



University of Texas at Austin

Manuscript, Marble, Metals & More: Medieval Material Culture
Spring 2019 Syllabus
 (Subject to Change)

Mondays and Wednesdays: 4:00 – 5:30 pm
 PAR 203

AHC 310 (33245); HIS 306N (38700); and RS 315 (42900)

“The dull mind rises to the truth through material things.”

- Abbot Suger

Professor: Dr. Cheryl Kaufman

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 pm; or by appointment

Office location: GAR 3.210

Course Description:

This course focuses on the history of medieval Europe primarily through the lens of material culture. In addition to manuscripts, we will explore the significance of several categories of historical artifacts including: art, textiles, relics and reliquaries, architecture, pottery, crowns, jewelry and seals. We will discuss what we can discover about the production, circulation, reception, historic and geographic context, and the meaning attributed to the materials from which these objects were created. This class explores what these objects reveal about the religious, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of medieval Europe, beyond what we can learn from medieval texts and how these objects may have been experienced in a pre-modern world.

Objectives:

- Learn to analyze and articulate meaning from primary sources created in the Middle Ages - both texts and material culture.
- Learn to read and think critically about pre-modern time periods.
- Become more aware of material culture and the significance of space in both the medieval and modern world.
- Develop a deeper understanding of cultures and beliefs that may be different from our own. (Note that this course has a Global Cultures flag)

Required texts and sources:

Course Packet available at University Co-op

Additional required images and texts will be made available electronically on Canvas.

Grading:

Cerego map exercise: 5%

In-class quizzes (cumulative): 20%

Mid-semester exam (cumulative): 20%

Presentation: 15%

Last exam (cumulative): 20%

Attendance: 10%

Class Participation and Presentation Feedback: 10%

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72;
D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = below 60

Cerego Map Exercise:

This class will use a digital tool called Cerego to test and improve geographic literacy. Geographic literacy helps us to deepen our understanding of the complex processes of the past when we have a better grasp of time, space and place. You will complete a series of digital map exercises that reinforce your knowledge of the geography of the Mediterranean region. You will be **REQUIRED** to complete these exercises for **THREE WEEKS** for 5% of your grade. (*Nota Bene*: the regional boundaries in the Middle Ages were porous and constantly changing, so the boundaries indicated in Cerego are only approximate.)

Class Expectations:

I expect you to attend class regularly and be prepared to take notes and to participate actively and respectfully in discussions. The required reading assignments must be completed **BEFORE** class. Bring your course packet to class when reading has been assigned.

Required Presentation:

Ten minute class presentation on a medieval material object selected from list provided by professor. You are required to turn in a short written paper with answers to the Who, What, When, Why, and How for the object you have chosen and include at least one secondary source that you used. (Note that the source may **NOT** be Wikipedia)

Additional Class Policies and Notes:

1. **Sign up for initial 10 minute visit in my office during the first two weeks of class.**
2. Computers and tablets will **NOT** be allowed in this course (unless you provide documentation that accommodation is needed).
3. Turn off your phone for the duration of the lecture, or place your phone on vibrate. If your phone rings during class, I reserve the right to answer it.
4. Attend all class meetings, arrive on time, and sign the daily sign-in sheet. After two absences, each subsequent unexcused absence subtracts **5 points** from your class participation **AND** attendance grade. Excused absences require a note to the professor **BEFORE** class or within one week after the missed class.

5. Make-up exams will be made available IF you have a documented, excused absence on an exam day. Notify me as soon as you know you cannot take an exam as scheduled.
 6. **There will be NO make-ups on quizzes.**
 7. If you will miss class to observe a religious holy day, notify me at the beginning of the semester, or at least fourteen days prior to the date of your absence.
 8. If you miss class, obtain notes from your classmates and come to office hours if you want to discuss what you have missed.
 9. Power point presentations will NOT be available on Canvas, you may access presentations during my office hours.
 10. Please do not record lectures.
 11. You will be expected to treat others in the class with respect and to listen to the questions, comments, and opinions of your classmates.
 12. Practice academic integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, forging a classmate's signature on the attendance roster....) are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure of the course and/or dismissal from the University. <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>
 13. Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities. <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>
 14. The Office of Campus Safety and Security (512-471-5767) provides information on emergency evacuation procedures. When a fire alarm is sounded we must exit the building, proceed to the nearest stairs, and assemble outside. If you will need assistance leaving the building, inform me in writing during the first week of class. See: <http://www.utexas.edu/safety> and www.utexas.edu/emergency.
 15. If you are distressed and need someone to talk to call the confidential UT Austin Counseling and Mental Health Center Crisis Line at 512-471-2255.
 16. If you are worried about someone's behavior on campus or in the university community, you may call the Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL) to discuss your concerns at: 512-232-5050 or see <http://www.utexas.safety/bcal>
 17. **Please keep in touch.** If you have any questions, feel free to stop by during my office hours or we can arrange another time to meet. Be assured that I want you to learn and receive good grades. So please make an appointment with me should you have difficulty with this course.
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WEEK 1

Wed, January 23

Review syllabus and Introduction

WEEK 2

Monday, January 28 – Cerego Map Quiz begins???

