

Medieval Studies Courses

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

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 Mdvl 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.

AFFILIATED MEDIEVAL STUDIES GRADUATE COURSES

SPRING 2020

HIST 590 **Jews in Mdv. Europe 1200-1500**

Ivan Marcus

T: 1:30-3:20

This writing seminar focuses on developing a research paper on some aspect of the history of the Jews living in close relationship with Christians in medieval Europe between 1200 and 1500. Students develop a topic, select bibliography based on primary sources in Hebrew and other languages, write an outline, and produce a draft of a paper between 20 and 25 pages including notes. Students meet with the instructor on a regular basis throughout the process of researching and writing the paper. Deadline for submission of the paper is to be worked out with the instructor.

REL 713 **History of Mdv. Christianity** **Kevin Lord** **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. Area III.

HSAR 592 **Art of the Chora Monastery** **Nelson, Marinis** **M: 1:30-3:20**

The greatest monument of late Byzantine painting, the early fourteenth-century mosaics and frescoes of the Chora Monastery in Istanbul, were the subject of a massive four-volume publication during the 1970s. The field has changed significantly since then, but the art of the Chora has not been fully reexamined and brought into ongoing discussions about art, social context, the activities of the donor Theodore Metochites, and the subsequent history of the monument and its artists. The course is both an introduction to late Byzantine painting and an investigation into these and other topics. Integral to the course is a visit to Istanbul, Turkey during Spring Break, departing on March 6 and returning March 15 (dates subject to change). During our trip we will study not only Chora but several other Byzantine and Islamic monuments in the City. The Department of the History of Art will fund all travel, accommodations, and program costs. Students are responsible for the cost of meals and incidentals only. *Students should also carefully consider whether the trip will conflict with existing class or section commitments. Permission for absence should be secured from other professors before committing to this course.*

Registration is open to all and will be limited to 10 students. We seek a balance of expertise from all disciplines, including (but not limited to) History of Art, History, Classics and Medieval Studies. Some background in Byzantine Studies may be helpful but it is not required. To apply, please submit a one- or two-page essay (double-spaced) explaining how the course will benefit your own career trajectory, along with a representative sample of your written work. Please also indicate whether you will have to miss classes during the trip. Submit materials to Robert.nelson@yale.edu and Vasileios. marinis@yale.edu by January 6, 2020. Applicants notified of final selections by January 10.