# **AFFILIATED MEDIEVAL STUDIES GRADUATE COURSES 2019-2020**

## Fall 2019

ENG 545 Medieval Translation A. Butterfield M: 3:30-5:20

Using modern postcolonial as well as medieval theories of translation, memory, and bilingualism we explore how texts are transformed, cited, and reinvented in the medieval period. What happens to language under the pressure of crosslingual reading practices? How can the freedom and inventiveness of medieval poetic practices illuminate modern theories of translation? Texts include material in French, English, Latin, and Italian. Proficiency in any one or more of these languages is welcome, but every effort will be made to use texts available in modern English translation, so as to include as wide a participation as possible in the course.

FREN 610 Old French Howard Bloch W: 3:30-5:20

An introduction to the Old French language, medieval book culture, and the prose romance via study of manuscript Yale Beinecke 229, The Death of King Arthur, along with a book of grammar and an Old French dictionary. Primary and secondary materials are available on DVD. Work consists of a weekly in-class translation and a final exam comprised of a sight translation passage, a familiar passage from Yale 229, and a take-home essay. No previous study of Old French necessary, although a knowledge of French is essential. Conducted in English.

HIST 594 The Jews in Medieval Europe Ivan Marcus W: 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 800 and 1200. 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.

# HIST 625 Martyrdom & Sainthood in the Early Modern World

B. Gordon, C. Eire M: 3:30-5:20

The late medieval and early modern periods saw a dramatic rise in religious violence and persecution. Heresies—such as the Hussites, Waldensians, and Lollards—unsettled religious and political authorities, leading to armed conflict and attempts to suppress movements with violence. Across northern Europe, the late Middle Ages witnessed increasing numbers of pogroms as Jewish communities continued to be eradicated. At the same time, the period saw a flourishing of the veneration of saints and the canonization of holy men and women. These conflicting trends were only heightened by the Reformation, in which martyrdom and sainthood played central roles. This course explores the willingness to die and kill for one's faith, and the extraordinary growth in religious heroes, both Protestant and Catholic, who defined emerging confessional identities. The course examines a broad range of texts and visual material considering martyrdom and sainthood in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

## 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.

## \*\*\*SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SPRING 2020

# **SPRING 2020**

HIST 590

Jews in Mdvl. 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 Mdvl. 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.