

SYLLABUS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 308 ♦ HISTORY 214 MEDIEVAL MONASTICISM

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
SPRING 2006

Class Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:20
Class Location: Wren 301

Professor: Alison I. Beach
Office: Wren 306
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:00; Wednesday 2:00-3:00, and by appointment
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A. Course Organization and Requirements

Scope of the Course:

This course focuses on the origins and development of Christian monasticism as one of the central institutions of medieval Europe. Following a modified seminar format, we will investigate the appeal of asceticism in late antique society, the role of the monasteries in the collapse and preservation of western European civilization, the social, economic, and political impact of Benedictine monasticism on the development of western Europe, and the progressive reforms of this institution from the sixth through the fourteenth century.

Course Requirements:

- (a) Weekly 1-page thought papers (10 total points). The purpose of these short writings is to help you work through the primary source material and to generate discussion in class. Several study questions will be available on Blackboard each week. You may choose to focus your reaction on one of these questions or to write about some aspect of the week's reading that interests or puzzles you. These assignments will not be accepted late. Papers will receive a grade of 1 or 2. Ten total points are required, so the more 2's you earn, the fewer papers you need to write. Of course, you can continue to submit thought papers after you have earned your ten points (a number of students have done this in the past because they found the exercise of writing the papers helpful for understanding the material), but the maximum number of points you can earn will remain ten. Together, your thought papers will account for 10% of your final grade.
- (b) A 12- to 15-page research paper. The paper will account for 30% of your final grade. Details of the assignment, including due dates for each of the components of the paper (statement of topic, annotated bibliography, preliminary draft, final draft) are provided on the course Blackboard site.

(c) Exams.

The midterm will account for 20% of your final grade.

The final examination will account for 20% of your final grade.

Class Participation

Because this course is organized as a seminar, class participation is essential. Class participation, including participation in weekly discussions and activities, will account for 20% of your final grade. Please take this grade seriously: ***you won't get an A for participation simply by attending class.***

B. Grading Policy

A complete statement of my grading policy is available on the class Blackboard site.

C. Course Readings

Books:

Fry, Timothy, ed. *The Rule of St. Benedict*.

Gertrude the Great of Helfta. *Spiritual Exercises*. Trans. Gertrud Jaron Lewis and Jack Lewis. Cistercian Fathers Series 49. Kalamazoo.

John Cassian. *Conferences*. Trans. Colm Luibheid. The Classics of Western Spirituality.

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

Webb, J.F. and D.H. Farmer, eds. *The Age of Bede*.

e-Reserves:

All other readings for the course (NOT included in the above books) are posted as e-Reserves at the course blackboard site. The e-Reserves are organized by course topic, following the sequence in the syllabus.

AS A RULE OF THUMB: Do the readings in Lawrence and any other secondary sources *before* you tackle the primary texts!

D. Schedule of Classes and Readings

January 19: Course Introduction; Alexandria, Egypt: 313 CE

January 24 & 26: Life in the Desert

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, pp. 1-17.
- Peter Brown, *The Body and Society: Men, Women and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity* (New York, 1988), pp. 241-258.
- Athanasius of Alexandria, *The Life of Antony and the Letter to Marcellinus*, trans. Robert C. Gregg, *The Classics of Western Spirituality* (New York, 1980), pp. 29-43 (chapters 1-15), pp. 62-84 (chapters 41-72), and pp. 91-99 (chapters 83-94).
- Palladius, *The Lausiaca History*. *Ancient Christian Writers* 34 (Westminster, MD and London, 1965), pp. 23-43 (Prologue – chapter 8), pp. 90-98 (chapters 31-34), pp. 123-125 (chapter 46), and pp. 134-151 (chapters 54-69).

January 31 The Greek Founders

- Basil of Caesarea, “The Long Rules,” in *Saint Basil: Ascetical Works*, trans. Sister M. Monica Wagner, *The Fathers of the Church* 9 (New York, 1950), 223-257, 262-277, 287-294, 326-330.
- Evagrius Ponticus, *The Praktikos*, trans. John E. Bamberger, *Cistercian Studies Series* 4 (Spencer, MA, 1970), 12-42.
- Wolfgang Braulfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe: The Architecture of the Orders* (London, 1972; Princeton, 1980), 13-18. THIS BOOK IS ON RESERVE IN SWEM

February 2 & 7 The Latin Founders

- John Cassian, *Conferences*, trans. Colm Luibheid, Conference One (37-59), Nine (101-124), Ten (125-140), and Eighteen (183-201).
- John Cassian, *Institutes*, Books 2-3, trans. Boniface Ramsey, *Ancient Christian Writers* 58 (New York, 2000), 35-48, 57-68.
- Jerome, Letter 22 (to Eustochium), in *The Letters of St. Jerome*, trans. Charles C. Mierow, *Ancient Christian Writers* 33 (London, 1963), 134-179.

