

Latin 395/295: Late Antique and Medieval Latin (Fall 2007)

Syllabus

Description

This course, making extensive use of resources available via the internet, focuses on the evolution of Latin literature during late antiquity and the medieval period, beginning in the third century and continuing until the twelfth century. Students will read and study the works of some of the major authors of the period, including Tertullian, Jerome, Augustine, Prudentius, Hrotsvitha, Abelard, Heloise, Geoffrey of Monmouth, and others. The course will focus on four main themes-- religion, education, gender, and latinity itself-- within the consideration of changing historical, social, and cultural modes and values. Students will participate in a weekly webcast lecture, an on-line discussion moderated by faculty members from participating institutions in Sunoikisis, and weekly tutorials with faculty members at their home institutions.

Objectives

This course is specifically designed for advanced students and will include a rigorous study of the cultural and historical context during late antiquity and the medieval period. Students will continue developing their understanding of the language by studying the literature as it evolved over this long period of time. The goals of this course are to read and enjoy late antique and medieval Latin poetry and prose with full comprehension of form and content; to master its genres and conventions and follow essential points of written discourse; to demonstrate an awareness of the aesthetic properties of medieval Latin language and literary style and how these differ from classical Latin; to understand the historical, social, and cultural world of the medieval period as the bridge between antiquity and the modern world and the problems associated with such "periodization" of history; and to become familiar with current trends in scholarly interpretation.

Course Components

Preparation: Students should read all assigned primary texts for the week by the common session. Students who choose to take this course at the 295 rather than 395 level will be responsible for less reading in Latin but will be expected to complete all of the reading in English.

Common Sessions: Mondays, 6:30-8 PM Eastern. Students at all participating institutions will meet together online for a common session via multipoint interactive video-conferencing and a chat room. These interactive sessions have a different faculty leader each week and typically combine mini-lectures with discussion, questions, and exercises.

Study Questions: Responses to the study questions are due Wednesdays, with additional responses due on Fridays. The study questions afford students the opportunity to expand on and synthesize issues that arise in the reading and common session, as well as engage with secondary literature. Students may be asked to complete additional reading in English for the study questions.

Due Dates and Times for Discussion Questions:

Time	Activity
------	----------

4 PM (ED/ST) Wednesdays	First Answers to Study Questions due
4 PM (ED/ST) Fridays	Responses to other students' answers due

Tutorials: Each student will meet for at least one hour every week with a mentor at her or his home institution. The times and locations of these meetings will be determined on each campus. Students are responsible for contacting their faculty mentors and finalizing the details of their weekly meetings. These sessions will focus more closely on issues of language, translation and interpretation of assigned readings. Home campus mentors will be the final authority for all grades.

Examinations: Translation exams and quizzes will be handled by home institutions, but there will be a communally designed essay-based midterm and final exam that will be administered and graded by course faculty as a whole. Students will often be asked to interpret passages of Latin or use passages to support their arguments on the midterm and final.

For students in ICLAT 295, grades will be based on the following components:

Class preparation and work in tutorial: 40%

Participation in the study questions: 30%

Midterm examination: 15%

Final examination: 15%

For students in ICLAT 395, grades will be based on the following components:

Class preparation and work in tutorial: 30%

Participation in the study questions: 30%

Midterm examination: 20%

Final examination: 20%

Suggested Texts

Harrington, K. and J. Pucci. *Medieval Latin (2nd ed.)*. Chicago, 1997.

Lewis, Charlton and Charles Short. *A Latin Dictionary*. Oxford, 1879. (Lewis and Short contains more references to late Latin than the Oxford Latin Dictionary.)

Sidwell, S. *Reading Medieval Latin*. Cambridge, 1995.

Many texts and commentaries will be made available in electronic versions linked to the Moodle site for the class.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Week One: September 3-9

Assignments:

Latin: Tertullian Ad Scapulam 2 and 5, Egeria (HP) 75-76 (stop at "rubo in igne" in line 12) and 77 line 3 to end.

English: all of Ad Scapulam

Week Two: September 10-16

Common Session

Topic: "Roman and Christian Identity"

Prof. David Sick, Rhodes College

Assignments:

Latin: Jerome, Epistle 1 (Sidwell 53-54), Epistle 22 (all of selection on Moodle), Mark 15-16.8

English: Jerome, Epistle 1 (all)

Week Three: September 17-23

Common Session

Topic: "Jerome and Literate Christianity"

Prof. Dave Guinee, DePauw University.

Assignments

Augustine, Confessions 8.12.28-30 ("Tolle Lege") at Sidwell 46-48 [526 words]; 1.13.20-22 ("Dido and Aeneas") from the Latin Library, [484 words]; Latin 295 does not read book one.

Week Four: September 24-30

Common Session

Topic: "On Augustine's Confessions"

Prof. James O'Donnell, Georgetown University

Assignments

Latin: Ausonius' Crucified Cupid (HP 88-93); Prudentius, Psychomachia 310-343 (Sidwell 63-64)

English: Prudentius, Psychomachia

Week Five: October 1-7

Common Session

Topic: "Late Antique Poetics"

Prof. Holly Sypniewski, Millsaps College

Assignments

Bede, Ecclesiastical History and Commentary (Sidwell 105-108)

Venantius Fortunatus

To Radegund at Lent (HP 161)

To Absent Agnes (HP 162-163)

To Radegund: on Flowers (HP 165)

Pange, Lingua, Gloriosi (HP 167-168)

Weeks 6-7: October 9-15 and 16-22

Fall Break Week/Days for some schools.

Common Session

Topic: "What is Medieval Latin?"

Prof. Glenda Carl, Southwestern University

Assignments:

Alcuin, "Conflict of Winter and Spring" (HP 223-225), "Mea Cella" (HP 225-227)
Einhard, Vita Caroli Magni (HP 243-244)

Week Eight: October 22-28**Common Session**

Topic: "The Carolingian Renaissance and Educational Reform"
Prof. Nick Dobston, Monmouth College

Assignments:

Paul the Deacon, "Fatal Jest" (HP 204)
Dhuoda, Liber Manualis
Prose intro and opening acrostic (HP 273-275)
On loving God (HP 278-279)

Week Nine: October 29-November 4**Common Session**

Topic: "Women, Barbarians, and other Others as Authors, Students and Patrons"
Professor Owen Cramer, Colorado College

Assignments:

Hrotsvitha
Preface
Dulcitius scenes 1, 4, and 5 (HP 354-355) and remainder in English

Week 10: November 5-11**Common Session**

Topic: "Hrotsvitha, the Mighty Voice of Gandersheim"
Prof. Mike Lippman, Rollins College

Assignments:

Matthew Paris, the riot at Oxford and its aftermath (HP 646-650)
John of Salisbury, Metalogicon (Sidwell 256-259)

Week Eleven: November 12-18**Common Session**

Topic: "Education and the University"
Prof. Anne Leen, Furman University

Assignments:

Abelard, Historia Calamitatum (HP 492-494, line 11)
Heloise, Epistulae 2
Latin (HP 506-508, line 19)
Entire letter in English

Week Twelve: November 19-25 (Thanksgiving break)

Common Session

Topic: "Writing and Reading Abelard and Heloise"

Prof. Marsha McCoy, Austin College

Week Thirteen: November 26-December 2**Common Session**

Topic: "Manuscript Transmission"

Prof. Megan Drinkwater, Agnes Scott College

Assignments:

Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Historia Regum Britanniae* (HP 517-520)

Alexander Romance (HP 455-456)

Week Fourteen: December 3-9**Common Session**

Topic: "Vernacular Literature"

Prof. Rob Kendrick, Colorado College