



# MEDIEVAL STUDIES

## *Fall 2017 Courses*

- I. Undergraduate Course Descriptions
- II. Graduate Course Descriptions

Note: For Cross-listed courses the CRN is that for MDVL; the CRN for other Departments will differ.

For information on the MDVL major, minor and Graduate concentration, please email [stoppino@illinois.edu](mailto:stoppino@illinois.edu)



## I. Undergraduate Courses

### REL 108 Religion and Society in the West I

credit: 3 hours

Same as ANTH 108, PHIL 108, and SOC 108.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for Hist&Philosoph Prospect and Western Compартy Cult course.

68128 Lecture: 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM TR

160 English Building

Instructor: B. Rosenstock

Introduction to classic writers and texts in Western religious and social thought from antiquity to the Enlightenment, with emphasis on their social and historical contexts.

### ENG 119 section P The Literature of Fantasy

credit: 3 hours

65040 TR 11-12:15

Instructor: C. Wright

From Mordor to Gormenghast: Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and Peake's *Gormenghast*

If J. R. R. Tolkien's trilogy *The Lord of the Rings* (1954-1955, rev. 1966) established the dominant paradigm for the genre of secondary-world fantasy fiction, Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* trilogy (1946-1959) established a rival paradigm that, while less influential, has been all the more important for defining an alternative to hobbitry—so much so that Peake has sometimes been described as “the anti-Tolkien.” Among contemporary fantasy writers who have preferred Peake's vision, China Miéville has gone so far as to say that “The nicest thing anyone ever said about [his novel] was that it read like a fantasy book written in an alternate world where the *Gormenghast* trilogy rather than *Lord of the Rings* was the most influential work in the genre.” In contrast to Tolkien's enchanted and multi-peopled Middle Earth, Peake's grimmer and grimier *Gormenghast* has no magic and no non-human races, while Peake's eccentrically ironizing modernist prose style is nothing like Tolkien's sympathetically archaizing neo-medievalism. Compare Peake's “The Tower of Flints, . . . patched unevenly with black ivy, arose like a mutilated finger from among the fists of knuckled masonry and pointed blasphemously at heaven” with Tolkien's “the Tower of Ecthelion . . . shone out against the sky, glimmering like a spike of pearl and silver, tall and fair and shapely, and its pinnacle glittered as if it were wrought of crystals . . .” While some admirers of either trilogy can't abide the other, there have also been many readers (among them C. S. Lewis) for whom the secondary worlds of Tolkien and Peake represent equally absorbing if utterly different and even antithetical visions. In this class we'll try to appreciate each trilogy on its own terms while at the same time reading them against each other as the antipodes of secondary-world fantasy fiction. To facilitate that we'll alternate volumes from each trilogy through the semester. We will also watch and

discuss the film adaptations made of each (Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* and the BBC mini-series *Gormenghast*).

## HIST 141 Western Civilization from Antiquity to 1660

credit: 3 hours.

34044 Lecture: 10:00AM - 10:50AM TR 101 Armory

Instructor: R. Mathisen

Fundamental developments in the history of Western societies from antiquity to early modern Europe; includes the Greek and Roman worlds, the influence of Christianity and Islam, the emergence of medieval monarchies, the rise of cities, the commercial and intellectual revolutions of the Middle Ages, the birth of the university, the conquest and colonization of the Atlantic world, the Renaissance and Reformation, the political and religious upheavals of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

## MDVL 201 Medieval Literature and Culture

credit: 3 hours.

Same as CWL 253 and ENGL 202. See ENGL 202.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a: UIUC: Literature and the Arts UIUC: Western Compartment Cult

3389 Lecture: 10:00 PM – 10:50 AM MWF

Instructor: R. Trilling

Join us for an exciting journey into the world of the Global Middle Ages! Knights in shining armor fighting monsters. Saints performing miracles. Kings (and queens!) leading armies into battle. Monks offering prayers through their daily offices. Peasants tilling the fields. These are some of the most popular and enduring images of the Middle Ages, and in this course we will explore the literature, art, and history that gave rise to our ideas of the romance and chivalry of the medieval period. Our goal will be to read a broad range of medieval literature (all in modern English translation) from around the world: England, the Continent, the Arab world, and Asia. We will explore a variety of genres, including epics, sagas, romances, fabliaux, riddles, drama, lyrics, and saints' lives, and we will work to situate each work in its social and historical contexts with visits to the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, the Spurlock Museum, and the Krannert Art Museum.

## JS 201 History of Antisemitism

68361 2:00-3:20 TR 109 English Building

Instructor: B. Rosenstock

The "History of Antisemitism" examines the negative representations of Judaism and the Jewish people within the larger context of the major historical changes

taking place in the ancient Mediterranean worlds, medieval European civilization, and the rise of the modern nation state. We will study a wide variety of texts, from Greek and Latin historical writing to Gospel narratives, theological treatises of the Church Fathers, medieval passion plays, saint's legends, Enlightenment philosophy, nineteenth-century racist pamphlets, and Nazi propaganda. We will also study antisemitic themes in film and contemporary social media. Same as REL 212.

