

Medieval  
Studies  
Courses

Spring

2010

**MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM**  
RELEVANT COURSE OFFERINGS  
(LISTED BY DEPARTMENT)  
**SPRING 2010**

**FIRST-YEAR WRITING SEMINARS**

Each semester there are several First-Year Writing Seminars offered on medieval topics. Descriptions can be found on-line at the Medieval Studies website: <<http://www.arts.cornell.edu/medieval/Program/courses/FWSspring10.htm>>. All seminars are 3 credits and limited to 17 students. Topics and times for Spring 2010:

- ENGL 1185**      **WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE:**  
**Seminar 112**      **Medieval Supernatural.**  
26384              TR 2:55-4:10. C. Wronski-Mayersak.
- MEDVL 1101**      **ASPECTS OF MEDIEVAL CULTURE:**  
**Section 101**      Encountering Nature in Medieval England.  
26077              TR 11:40-12:55. S. Harlan-Haughey.
- Section 102**      Dante's *Divine Comedy*.  
26083              TR 8:40-9:55. A. Imus.
- Section 103**      *Beowulf* and the Anglo-Saxon World.  
26085              TR 1:25-2:40. B. Weber.
- Section 104**      Gender and Friendship in Pre-Modern Times.  
                         TR 10:10-11:25. A. Imus.
- Section 105**      The Fair and the Foul in the Middle Ages.  
26101              MWF 10:10-11:00. A. Mita.
- MEDVL 1102**      **LITERATURE OF CHIVALRY:**  
**Section 101**      Get Lai'd: Barbarian Roots of Courtly Romance.  
26102              MW 7:30-8:45p. M. Hanson.

## ART HISTORY

**ARTH 3300**  
4224

**Romanesque & Early Gothic Art & Architecture: Europe & the Mediterranean, 900 to 1150 A.D.** (also NES 3759). C. Robinson.

MW 2:55-4:25. 4 credits. Prerequisite: ARTH 2350 or ARTH 2355; freshmen enrollment with the permission of the instructor only.

Survey lectures and discussion of the visual cultures (architecture, luxury objects, book illumination and illustration) of the Medieval visual world, including northern and Mediterranean Europe (Ottonian, Romanesque, Early Gothic) and the Islamic World (Al-Andalus, Fatimid Egypt, Jerusalem), from 900–1150 A.D. We will pay particular attention to the ways and places in which East and West meet and, following a brief introductory period at the beginning of each half of the semester, also will be engaging the material from a thematic and critical perspective.

**ARTH 4305**  
26894

**Looking for Love: Visual & Literary Cultures of Love in the Medieval Mediterranean 1100-1400 A.D.** (also NES 4795). C. Robinson. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor required.

T 2:30-4:25. 4 credits.

An interdisciplinary seminar structured around the mythic palace built by the Nasrid dynasty in Granada, Spain. We will use primary sources in various genres, critical writings in the field of post-colonial theory, and secondary literature spanning the 19th, 20th and now 21st centuries, including Elena Diez Jorgea's *Para una lectura multicultural de la Alhambra de Granada* (Granada 2000). We will consider the building through the variety of lenses offered by Washington Irving, Ibn al-Khatib, Pedro el Cruel, Isabel la Catolica, Charles V, and others, in order to deconstruct the mythology of its uniqueness and view it as a monument representative of the continuous performance of cultural translations offered by late medieval Iberia.

## ASIAN STUDIES

**ASIAN 4429**  
25324

**Vitality & Power in China** (also HIST 4931, SHUM 4931). T. J. Hinrichs.

T 2:30-4:25. 4 credits.

For description, see Society for the Humanities.

**CHLIT 2214**  
4228

**Introduction to Classical Chinese** (Part 2). D. X. Warner.

TR 10:10-11:25. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CHLIT 2213 or permission of the instructor.

Students will learn the fundamental grammar and vocabulary of classical Chinese by analyzing and translating short passages.

**CHLIT 4420/6620**  
25266

**T'ang Poetry: Themes & Contexts.** D. X. Warner.

TR 2:55-4:10. 4 credits. Prerequisite: minimum of 3 years of Chinese and/or 1 year of Classical Chinese or permission of the instructor.

A guided reading in Chinese of selected works on shared themes written by selected poets of the T'ang dynasty (618-907). Focuses on developing the essential skills for reading T'ang poems while giving attention to their social, cultural, and historical contexts.