Medieval Matter, Vision, and Senses

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Genesis 30: 25-43
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+30%3A+25-43&version=NIV>
 Course Packet pp. 1-6 and 111
 - Excerpts from *On Christian Doctrine*, Augustine
 - Excerpts by Augustine on sight, vision and the senses

- Excerpts from the Letters of Gregory the Great

Secondary Source:

- Course Packet pp. 7-30: *Seeing Medieval Art*, Herbert L. Kessler, Chapter 1 on “Matter”

Wednesday, January 30

Manuscripts/Books

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Source:

- Course Packet: pp. 31-39: Theophilus, *An Essay Upon Diverse Arts*, (c. 1125),

Secondary Source:

- Course Packet pp. 41-55: Clancy, “Hearing and Seeing”, *From Memory to Written Record*

WEEK 3

Monday, February 4- CLASS VISIT TO Harry Ransom Center (HRC)

Meet at HRC – NOT the classroom

3:00 or 4:00 at the Denius Seminar Room at Harry Ransom Center (corner of Guadalupe & 21st St.)

See me ASAP if you cannot attend either of these times

(Note: February 6 – last day to drop for possible refund)

Wednesday, February 6 * QUIZ #1*****

Metals and More (God and Gold)

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 57-59:
 - *The Book of the Popes, Liber Pontificalis*, Pope Sylvester – Excerpts

Secondary Source:

- Course Packet pp. 61-70: Janes, Dominic, *God and Gold in Late Antiquity*

WEEK 4

Monday, February 11

Architecture and the significance of Place

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- I Chronicles 29:1-20
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I+Chronicles+29%3A1-20&version=NIV>
- Revelation 21
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NIV>
- Course Packet pp. 71-88
 - Paulinus of Nola (Poem 27)
 - Abbot Suger, on the Abbey Church of St-Denis and its Art Treasures, *Concerning Administration* (c. 1144-1148)

Wednesday, February 13**Stained Glass and Light**Required Reading BEFORE class

Primary Source:

- Course Packet pp. 89-96-10. Abbot Suger on the Abbey Church of St-Denis and its Art Treasures, *Concerning Consecration* (c. 1144-1148)

Secondary Source:

- Course Packet pp. 97-100 Benton, “Stained Glass: Windows of Colored Light”

WEEK 5**Monday, February 18 *** QUIZ #2*******Mosaics**Required Reading BEFORE class:

Secondary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 109-110, Benton, Janetta Rebold, “Mosaic: Sparkling Surfaces”
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/medieval-world/romanesque1/a/the-basilica-of-san-clemente-rome>

Wednesday, February 20**Castles**Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 101-108
 - Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
 - The History of William the Marshal

WEEK 6**Monday, February 25****Marble and Sculpture**Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 111-115:
 - Gregory the Great’s Letters to Bishop Serenus (Review)
 - Bernard of Clairvaux, *Apologia*, c. 1125
 - Marble: In *The Liber Pontificalis* and *The Life of Charlemagne*

Secondary Source:

- New York Times article “The Majestic Marble Quarries of Northern Italy” (July 26, 2017)
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/26/magazine/the-majestic-marble-quarries-of-northern-italy.html?mcubz=1>

Wednesday, February 27 * QUIZ #3*******Relics and Reliquaries**Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 117-138 and image on p. 10: The Translation and the Miracles of St. Foy, translated by Pamela Sheingorn

WEEK 7 - OBJECTS OF POWER

Monday, March 4

Coronations and Crowns

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 139-143 and image on p. 24, Dagobert Throne :
 - History of the Franks, The Baptism of Clovis, Origins of Holy Oil used in Coronations
 - Charles the Bald selected as king, Annals of St. Bertin
 - Synopsis of the Ordo of 1250

Wednesday, March 6

Swords and Such

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 145-159
 - Excerpt from *The Song of Roland*
 - Charlemagne's call to arms (804-811)

WEEK 8

Monday, March 11 – **EXAM******

Wednesday, March 13

Coins and Seals

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet Readings on coins pp. 177-179:
 - Charles the Bald: Edict of Pistes on coinage (864)
 - Alain of Lille (d. 1202) – Excerpt
 - Isidore of Seville, On gold and silver, The Etymologies, pp. 181-182

Secondary Source:

- Course Packet pp. 161-175, McEwan, John, *The Formation of a Sealing Society*

WEEK 9 – SPRING BREAK MARCH 18-23

WEEK 10

Monday, March 25

Clothing and Ecclesiastical Vestments

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp 183-185:
 - Charlemagne's clothing and coronation, Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne*
 - Spanish Sumptuary Laws of Alfonso X (1252-1284)

Secondary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 187-204:
- Secular Clothes: Fit for a King and Queen" by Janetta Rebold Benton
- "Ecclesiastical Vestments: Higher Fashion," by Janetta Rebold Benton
- *Bonds of Wool*, by Schoenig, Steven A., Introduction

Wednesday, March 27 * QUIZ #4*****

Ivory

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Images on Canvas

Secondary Source:

- Course Packet pp. 205-207 "Ivory Carving: Elephant and Walrus Tusks," by Janetta R. Benton
- Additional resources on Canvas

WEEK 11

Monday, April 1

Jewelry

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp 209-213:
 - Pliny the Elder (24-79 CE): *Natural History*, XXXIII.6:
 - Jewelry in Isidore of Seville's *Etymologies*
 - Additional Images and Readings on Canvas

Wednesday, April 3 * QUIZ #5*****

Pottery and Ceramics

Required Reading BEFORE class:

Primary Sources:

- Course Packet pp. 215-217: Dishes, from Isidore of Seville's *Etymologies*
- Additional Images and Readings on Canvas

WEEK 12

Monday, April 8 and Wednesday, April 10 - Presentations

WEEK 13

Monday, April 22 and Wednesday April 24 – Presentations

WEEK 14

Monday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 1 – Presentations

WEEK 15

Monday, May 6– Presentations

Wednesday, May 8 – Last class day - LAST EXAM



Replica of St. Manchan's Shrine, National Museum of Ireland, original is 12th c.