## REL 214 Introduction to Islam

credit: 3 hours.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a: UIUC: Non-Western Cultures  
UIUC: Hist&Philosoph Perspect

31023 Lecture: 10:00 AM- 10:50 AM MWF

Instructor: V. Hoffman

History of Islamic thought from the time of Muhammad to the present, including the prophethood of Muhammad, the Qur'an, theology and law, mysticism and philosophy, sectarian movements, modernism and legal reform, and contemporary resurgence. Same as SAME 214. Credit is not given for both REL 213 and REL 214.

## CWL/ENGL/MDVL 216 Legends of King Arthur

CRN 67743 MWF 1-1:50

Instructor: R. Trilling

From the daring exploits of the knights of the Round Table to the passionate love of Lancelot and Guinevere, few things encompass the magic and adventure of the Middle Ages like the tales of King Arthur. Wielding the power of his sword Excalibur and the wisdom of his advisor Merlin, Arthur presides over a narrative kingdom of knights, quests, dragons, tournaments, maidens, wizards, castles, and fairies, whose interweaving stories make up one of the most capacious bodies of literature in world history. But Arthur is also a messianic figure, appearing in chronicles and histories, leading the people of Britain to freedom from tyranny, and promising to return when his country needs him the most. Arthurian myth and legend is one of the most enduring literary traditions of Western Europe, and its characters and stories were as popular in the Middle Ages as they are today. Originating in early medieval Wales, the legends traveled through England to France and Germany and throughout the modern world. We will study the development of the Arthurian tradition in chronicles, poetry, romances, *lais*, and *fabliaux*, comparing variations across cultural and historical boundaries. Our materials will range from the earliest sightings of Arthur in medieval histories through the defining stories of

Chrétien, Gottfried, and Malory to modern adaptations of the legend on stage and screen.

### ARTH 231 Northern Renaissance Art

Same as ARTH 231

credit: 3 hours.

41038 1:00 PM - 2:20 AM MW 316 Art and Design Building

Instructor: L. Rosenthal

Architecture, painting, sculpture, and minor arts of Europe outside Italy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

### MDVL 240 Italy in the Middle Ages & Renaissance

credit: 3 hours. Same as CWL 240 and ITAL 240.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a: UIUC: Literature and the Arts

53946 Lecture: 11:00 AM-12:20 PM TR

Instructor: E. Stoppino

This course will provide an introduction to the medieval and early renaissance literature of Italy from the point of view of education: we will explore topics such as the formation of manners, the creation of ideals of civility, the representation of chivalric behaviors. We will focus on the education of the perfect poet, the perfect wife and the perfect nun; on the upbringing of the perfect lady and of the perfect courtier, the care and grooming of the courtly body, and the rejection of the lower bodily functions. In English.

### MDVL 251 Viking Mythology

credit: 3 hours. Same as CWL 251, REL 251, and SCAN 251. See SCAN 251.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a: UIUC: Hist&Philosoph Perspect

UIUC: Western Compартv Cult

58533 / 63053 / 63058 / 63062 Lecture: 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM TR 1000 Lincoln Hall

Instructor: V. Hoefig

This course studies the pre-Christian beliefs of the North Germanic peoples as reflected primarily in medieval Icelandic prose and poetry texts (in translation), place names, runic inscriptions, and archaeological finds from late Iron Age and Viking Age Scandinavia. By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the world-view and culture of the Viking Age and Scandinavian Middle Ages, be able to name and identify main deities and mythological beings and their characteristics, and discuss how and, above all, why

myths of such content were preserved in the Middle Ages, especially in Icelandic texts.

## EALC 275 Masterpieces of East Asian Literature

credit: 3 hours.

This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for a: UIUC: Non-Western Cultures  
UIUC: Literature and the Arts

47209 Lecture: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM MW 2 Education Building

Study of major works in the literary traditions of China and Japan, including haiku, noh, Tale of Genji, kabuki, Tang poetry, Ming theater, and the colloquial tale. Same as CWL 275. No knowledge of Chinese or Japanese language required.

## SCAN 305/505

CRN 65003 / 33279, TTh 02:00PM - 03:20PM, 1018 Foreign Languages Building

Instructor: V. Hoefig

This course provides an introduction to the written language of Iceland and Norway during the Middle Ages, the language in which skaldic and Eddic poetry and the Icelandic sagas are recorded. While emphasis is placed on increasing reading ability through recognition of grammatical forms and building vocabulary, we will also briefly discuss the different genres and the cultural background of the Old Norse-Icelandic literary corpus. By the end of the course, students will be able to read Old Norse prose texts in standardized orthography with the aid of a dictionary/glossary, and have gained a first, basic overview of Old Norse-Icelandic literature.

## II. Graduate/Undergraduate Courses

### MDVL 407 Introduction to Old English

Same as ENGL 407 credit: 3 OR 4 hours.