## CLASSICS

**CLASS 1699**      **English Words: Histories & Mysteries** (also LING 1109). W. Harbert.  
5634                      MWF 2:30-3:20. 3 credits.

For description, see Linguistics.

**CLASS 7682**      **Topics in Ancient History** (also HIST 6300, NES 6642). E. Rebillard.  
25199                      W 1:25-4:25. 4 credits.

Topic: Sharing the City: Pagans, Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity.

**LATIN 4202**      **Advanced Readings in Latin Literature.** C. Brittain.  
4768                      TR 10:10-11:25. 4 credits. Prerequisite: one semester of 3000-level Latin.

Topic: Epistolography.

**LATIN 7262**      **Latin Philosophical Texts** (also PHIL 4002/6020). C. Brittain and S. MacDonald.  
7554                      TBA. 1-4 credits. Permission of the instructor required.

For description, see Philosophy.

## ENGLISH

**ENGL 2180**      **History of the English Language since 1300** (also LING 2218). W. Harbert.  
25359                      MWF 10:10-11:00. 4 credits.

For description, see Linguistics.

**ENGL 3080**      **Icelandic Family Sagas.** T. Hill.  
24565                      MWF 12:20-1:10. 4 credits.

An introduction to Old Norse-Icelandic mythology and the Icelandic family saga -- the “native” heroic literary genre of Icelandic tradition. Texts will vary but will normally include the *Prose Edda*, the *Poetic Edda*, *Hrafnkels Saga*, *Njals Saga*, *Laxdaela Saga*, and *Grettirs Saga*. All readings will be in translation.

**ENGL 3120/6120**      **Beowulf.** T. Hill.  
4402/4404                      MWF 10:10-11:00. 4 credits. Required: one semester’s study of Old English or equivalent.

A close reading of *Beowulf*. Attention is given to relevant archaeological, literary, cultural, and linguistic issues.

**ENGL 3190**      **Chaucer.** M. Raskolnikov.  
5296                      TR 2:55-4:10. 4 credits.

Chaucer became known as the “father of English poetry” before he was entirely cold in his grave. Why is what he wrote more than six hundred years ago still riveting for us today? It’s not just because he is the granddaddy of this language and its literature; it’s because what he wrote was funny, fierce, thoughtful, political, philosophical, and, oh yes, notoriously bawdy. We’ll read some of Chaucer’s brilliant early work, and then dig into his two greatest achievements: the epic *Troilus*

*and Crisyede*, and *The Canterbury Tales*, his oft-censored panorama of medieval English life. Chaucer will be read in Middle English, which will prove surprisingly easy and pleasant.

**ENGL 6190**  
24792

**Chaucer and Gower.** A. Galloway.  
W 1:25-3:20. 4 credits.

Chaucer: founder of English Literature. Gower: who that? “Friend of Chaucer”? The most famous non-famous founder of English Literature? A dull moralist, or a brilliant literary interlocutor with Chaucer?

This seminar is intended to introduce both of them, or, for those who know something of them, offer opportunities to think further about them in new ways, and in either case use their known interactions to think about literary communities, literature and its social setting, and literary “debates.” Their literary interactions seem to bring out very different political ideals, views of economics and value, views of history, ideas about ethics, and the power of language — the last a complex issue in a world where French, Latin, and English all coexisted. Gower wrote major poems in all three languages; Chaucer focused on English (though he seems to have written French poetry too). We will focus on the English writings, but will also read excerpts from Gower’s Latin and French works (with translations). The seminar will not require prior knowledge of Chaucer or medieval English literature, but we will arrange an additional weekly hour or so to practice reading and understanding fourteenth-century London English. We’ll also read some modern anthropological theory, some readings of sources, and a selection of critical writing. There will be regular small translation exercises (with opportunities for informal commentary), two 5-page papers, and a final long paper (20-25 pp.). For S/U, all requirements except the long paper obtain.

