



the medieval book

Universität zu Köln
Wintersemester 2010

Seminar Hours: Tuesday 14-15:30
Location: Philosophikum 305/306

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will comprise a study of the medieval book as a multi-media physical and cultural artifact. We will begin with a study of the technology of book production from Late Antiquity through the High Middle Ages, including the shift from roll to codex, the preparation of parchment, development of inks and pigments, and the development of various book hands. Next, the class will turn to the various uses of books within both religious and secular contexts, as well as to the use of books as a medium of self-representation and the transfer and transformation of bodies of religious and scientific knowledge. Finally, the course will consider the use of the growing number of digital manuscript collections accessible on the Internet for teaching and research. Each student will select a specific medieval manuscript for in-depth study from a period and genre of his/her choice, which will provide the basis for a final course paper. The class will also take several 'field trips' to manuscript libraries in Cologne and environs.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Session 1 (12 October)
Course Introduction and Organization

Session 2 (19 October)
From Roll to Codex: Why Format Matters

Session 3 (26 October)
Reading & Literacy in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

Session 4 (2 November)
Papyrus, Parchment, Paper

Session 5 (9 November)
Practical Workshop: Medieval Ink & Writing Instruments

Session 6 (16 November)
Latin Paleography Intensive 1

Session 7 (17 November -- NOTE DATE & TIME CHANGE)
Guest Lecturer: Paul Freedman, Department of History, Yale University USA
'A Newly-Discovered Archive of Documents in Catalonia'
17:45-19:15 in S25 [No Class on 30 November]

Session 8 (7 December)
Latin Paleography Intensive 2

Session 9 (14 December)
Codicology -- the Archaeology of the Book

Session 10 (21 December - or another pre-arranged date)
Field Trip: Kölner Dombibliothek (Organized in Two Groups)

Session 11 (11 January)
Decorating the Page -- Techniques & Uses of Illumination

Session 12 (18 January)
Digital Collections 1: Technology

Session 13 (25 January)
Digital Collections 2: Teaching

Session 14 (1 February)
Course Conclusion

COURSE 'TRACKS'

Due to the intensive 'hands on' nature of this course, it will not be a good choice for students who 'just need the Schein' or for whom scheduling -- rather than interest in the specific topic of the course -- was the primary concern at registration. All students who continue with the course will be expected to do all of the reading, participate actively in English, and contribute to the class as an intellectual community. No student who misses more than two sessions will receive a Schein at the end of the semester.

In the wake of the curricular reforms, we may well have a broad range of student levels in the class. I will distribute a questionnaire at our first class meeting to determine how many MA and BA students we have, who can read Latin (not a requirement, but a vital skill for working with medieval books!), and so on. We can adapt the course, for example, so that Lehramt students who do not plan to go forward with more advanced work in medieval history can design a final project that focuses on engaging Gymnasium students in medieval history by working with online digitized manuscripts. MA students with Latin skills might opt to work intensively on a manuscript that they can examine in person. The course should meet the needs of, and be intellectually meaningful to, each student!

COURSE RESOURCES

ILIAS SITE

The readings for each class meeting will be posted **at least one week in advance** on the course ILIAS site (Password: medievalbook2010). The ILIAS site also contains a number of useful links and other online resources.

PRINTED RESOURCES

The Following useful 'background' books are in my office and available for short-term consultation:

Jonathan J.G. Alexander. *Medieval Illuminators and their Methods of Work* (Yale, 1992)

Bernhard Bischoff, *Latin Paleography: Antiquity & The Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 1986)

Michelle P. Brown, *A Guide to Western Historical Scripts from Antiquity to 1600* (Toronto, 2002)

Michelle P. Brown, *Understanding Illuminated Manuscripts: a Guide to Technical Terms* (Los Angeles, 1994)

Adriano Cappelli, *Dizionario di Abbreviature Latine ed italiane*. 5th ed. (Milan, 1929)

Christopher de Hamel, *Scribes and Illuminators* (Toronto, 1992)

David Diringer. *The Book Before Printing. Ancient, Medieval and Oriental* (New York, 1953, *The Hand-Produced Book*, rpt. under new title, 1982)

Jacques Lemaire, *Introduction à la codicology* (Louvain-la-Neuve, 1989)

Malcolm B. Parkes, *Their Hands before our Eyes: a Closer Look at Scribes* (Aldershot, 2008)

Barbara A. Shailor, *The Medieval Book* (Toronto, 1991)

ONLINE RESOURCES

The number of digitized manuscripts and manuscript collections grows every year. You can easily explore these resources as you search for a book for your final seminar project. You may want to begin your browsing through the useful gateway site to a variety of digital collections in Europe, North America, and elsewhere, provided by the University of British Columbia in Canada:

<http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/sechard/512digms.htm>

I will also post a variety of other links on ILIAS.

FIELD TRIPS

If there is enough student interest, we will organize one or two additional field trips. There are many options in the area, or we could travel farther afield. As each student 'adopts' his/her own book for the final course project, we can discuss the possibilities of on-site examination. Many libraries will allow access to students at the MA level.