Abdulsater

This course studies the major themes of Islamic theology. It starts from the early debates concerned with Muslim views of God, the nature of the Qur'an, the prophethood of Muhammad and ends with current debates about the status of Islamic law (shari'a). It also discusses divine vs. human will, the role of politics in Muslim view of salvation and the limits of rationality. It traces how these topics moved from simple formulae to complex concepts due to socio-political controversies and conditions, whether they were sectarian or interreligious conflicts, crises of legitimacy, colonialism or modernity. The arguments of various schools are presented, and translated excerpts from prominent theologians are studied. As we read these texts we ask ourselves a number of questions. For example, what alternatives were possible for theologians other than what later became standard Muslim doctrines? What is the importance of imagination in

## *Medieval Institute Graduate Course Descriptions Fall 2024*

the creation of these theological systems? Did modern Muslim theologians have better options to handle ancient traditions that most of them ended up adopting? Do some modern Muslim theologians have an alternative view to offer? The course is meant to help students see the problems of theology from an Islamic viewpoint that may deepen their understanding of wider religious questions.

### MI 60673 Celtic Literature: The Stories of Medieval Ireland and 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 60701 History of Christian Architecture

Robin Jensen

A broad survey of purpose-built spaces for Christian worship, from the beginnings to the present. The course will attend to questions of form and aesthetics and the functionality of these spaces for liturgy or other church activities. Finally, the course will consider the social, economic, and political dimensions of church building projects.

### MI 63197 The (Un)Natural World in Medieval Literature

Christopher Abram

Can we get 'back to nature' by going back in time? Did medieval people perceive and represent their physical environments in ways radically different to ours? When did 'nature' divorce from 'culture' and why? How do 'pre-scientific' communities think the world works? Can we blame René Descartes for our alienation from the world that should nurture us? Or was feudalism at fault? Or Christianity? In this course, we'll attempt to answer these questions (and many more) through a cross-cultural investigation of the nature of 'nature' in medieval literatures of the North Sea region. Informed by readings of ecocritical theory, we will attempt to navigate worldviews of medieval texts as they react to (and thereby conceive of and produce) space and place, landscape, the non-human, the inexplicable and uncanny, in the most mundane and most exotic surroundings: the worlds that medieval people called home and the worlds they created for themselves. This class will be seminar-based and student-led: students will be required to introduce primary texts to the group and will be called upon to lead off discussion when their text comes up in the schedule. The geographical and temporal scope is flexible, but we will potentially be looking at texts in Old English, Old Norse, Anglo-Norman and early Middle English, as well as Latin of different periods and a bit of medieval Welsh and Irish. All texts will be available in translation, although students will be encouraged to bring their linguistic expertise to bear on original texts wherever possible. Medievalists of all backgrounds are welcome—not just literary scholars.

### MI 63425 Early Church Seminar: Roman North Africa

Robin Jensen

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

## *Medieval Institute Graduate Course Descriptions Fall 2024*

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 63496 Latin West and Byzantine East, 1053-1453: Clash and Communion Yury Avvakumov

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 63538 Eating, Kissing, and Damaging Books: The Medieval Manuscript as a Multisensory Object Johannes Junge Ruhland

Medieval books were hand-written luxury objects that were costly to produce, prestigious to read, and valuable to hold. Yet the attitudes of medieval readers and book owners could surprise us as being very "hands-on": they kissed images of Saints, ate bits of parchment, and on occasion even erased depictions of "the bad guy" such as the devil. This seminar, which requires no familiarity with medieval literature or the history of the book, is meant to show you how medieval books were multisensory objects that appealed to the eyes, the hand, the nose, the ears, and the mouth. With a focus on manuscripts in French and in Latin, you will learn what "reading" might have felt like over 500 years ago.

### MI 63561 Dante's Paradiso: Reshaping the World through Poetry Laura Banella

In this course students will read Dante's Paradise in its historical and intellectual context and in close connection with its sources. The course will explore Dante's ideal of the function of poets and poetry in society and the ways in which he imagined his literary work as a powerful epistemological and gnoseological achievement. The course will be taught in English. Reading knowledge of Italian is required.

### MI 66020 Directed Readings-Grad Varies by Section

A broad survey of purpose-built spaces for Christian worship, from the beginnings to the present. The course will attend to questions of form and aesthetics and the functionality of these spaces for liturgy or other church activities. Finally, the course will consider the social, economic, and political dimensions of church building projects.

### MI 67001 2nd Year Research Tutorial I Varies by Section

A broad survey of purpose-built spaces for Christian worship, from the beginnings to the present. The course will attend to questions of form and aesthetics and the functionality of these spaces for liturgy or other church activities. Finally, the course will consider the social, economic, and political dimensions of church building projects.

*Medieval Institute Graduate Course Descriptions Fall 2024*

MI 67706 History of Christian Architecture

Robin Jensen

A broad survey of purpose-built spaces for Christian worship, from the beginnings to the present. The course will attend to questions of form and aesthetics and the functionality of these spaces for liturgy or other church activities. Finally, the course will consider the social, economic, and political dimensions of church building projects.

MI 60701 Special Studies - Medieval

Marius Hauknes

Independent study in Medieval art history under the direction of an individual faculty member.

MI 77001 Field Examination Preparation

Varies by Section

A broad survey of purpose-built spaces for Christian worship, from the beginnings to the present. The course will attend to questions of form and aesthetics and the functionality of these spaces for liturgy or other church activities. Finally, the course will consider the social, economic, and political dimensions of church building projects.

MI 77002 Dissertation Proposal Preparation

Varies by Section

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

MI 88001 Resident Dissertation Research

Varies by Section

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

MI 88002 Nonresident Dissertation Research

Varies by Section

A broad survey of purpose-built spaces for Christian worship, from the beginnings to the present. The course will attend to questions of form and aesthetics and the functionality of these spaces for liturgy or other church activities. Finally, the course will consider the social, economic, and political dimensions of church building projects.

MI 93210 The 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 93836 Experience and Experiments in Medieval and Early Modern Science and Medicine

Evan Ragland

*Medieval Institute Graduate Course Descriptions Fall 2024*

Modern Science often turns on experiments. But artificial trials of phenomena were not always the touchstones of natural knowledge, and experimentation can take on a wide variety of roles and aspects. This course treats the history of experience and experiment in largely Western discourses from Late Antique science and medicine through the work of Isaac Newton. We will consider a number of proposed dichotomies, such as the difference between common-place Aristotelian experience and modern, singular and artificial experiments. Also illuminating are contrasts between the approaches to the generation of natural knowledge by medical healers and natural philosophers, mathematicians and university philosophers, and learned elites and vernacular investigators. Historiographically, this course covers a wide range of stances, from strictly internalist intellectual history to strong social constructivism. Many of our case studies of figures in the latter half of the course use opposing historiographic points of view and conclusions to sharpen our understanding of the fraught nature of experimentation and historical inquiry.

MI 98200 Dissertation Completion

Varies by Section

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