February 9 & 14 The Irish Founders

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

February 16 The Benedictine Ideal

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 18-38.
- Owen Chadwick, *The Making of the Benedictine Ideal* (St. Anselm’s Abbey, Washington, DC, 1981).
- Braulfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 19-36.
- [Benedict, *The Rule of St. Benedict* – I expect that all students will have already read the RSB]

- [Gregory the Great, *Dialogues*, in *Readings in Medieval History*, ed. Patrick Geary, 2nd ed. (Peterborough, Ontario, 1997), 188-208 – students who have taken Religious Studies 210 have already read most of this text]

February 21 & 23 The Rule and The Empire

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 66-82.
- Mayke De Jong, "Carolingian Monasticism: The Power of Prayer," in *The New Cambridge Medieval History*, ed. Rosamond McKitterick, vol. 2 (Cambridge, 1995-1998), 622-653.
- Ardo, "The Life of St. Benedict, Abbot of Aniane and of Inde," in *Soldiers of Christ*, eds. Noble and Head, 215-254.
- Rudolf, "The Life of St. Leoba," in *Soldiers of Christ*, eds. Noble and Head, 257-277.
- Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 37-46.

February 28 The Opus Dei

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 107-45.
- Jean Leclercq, "The Poem of the Liturgy," in *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: A Study of Monastic Culture*, trans. Catharine Misrahi, 3rd ed. (New York, 1982), 236-254.
- Psalms (Vulgate numbering) 3, 94; 59-61, 65, 67-72; 66, 50, 1Samuel 2:1-10, 148-150; 9b, 10, 11; 119-127; 134-137; 4, 90, 133.
- *Rule of St. Benedict*, reread chapters 8-20.

March 2 Midterm Exam

Spring Break: No Class on March 7 & 9

March 14 Guest Lecturer: Prof. Giles Constable, Cluniac Monasticism

- Giles Constable, "Cluny in the Monastic World of the Tenth Century," in Giles Constable, *Cluny from the Tenth to the Twelfth Century* (Aldershot, 2000), 391-437.
- William of Aquitaine, "Foundation Charter of Cluny," in *Readings in Medieval History*, ed. Geary, 304-306.
- Charters of the Grossi Family, in *Readings in Medieval History*, ed. Geary, 306-310.
- Odilo of Cluny, "Life of St. Maiol, Abbot of Cluny," in *Medieval Saints*, ed. Stouck, 250-264.

March 16 Tenth-century Foundations for Women

- Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, *Dulcinius and Paphnutius*, in *The Plays of Hrotswitha of Gandersheim*, tr. Larissa Bonfante (Oak Park, IL, 1986), 39-54 & 105-146.
- Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, "The Establishment of the Monastery of Gandersheim," in *Medieval Hagiography*, ed. Head, 243-254.
- Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 47-66. Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 83-106.

March 21 & 23 The New Hermits

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 146-171.
- 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), 145-170.
- *The Life of Christina of Markyate*, ed. C.H. Talbot. Medieval Academy Reprints for Teaching 39 (Toronto, 1998).

March 28 & 30 Sisters in Christ

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 217-237.
- Alison I. Beach, "Voices from a Distant Land: Fragments of a Twelfth-Century Nun's Letter Collection," in *Speculum* 77 (2002): 34-54.
- Barbara Newman, "Sibyl of the Rhine," in Barbara Newman, ed. *Voice of the Living Light: Hildegard of Bingen and her World* (Berkeley, 1998), 1-29.
- John Van Engen, "Abbess: Mother and Teacher," in *Voice of the Living Light*, 30-51.

April 4 & 6 The New Desert

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 172-206.
- Bernard of Clairvaux, *The Steps of Humility and Pride* **OR** *The Book on Loving God*, trans. Pennington and Walton, 25-82 **OR** 91-132.
- Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 67-110.

April 11 The Art(s) of Monastic Prayer

- Jean Leclercq, *Love of Learning*, 191-235 & 255-270.
- William of St. Thierry, "On Contemplating God" and "Prayer," in *The Works of William of St Thierry I*, trans. Sister Penelope, Cistercian Fathers Series 3 (Kalamazoo, 1977), 36-64, 71-74, **OR** Guigo II the Carthusian, "Ladder of Monks" and "Twelve Meditations," trans. Edmund Colledge and James Walsh, Cistercian Studies Series 48 (Kalamazoo, 1979), 67-131.

April 13 Sisters Between: The Beguines

- Herbert Grundmann, *Religious Movements in the Middle Ages* (trans. Notre Dame, 1995), pp. 139-152.
- Lester Little, *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe* (Ithaca, 1978), 113-145.
- Hadewijch of Brabant, Visions 1-6 **OR** Visions 7-14 in *Hadewijch: the Complete Works*. Classics of Western Spirituality, ed. Mother Columba Hart (New York, 1980), pp. 263-305.

April 18 & 20 Naked Following the Naked Christ

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 238-78.
- 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, 113-114 **OR** Thomas of Celano, "The Life of Saint Francis," in *Francis of Assisi*, 180-308.

April 25 Dominic and the 'Dogs of Christ'

- 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.
- Braunfels, *Monasteries of Western Europe*, 125-152.

April 25 Brides of Christ

- Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism*, 279-294.
- Gertrude the Great of Helfta, *Spiritual Exercises*, trans. Lewis and Lewis, 21-146. Read any **four** of the seven 'Spiritual Exercises'