

Medieval & Renaissance Manuscripts

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California Rare Book School
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UCLA
GSE&IS TBA

Description: Almost 500 institutions in North America—including many public libraries—have pre-1600 manuscripts in their holdings. The chances are thus high that any one dealing with rare materials will be responsible for at least one manuscript or fragment during his or her career. This class has been organized to provide the basic skills for identifying and making accessible these unique and precious remnants of medieval art. Using the resources in UCLA's Special Collections, field trips to the Huntington Library and/or Getty Museum, and several online resources, this course will provide an overview of the historical production of manuscripts, and an introduction to the genres of manuscripts—Bibles and biblical commentaries, liturgical books, lay prayerbooks and historical documents. A particular emphasis of the class will be Books of Hours or *Horae*. Called the “bestseller of the Middle Ages,” they constitute the genre of manuscript that survives in the greatest number. There will be training in identifying the parts of a Book of Hours, working with (digital copies) of detached leaves from different regions and time periods. By the end of the class students will be familiar with the myriad resources used in dating, localizing and identifying the text of detached manuscript leaves. On the last day, each student will also be given a (digital) manuscript leaf to describe, employing the skills acquired in the class. (Students are also welcome—indeed encouraged-- to bring digital images of manuscripts from their own institutions to share with the class.)

Required text: Raymond Clemens and Timothy Graham, *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*. Cornell University Press, 2007. This book is available through Amazon or Barnes & Noble for about \$40.00; it can also be rented from either site for sixty days for about one-fourth of that price. For those who intend to continue with manuscript study, however, I strongly recommend purchasing a copy. It is the most comprehensive guide to manuscripts available in print, and it is both an excellent reference and self-teaching resource. The class lectures will cover material from Chapters 1-13, in the following order:

Reading for **Day 1:** *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*, Part One: Chapters 1-4; Read the University of Iowa site titled “Paper Through Time” at <http://paper.lib.uiowa.edu/european.php>; Watch the Getty Museum website video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aDHJu9J10o> or the HD version https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_3325523639&feature=iv&src_vid=1aDHJu9J10o&v=nuNfdHNTv9o.

Reading for **Day 2:** *Introduction*, Part Three: Chapters 11-13; Part Two: Chapters 5-6; 10.

Reading for **Day 3:** *Introduction*, Part Two: Chapters 8-9; Lisa Fagin Davis' *Manuscript Road Trip*: Los Angeles:

<https://manuscriptroadtrip.wordpress.com/2014/02/04/manuscript-road-trip-los-angeles/>

Reading for **Day 4**: *Introduction*, Part Two: Chapter 5; 7. Lisa Fagin Davis' *Manuscript Road Trip*: The New Bedford Hours:

<https://manuscriptroadtrip.wordpress.com/2017/05/06/manuscript-road-trip-the-new-bedford-hours/>

Reading for **Day 5**: Review *Introduction*, Part Two: Chapters 8-10.

Assignments:

Day 3 Ten-minute presentation on an online resource.

Day 5 Fifteen-minute presentation on a facsimile of a Book of Hours.

Syllabus and schedule:

Day 1: Monday, July 30, 2018

8:30 a.m.: Coffee and welcome remarks in GSEIS Salon

9:00-10:30 a.m.: 1st period

Historical Context and Background: Why medieval and Renaissance manuscripts should matter to American library professionals and academics; Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in American libraries. Seymour de Ricci's *Census* and its successors.

10:30-11:00 a.m.: Break

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: 2nd period

Definition of a manuscript; outline of the chronological and geographical parameters covered in this course. Components of the medieval codex; introduction to codicology

12:30-1:30 p.m.: Lunch in GSEIS Salon

1:30-3:00 p.m.: 3rd period Introduction to codicology, continued.

3:00-3:30 p.m.: Break

3:30-5:00 p.m.: 4th period Types of manuscripts and texts I: Liturgical and monastic, including calendars and Books of Hours.

Day 2: Tuesday, July 31, 2018

9:00-10:30 a.m.: 1st period Types of manuscripts and texts II: Secular, noble, scholastic, including commercialization of book production, pecia, and university texts.

10:30-11:00 a.m.: Break

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: 2nd period Introduction to paleography and the development of script I: Pre-Caroline to early Gothic.

12:30-1:30: Lunch

1:30-3:00 p.m.: 3rd period Introduction to paleography and the development of script II: High Gothic to Renaissance. Scribal abbreviations.

3:00-3:30 p.m.: Break

3:30-5:00 p.m.: 4th period Introduction to manuscript illumination I: Pre-Caroline to Early Gothic. Varieties of initial letters;

Day 3: Wednesday, August 1, 2018

9:00-10:30 a.m.: 1st period Introduction to manuscript illumination II: High Gothic to Renaissance. Varieties of initial letters;

10:30-11:00 a.m.: Break

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 2nd period Who's Who (and What's What) in Medieval Manuscripts: Angels and Demons; Saints and Sinners; Donors, Owners, Hybrids, and Drolleries.

12:30-1:30 p.m.: Lunch

1:30-3:00 p.m.: 3rd period The proper handling of pre-1600 manuscripts. Class presentations: Ten-minute presentations on an online resource (as assigned). Introduction to online and printed resources and reference works;

3:00-3:30 p.m.: Break

3:30-5:00 p.m.: 4th period
Field trip to UCLA Special Collections.

5:30 p.m.: CalRBS Lecture TBA

6:00-8:00 p.m.: Reception in GSEIS Building, second floor IS Salon.

Day 4: Thursday, August 2, 2018

9:50 a.m.: Field Trip to Getty or Huntington. **Bus pickup location: MacGowan Hall (across the street from the UCLA Guest House).**

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting with curator(s) of manuscripts

12:30 noon to 2:45 pm: Lunch and exhibitions on your own

3:00 p.m.: Board bus for UCLA return.

4:00-5:00 p.m.: 4th period

Putting the clues together to determine the origin of a medieval manuscript: Case Studies; Preservation, and Conservation concerns.

Day 5: Friday, August 3, 2018

9:00-10:30 a.m.: 1st period

Fifteen-minute presentations on facsimiles of Books of Hours (as assigned)

10:30-11:00 a.m.: Break

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: 2nd period

Practicum: How to identify the leaf you found in your collection;

Putting *your* skills to the test with your very own (digital) leaf

For this practicum, you will need to bring a laptop, tablet, or smart phone on which you can open a digital copy of the manuscript leaf you will be analyzing.

12:30-2:30 pm: Lunch

2:30-4:00 p.m.: 3rd period

Wrap-up of exercises, presentations on digital leaves, Q/A session and class evaluation.