



MEDIEVAL MONASTICISM

Universität zu Köln
Wintersemester 2010

Lecture Hours: Tuesday 12-13:30
Location: S-14

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This course will focus on the origins and development of Christian monasticism as one of the central institutions of European society in the early and high Middle Ages. We will examine the social, economic, and spiritual impact of monasticism on the development of Western Europe, paying particular attention to connections between cloister and world, including topics such as claustration and family networks, and to interaction between men and women in the context of various forms of monastic life.

Suggested Basic Readings

Wolfgang Braunsfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe: The Architecture of the Orders*. London, 1972.

C. H. Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism: Forms of Religious Life in Western Europe in the Middle Ages*. 3rd ed. London and New York, 2001.

Timothy Fry, ed. *The Rule of St. Benedict in English*. Collegeville, MN, 1982.

Schedule of Lectures and Additional Readings

Lecture 1 (12 October)

From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Massachusetts Bay Colony

Lecture 2 (19 October)

Life in the Desert

☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 1-17.

☞ Athanasius of Alexandria, *The Life of Antony and The Letter to Marcellinus*, trans. Robert C. Gregg, *The Classics of Western Spirituality*, 29-43, 64-75, 78-83, 91-99.

☞ Columba Stewart, *The world of the Desert Fathers: Stories and Sayings from the Anonymous Series of the Apophthegmata Patrum*.

☞ John Cassian, *Conferences* 1, 9, 10 and 18, trans. Luibheid, 37-59, 101-40, 183-201.

☞ John Cassian, *Institutes*, Books 2-3, trans. Boniface Ramsey, *Ancient Christian Writers* 58, 35-48, 57-68.

Lecture 3 (26 October)

The Greek & Latin Fathers

☞ Basil of Caesarea, "The Long Rules," in *Saint Basil: Ascetical Works*, trans. Sister M. Monica Wagner, *The Fathers of the Church* 9, 223-337.

☞ Evagrius Ponticus, *The Praktikos*, trans. John E. Bamberger, *Cistercian Studies Series* 4, 12-42.

Lecture 4 (2 November)

Monasticism in Ireland

- ☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 39-65.
- ☞ The Voyage of St. Brendan, in *The Age of Bede* (Penguin, 1983), 211-245.
- ☞ The Life of St. Cuthbert, in *The Age of Bede*, 41-102.

Lecture 5 (9 November)

A 'Little Rule for Beginners'

- ☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 18-38.
- ☞ Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 19-36.
- ☞ Benedict, *The Rule of St. Benedict*
- ☞ Gregory the Great, *Dialogues*, Book 2.

Lecture 6 (16 November)

The Rule & the Empire

- ☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 66-82.
- ☞ Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 37-46.
- ☞ Rudolf, "The Life of St. Leoba," in *Soldiers of Christ*, eds. Noble and Head, 257-77.

Lecture 7 (23 November *tentative*)

Excursion: Monastic Köln (walking tour with Dr. Letha Böhringer)

Lecture 8 (7 December)

Tenth-Century Foundations for Women

- ☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 83-106.
- ☞ Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 47-66.
- ☞ R.W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages* (Harmondsworth, 1970), 214-40.
- ☞ Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, "The Establishment of the Monastery of Gandersheim," in *Medieval Hagiography*, ed. Head, 243-54.

Lecture 9 (14 December)

Hermits & the New Monasticism

- ☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 146-71.
- ☞ Peter Damian, "Life of St. Romuald of Ravenna," in *Medieval Hagiography*, ed. Head, 297-316.
- ☞ Peter Damian, Letters 17-18, in Letters 1-30, trans. Owen J. Blum, *The Fathers of the Church, Mediaeval Continuation* (Washington, D.C., 1989), 145-70.
- ☞ *The Life of Christina of Markyate*, ed. C. H. Talbot. Medieval Academy Reprints for Teaching.

Lecture 10 (21 December)

The Cistercian (R)evolution

- ☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 172-206.
- ☞ Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 67-110.
- ☞ Southern, *Western Society and the Church*, 240-72.
- ☞ Constance Berman, *The Cistercian Evolution*. Philadelphia, 2000.
- ☞ Bernard of Clairvaux, *The Steps of Humility and Pride and The Book on Loving God*, trans. Pennington and Walton, 25-82, 91-132.

Lecture 11 (11 January)

Naked Following the Naked Christ: The Significance of the Mendicants

- ☞ Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 238-78.
- ☞ Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 125-52.
- ☞ Lester Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe* (Ithaca, 1978), 146-219.
- ☞ Southern, *Western Society and the Church*, 272-99.
- ☞ Francis, "The Earlier Rule," "The Later Rule," and "The Canticle of the Creatures," in *Francis of Assisi*, eds. Armstrong, Hellmann and Short, 63-86, 99-106, 113-14.
- ☞ Thomas of Celano, *The Life of Saint Francis*
- ☞ Canonization Process of St. Dominic, in *Readings in Medieval History*, ed. Geary, 455-66.
- ☞ Jordan of Saxony, On the Beginnings of the Order of Preachers, ed. and trans. Simon Tugwell, *Dominican Sources: New Editions in English* (Chicago, 1982), xvi, 1-31.

Lecture 12 (18 January)

Mulieres sanctae or Beguines?

- ☞ Saskia Murk-Jansen, *Brides in the Desert: the Spirituality of the Beguines*. Maryknoll, New York, 1998.
- ☞ Ernest W. MacDonnell, *Beguines and Beghards in Medieval Culture*. New Brunswick, NJ, 1954.

Lecture 13 (25 January)

Military Orders: Templars and Hospitallers

- ☞ Malcolm Barber, *The Trial of the Templars*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, 2006.
- ☞ Malcolm Barber, *The New Knighthood: A History of the Order of the Temple*. Cambridge, 1995.
- ☞ Helen Nicholson, *Templars, Hospitallers, and Teutonic Knights*. Leicester, 1993.
- ☞ Johnathan Riley-Smith, *Hospitallers: the History of the Order of St. John*. Paris, 1996.

Lecture 14 (1 February)

Course Conclusion/Scheine