49829 Lecture: 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM TR 303 English Building

Instructor: C. Wright

In this course you will learn to read Old English prose and poetry in the original language, which was spoken by the Anglo-Saxon inhabitants of England from the sixth through eleventh centuries. We will begin with some easy prose readings (the story of Adam and Eve from Genesis, and a thousand-year-old classroom skit about Anglo-Saxon “career choices”). As you gradually master the basics of Old English grammar we will work our way up to literary narrative prose such as the Anglo-Saxon historian Bede’s story of

Cædmon's miraculous transformation from cowherd to poet; King Alfred's plan for reforming English education through a "great books" scheme (some things never change ...); and Ælfric's story of the martyrdom of King Edmund, slain by Vikings invaders (and featuring Edmund's decapitated talking head). Then in the second half of the semester we will read some of the finest short Old English poems, including *The Wanderer* and *The Seafarer*, two elegiac poems of exile; *The Battle of Maldon*, recounting the heroic defeat of an English army by the Vikings; *The Dream of the Rood*, a mystical vision of the Crucifixion, as told by the Cross; and *The Wife's Lament*, about a woman abandoned by her former lover. We'll conclude with a couple of excerpts from *Beowulf*, about a Germanic hero's battles with a man-eating monster, his vengeful mother (the monster's, that is), and a dragon. Along the way we will learn about aspects of Anglo-Saxon history, culture, and art. Note: This course fulfills the Pre-1800 requirement for English majors, and it may be used to fulfill the language studies elective option for Teaching of English students (with permission from an advisor). For graduate students the course is 4 hours credit and will involve an additional hourly meeting per week (time and place to be arranged).

### MDVL 414    Boccaccio's *Decameron*

39453 3:00PM - 04:50PM T 1118 Foreign Languages Building

Instructor: E. Stoppino

This course explores Boccaccio's collection of tales, called *Decameron*, following the adventures of star-crossed lovers and inveterate sinners, ambitious merchants and licentious priests, cunning wives and clueless travelers. Through the *Decameron*, we will understand a crucial moment of world history, the European Middle Ages and, within it, the Mediterranean culture of circulation and contacts. Readings and discussions in English (with dedicated readings and discussions in Italian for graduate students, majors and anyone interested). Same as CWL 414 and MDVL 414. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Fulfillment of campus rhetoric requirement.

### III. Graduate Seminars

#### SCAN 505    Old Norse-Icelandic

65003 / 33279 02:00PM - 03:20PM TR 1018 Foreign Languages Building

Instructor: V. Hoefig

This course provides an introduction to the written language of Iceland and Norway during the Middle Ages, the language in which skaldic and Eddic poetry and the Icelandic sagas are recorded. While emphasis is placed on increasing

reading ability through recognition of grammatical forms and building vocabulary, we will also briefly discuss the different genres and the cultural background of the Old Norse-Icelandic literary corpus. By the end of the course, students will be able to read Old Norse prose texts in standardized orthography with the aid of a dictionary/glossary, and have gained a first, basic overview of Old Norse-Icelandic literature.

### MDVL 514 Seminar in Medieval Literature. Nature and the Non-Human in the Chivalric Romances of Medieval and Early Modern England

credit: 4 hours.

39510 1:00PM - 02:50PM F 113 English Building

Instructor: R. Barrett

A man or woman on horseback in the midst of a trackless forest—this is the archetypal protagonist of chivalric romance. From an ecocritical perspective, it's also an actor-network, an assemblage of companion species (human, horse, tree) enmeshed in an ongoing process of natureculture. Textualized as romances, these entanglements participate in the co-constitutive articulation of civilization (bios) and wilderness (zoe). They seek to establish the primacy of the human over the non-human (and are thus kin to the ecological crises of our own twenty-first-century moment), but they simultaneously demonstrate (consciously or not) humanity's inability to achieve such separation and autonomy. The knight in shining armor may defend his people from monstrous werewolves (Marie de France's *Bisclavret*) and witches (Edmund Spenser's *Duessa*) and green giants (the Gawain-Poet's *Sir Bertilak*), but he is just as often a predatory monster himself (e.g., the cannibalistic Richard Lionheart, the diabolical *Sir Gowther*, or the rapist-knight of Chaucer's *Wife of Bath's Tale*), calling into question the utility of monstrosity as category. Over the course of the semester, we'll explore these and other interspecies interactions, familiarizing ourselves with both the romances of the past and the ecocriticism of the present. Our assignments will combine brief reading responses with the obligatory seminar paper, and our texts will cover some five centuries of literary production in the British Isles, beginning with Marie's twelfth-century *Lais* and ending with Spenser's sixteenth-century *Faerie Queene*. Be sure to bring your own critical interests to the class: the ideas outlined in this brief description are only a starting point for our ecologically-inflected discussion of genre.

### Library and Information Science 590 History of the Book

credit: 4 hours

68346 M 10:00-12:50

Instructor: B. Mak

A graduate course on the history of the book. Explores the past and future of writing technologies, and considers the role of the book in the production and transmission of knowledge. Students will examine different approaches to the study of the book, including those of paleography, diplomatics, bibliography, art history, musicology, textual criticism, digital humanities, and new media studies.

