

NELC 601

The Arabian Nights, Then and Now

Toorawa, Ramachandran M,W:9-10:15

The medieval Arabic cycle of stories known as *The Arabian Nights* or *The Thousand and One Nights* is a classic of world literature. In the first part of this course, we read the *Nights* and discuss both its dominant themes—inter alia deceit, love, sex, revenge, violence, and justice—and its storytelling contexts and antecedents, such as the Middle Persian *Tales of Bidpai*. In the second part, we explore the ways in which these themes and tales have been adapted and appropriated by later authors, including Neil Gaiman, Mary Zimmerman, and G. Willow Wilson in English, Jorge Luis Borges in Spanish, and Naguib Mahfouz in Arabic. We also study the films of Korda, Pasolini, and Barron.

ARBC 560

Graduate Arabic Seminar: Medieval Prose

Shawkat Toorawa

TBD

Study and interpretation of classical Arabic texts for advanced students. The focus this year is medieval prose.

REL 756

The Cult of Mary: Early Christian and Byzantine Art

Vasileios Marinis

W: 1:30-3:20

This course examines the origins and development of the veneration of Mary as the Mother of God, focusing specifically on the treatment of Mary in the visual and material culture of early Christianity and Byzantium. Its aim is to introduce students to key points in the history of the cult through the close study of images preserved on a range of objects in different media (including frescoes, glassware, sculpture, coins, textiles, mosaic), made for a variety of purposes. This visual material is analyzed in conjunction with relevant literary, theological, and liturgical evidence for the development of the cult. It is designed as a seminar for students who have interest or background in the material, textual, and religious culture of early Christianity. Area III and Area V.

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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.