## GERMAN STUDIES

**GERST 4060**  
3804

**Introduction to Medieval German Literature II.** A. Groos.  
MWF 9:05-9:55. 4 credits. Prerequisite: GERST 4050 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

Political lyrics by Walther von der Vogelweide will introduce agendas of conflict in 13th-century German culture, ranging from crusades to civil war. Against this background, we will examine the utopian quest to win the Holy Grail and heal the Fisher King in Wolfram’s *Parzival*, using Bakhtin’s approach to pre-novelistic discourse. Readings from the love lyric trace representation of gender across emerging class differences, the increasing complexity of self, and instabilities of the performance text. Concluding topics may include women mystics and late medieval narratives of socio-sexual violence, anti-Semitism, and urban Angst.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

**GRAD 9001**  
21350

**Doctoral Dissertation Research.**  
RSC 799

## HISTORY

**HIST 3677**  
25702

**Search for the Historical Muhammad** (also NES 3677). D. Powers.  
TR 8:40-9:55. 4 credits.

For description, see Near Eastern Studies.

**HIST 4931**

**Vitality & Power in China** (also ASIAN 4429, SHUM 4931). T. J. Hinrichs.

25323 T 2:30-4:25. 4 credits.

For description, see Society for the Humanities.

## LINGUISTICS

**LING 1109** English Words: Histories & Mysteries (also CLASS 1699). W. Harbert.  
5632 MWF 2:30-3:20. 3 credits.

Where do the words we use come from? This course examines the history and structure of the English vocabulary from its distant Indo-European roots to the latest in technical jargon and slang. Topics include formal and semantic change, taboo and euphemism, borrowing, new words from old, "learned" English loans from Greek and Latin, slang, and society.

**LING 2218** History of the English Language since 1300 (also ENGL 2180). W. Harbert.  
25358 MWF 10:10-11:00. 4 credits.

Traces English from Chaucer to the present, including the development of standard English and dialects, and the rise of English as a world language.

**LING 2236** Introduction to Gaelic. W. Harbert.  
25360 MWF 1:25-2:15. 4 credits.

Introduction to the Scottish Gaelic language, with some discussion of its history, structure, and current status.

**LING 3308** Readings in Celtic Languages. W. Harbert.  
25363 TBA. 1 credit. S/U only.

**LING 3316** Old Norse II. Staff.  
5830 MWF 9:05-9:55. 4 credits.

Old Norse is a collective term for the earliest North Germanic literary languages: Old Icelandic, Old Norwegian, Old Danish, and Old Swedish. The richly documented Old Icelandic will be the center of attention, and the purpose is twofold: the students gain knowledge of an ancient North Germanic language, important from a linguistic point of view, and gain access to the medieval Icelandic (and Scandinavian) literature. Extensive reading of Old Norse texts, among them selections from some of the major Icelandic family sagas: *Njals Saga*, *Grettirs Saga*, and *Egils Saga*, as well as the whole *Hrafnkels Saga*.

**LING 4417** History of the Russian Language (also RUSSA 4401). W. Browne.  
25366 TBA. 4 credits. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Phonological, morphological, and syntactic developments from Old Russian to modern Russian.

## MEDIEVAL STUDIES

**MEDVL 8010** Directed Study - Individual. Staff.  
13326 TBA. 2-4 credits. SEM 601.

**MEDVL 8020** Directed Study - Group. Staff.  
13324 TBA. 2-4 credits. SEM 601.

## NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

**NES 2537** **Ninth-Century Baghdad & its Bad Boys & Girls.** S. Toorawa.  
25894 MW 2:55-4:10. 3 credits.

The 9th and 10th centuries in Baghdad have come to be known as the “golden age.” In this course we will read works from this golden age, in particular by and about a group I call the “bad boys and girls of Baghdad.” We will read Jahiz on envy; Ibn al-Muqaffa’ on rulership; Mas’udi on Ja’far (remember Disney’s *Aladdin*?). We will read about the caliph Harun al-Rashid and the elephant he sent to Charlemagne. And we will enter the world of the singing sensation “Arib,” who was the lover of some of Baghdad’s most famous men. We will see how paper, books, and writing changed Baghdad, Islamic society, and human knowledge, and how Arab-Islamic society’s contributions changed the world. Weekly thought essays and a final project.

**NES 3677** **Search for the Historical Muhammad** (also HIST 3677). D. Powers.  
25701 TR 8:40-9:55. 4 credits.

Unlike Moses or Jesus, Muhammad is said to have been born in the full light of history. The earliest extant biography of the Prophet, the *Life of Muhammad* by Ibn Hisham (d. 833), contains a full account of the Prophet’s career, from his birth ca. 570 to his death in 632. In this seminar, we will read the *Life of Muhammad* and analyze selected episodes from a critical historical perspective.

