

Medieval Studies Courses 2019-2020

Please see Online course information for the most current details: <https://courses.yale.edu/>

Fall 2019

MDVL 555 Law in Medieval Europe Anders Winroth W: 9:25-11:15

This seminar explores the creation in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries of a sophisticated system of law, the European Common Law (*ius commune*). All late medieval and much modern legislation is based on this legal system. The course focuses on its roots in the Roman law of Emperor Justinian and in ecclesiastical legislation. We also study the influence of the *ius commune* on national and local medieval law. The emphasis is on using law in historical research and in learning the technical skills necessary. Prerequisite: facility with Latin or another relevant medieval language.

MDVL 599* The Twelfth Century Paul Freedman T: 1:30-3:20

The growth of European institutions and intellectual life in the twelfth century. Particular emphasis on Anglo-American historiography of the period beginning with Charles Homer Haskins's 1927 study, *The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century*.

MDVL 600 The Liturgy, Ritual and Chant of Medieval England (Sarum Use)
Parkes, Spinks TH: 3:30-5:20

This team-taught interdisciplinary travel seminar focuses on the rites, ceremonies, and music of the Use of Sarum (Salisbury), which was the predominant form of Christian worship in late medieval England. With particular attention to Salisbury Cathedral, as well as to surviving texts and material evidence pertaining to that foundation, it explores how liturgy was cultivated, documented, and experienced in the High Middle Ages. It considers the ritual intersections of community, architectural space, visual decoration, sound, movement, and written text. It also considers the significance of Sarum Use in the formation of the 1549 Book of Common Prayer and, more recently, as a resource for liturgical revival and renewal.

MDVL 663 From House Churches to Medieval Cathedrals
V. Marinis M: 1:30-3:20

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***Medieval Studies interdisciplinary course**

SPRING 2020

MDVL 520 Images of Cult and Devotion in the Premodern World

Jackie Jung

T: 1:30-3:20

This seminar explores the use of shaped materials, mostly figural but sometimes aniconic, in the formal rituals and private devotional practices of premodern people. Various religious traditions are represented, including ancient Near Eastern and Greek polytheism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and early and medieval Christianity. We look at both the distinctive features of image use in these cultures and the links among them, including the connection of sacred images to the dead, the numinous presence of relics, the importance of concealment and revelation, the instrumental power of votive objects, the role of images in sacrificial rites, and problems of idolatry and iconoclasm.

MDVL 563 Advanced Latin Paleography

Barbara Shailor

T: 1:30-3:20

The challenges of using hand-produced Latin manuscripts in research, with an emphasis on texts from the late Middle Ages. Gothic cursive scripts and book hands ca. 1200–ca. 1500; fragments of unidentified codices; complex or composite codices with heavy interlinear and marginal annotations. Manuscripts and fragments selected largely from collections in the Beinecke Library. Prerequisite: [CLSS 601](#) or permission of the instructor.

MDVL 610 Mdlv Latin: The Calamitous Life of Abelard

John Dillon

T,TH: 10-11:20

This is an introductory reading course in Medieval Latin that is intended to help students improve their reading ability by working directly with a medieval text. We read Peter Abelard's *Historia calamitatum*, "A History of My Calamities," in which the foremost scholar and theologian of the twelfth century gives a candid account of his life. Abelard was a celebrity professor at the dawn of the university, only to spectacularly fall into disgrace for a secret love affair with Heloise that resulted in his castration at the hands of his father-in-law. As we read Abelard's fascinating account of his life, we focus on reinforcing our knowledge of Latin grammar and syntax and pay special attention to the features of Abelard's language that are typical of Medieval Latin. Prerequisite: basic knowledge of Latin grammar and syntax, equivalent to LATN 110, and LATN 120

MDVL 664 History of Medieval Christianity

Staff

MWF: 9:30-10:20

This course explores the diversity of Western Christianity from the end of antiquity to the start of the early modern period. Central themes include the development of theology, concepts of reform, mysticism, gender, and relations between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. In lectures and sections the class investigates a broad range of primary sources, including written texts, visual images, architecture, and music. The medieval age witnessed constant change and innovation in church and society and was transformed by its encounters with religions and cultures beyond Europe.