**NES 3759** **Romanesque & Early Gothic Art & Architecture: Europe & the Mediterranean, 900-1150 A.D.** (also ARTH 3300). C. Robinson.  
4226 MW 2:55-4:25. 4 credits.

For description, see Art History.

**NES 4639** **Readings in Arabic Historical Texts.** D. Powers.  
25773 TR 1:25-2:40. 4 credits. Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of Arabic.

This class will introduce students to Arabic historical texts. The topic for this year’s seminar will be the Arab conquests.

## PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 4002/6020** **Latin Philosophical Texts** (also LATIN 7262). S. MacDonald and C. Brittain.  
25152/7552 TBA. 1-4 credits. Prerequisites: knowledge of Latin and permission of the instructor.

Reading and translation of philosophical texts in Latin.

## ROMANCE STUDIES

**FREN 4390** **Poems of Force: Medieval Epic.** C. Howie.  
25557 T 12:20-2:15. 4 credits. Conducted in English.

This seminar is dedicated to the glittery, gory battle poems of the French Middle Ages, with special emphasis on the role of violence in the construction of national, narrative, and erotic identities. We’ll take a look at two famous war poems, the *Song of Roland* and *Raoul de Cambrai*, as well as the romance afterlife of Virgil’s *Aeneid* in the 12th-century *Roman d’Eneas*; time permitting, we’ll also

turn to Renaissance appropriations of medieval epic (and romance) tropes, particularly Tasso's *Gerusalemme liberata*. In addition to close readings of these texts, we'll turn to modern and contemporary thinkers such as Simone Weil, Anne Carson, Elaine Scarry, and others who have dealt delicately with the ethics and aesthetics of violence. Readings primarily in French, discussion in English. No previous experience with Old French required.

**ITAL 4270/6270**  
25649/25650

**Dante's *Commedia***. M. Migiel.  
R 12:20-2:15. 4 credits.

In this seminar, dedicated to a close reading of Dante's *Commedia* (1321), we will consider how Dante's poem explores such issues as: the search for a language adequate to convey experiences surpassing human comprehension; the creation of a narrating "I"; the education of the reader; the relation between truth and error; national, political, and religious identities; the place of women in the epic enterprise; the redemptive potential of art (and its ability to deceive as well as to enlighten and console); the call to bear witness, both to life and to loss. Particular attention will be dedicated to teaching students how to read and interpret medieval Italian texts. For students interested in discussing and writing about Dante in Italian, an additional Italian Practicum (ITAL 300, one credit, one hour per week) will be scheduled TBA.

**SPAN 2340**  
25566

**Faith, Love & Adventure in Medieval Spain**. S. Pinet.  
TR 11:40-12:55. 4 credits. Prerequisite: SPAN 2190 or permission of the instructor.

Examines a wide variety of cultural objects and practices of Medieval Spain -- from art objects to religious practices, from poetry to music -- to address questions of identity, faith, institutions, historicity, and nation-building in multicultural Iberia. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion and to prepare written critical analyses. Primary sources constitute the main corpus, but modern perspectives on the Spain of the Middle Ages are also included.

**SPAN 3540**  
25563

**Stages: Theater of Early Modern Spain**. S. Pinet.  
TR 1:25-2:40. 4 credits. Prerequisites: SPAN 2140, 2150, or 2170, or permission of the instructor.

This is a survey course of theater of Golden Age Spain. Historical development of the genre within a Spanish and European context will be emphasized, while addressing questions of literary history, social context, the space of the stage, evolving structure of the "comedia," etc. Authors may include Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina, Calderón de le Barca, Juan Ruiz de Alacón, Augustín Moreta, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

## **SOCIETY FOR THE HUMANITIES**

**SHUM 4931**  
25322

**Vitality & Power in China** (also ASIAN 4429, HIST 4931). T. J. Hinrichs.  
T 2:30-4:25. 4 credits. Limited to 15 students.

Chinese discourses have long linked the circulation of cosmic energies, political power, and bodily vitalities. In these models political order, spiritual cultivation, and health are achieved and enhanced through harmonizing these flows across the levels of Heaven-and-Earth, state, and humankind. It is when these movements are blocked or out of synchrony that we find disordered climates, societies, and illness. In this course, we will examine the historical emergence and development of these models of politically resonant persons and bodily centered polities, reading across primary texts in translation from these otherwise often separated fields. For alternate frameworks of analysis as well as for comparative perspectives, we will also examine theories of power and embodiment from other cultures, including recent scholarship in anthropology and critical theory.

*Also of interest:*

NES 2699  
25889

**History of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1922** (also HIST 2699). A. Karakaya-Stump.  
TR 11:40-12:55. 3 credits.

The Ottoman Empire was one of the longest-lasting empires in world history, ruling over a large portion of the Middle East and the Balkans for nearly six centuries. It figures as a major power in the history of both Europe and the Islamic world. This course is an introductory survey of the history of the empire from its origins as a small principality in medieval Anatolia to a leading world power in the 16th century, and to its eventual disintegration by the end of World War I. It explores the major events of Ottoman political history, the main economic, social, and cultural institutions of the Ottoman state and society, and some recent trends in Ottoman historiography including debates on the origins and decline of the Ottomans, and the growing research on Ottoman women.

SPAN 2170  
7618

**Early Hispanic Modernities: Readings in Medieval & Early Modern Iberian & Spanish-American Lit.** M. Garcés.  
TR 1:25-2:40. 4 credits. Prerequisite: SPAN 2070 or 2090 or permission of the instructor.  
Conducted in Spanish.

This course explores major texts and themes of the Hispanic tradition from the 11th to the 17th centuries. We will examine general questions on literary analysis and the relationship between literature and history around certain events, such as medieval multicultural Iberia, the creation of the Spanish Inquisition in the 15th century and the expulsion of the Jews in 1492; the encounter between the Old and the New Worlds; the “opposition” of high and low in popular culture, and of the secular and the sacred in poetry and prose. Issues of representation regarding gender, identities, and subjectivity may also be studied. Readings may be drawn from medieval short stories and miracle collections; chivalric romances, Columbus, and literary as well as geographic discovery, Lazarillo de Tormes, Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderón, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, among others.

**MEDIEVAL STUDIES COURSES**  
Spring 2010

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
8:00-8:50					
8:40-9:55		NES 3677 Search for the Historical Muhammad		NES 3677	
9:05-9:55	GERST 4060 Intro to German Literature 2 LING 3316 Old Norse 2		GERST 4060 LING 3316		GERST 4060 LING 3316
10:10-11:00	ENGL 3120/6120 Beowulf LING 2218 History of English Lang since 1300		ENGL 3120/6120 LING 2218		ENGL 3120/6120 LING 2218
10:10-11:25		CHLIT 2214 Intro to Classical Chinese 2 LATIN 4202 Advanced Readings in Latin Literature		CHLIT 2214 LATIN 4202	
10:10-12:05					
11:15-12:05					
11:40-12:55		SPAN 2340 Faith, Love, and Adventure in Medieval Spain		SPAN 2340	
12:20-1:10	ENGL 3080 Icelandic Family Sagas		ENGL 3080		ENGL 3080
12:20-2:15		FREN 4390 Poems of Force: Medieval Epic		ITAL 4270/6270 Dante's Commedia	

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
1:25-2:15	LING 2236 Intro to Gaelic		LING 2236		LING 2236
1:25-2:40		NES 4639 Readings in Arabic Historical Texts SPAN 3540 Stages: Theater of Early Modern Spain		NES 4639	
1:25-3:20			ENGL 6190 Chaucer & Gower		
1:25-4:25			CLASS 7682 Topics in Ancient History		
2:30-3:20	LING 1109 English Words: Histories & Mys		LING 1109		LING 1109
2:30-4:25		ARTH 4305 Looking for Love: Med Mediterranean 1100-1400 SHUM 4931 Vitality & Power in China	SHUM 4931		
2:55-4:10	NES 2537 9th-century Baghdad & its Bad Boys & Girls	CHLIT 4420/6620 T'ang Poetry: Themes & Contexts ENGL 3190 Chaucer	NES 2537	CHLIT 4420/6620 ENGL 3190	
2:55-4:25	ARTH 3300 Romanesque & Early Gothic Art & Architecture		ARTH 3300		
3:35-4:25					
3:35-5:30					
4:30-6:30					
7:30-8:45p					

Courses listed as TBA:

LING 3308 Readings in Celtic Languages  
 LING 4417 History of the Russian Language  
 MEDVL 801 Directed Study - Individual  
 MEDVL 802 Directed Study - Group  
 PHIL 4002/6020 Latin Philosophical Texts