Medieval & Renaissance Manuscripts

California Rare Book School

July 30 to August 3, 2018

UCLA/GSEIS Building

Room **TBA**

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Description: More than 500 institutions in North America—including many public libraries—have pre-1600 manuscripts in their holdings. The chances are thus high that academics will encounter intact manuscripts, detached single leaves, and/or fragments in their institutions throughout the course of their careers. Thus, this class has been organized to provide the basic skills for identifying and making accessible these unique and precious remnants of medieval art. Using a combination of the assigned readings; field trips to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Huntington Library in San Marino, and the UCLA Special Collections; and several online resources, this course will provide an overview of the historical production of manuscripts, and an introduction to the genres of pre-1600 manuscripts that survive in the greatest numbers—Bibles and biblical commentaries, liturgical books, and lay prayer books (Books of Hours). By the end of the class students will be familiar with the array of 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.

**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-third to one-half 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 and video for **Day 1**: 1.  *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*,Part One: Chapters 1-4; Part Three: Chapters 11-13; 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 Two: Chapters 6, 8, 9.

Reading for **Day 3**: *Introduction…*, Part Two: Chapters 10; To prepare for your visit to the Getty Museum, explore <http://www.getty.edu/art/manuscripts/>.

Reading for **Day 4:** *Introduction*, Part Two: Chapters 5, 7. In anticipation of the field trip to the Huntington Library, browse few of the descriptions on Digital Scriptorium of Huntington’s pre-1600 manuscript. (Under “Advanced Search,” you can limit by institution.) <http://www.digital-scriptorium.org/advanced-search/>.

Reading for **Day 5:** In preparation for the field trip to UCLA’s Special Collections, <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/UCLA-Library-Receives-Richard-and-6847>;

Lisa Fagin Davis’ *Manuscript Road Trip:*

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

**Assignments:**

**Day 2**  Ten-minute presentation on an online resource.

**Day 5** Ten-minute presentation on a detached manuscript leaf.

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

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

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (2nd period): Introduction to codicology, continued; Types of manuscripts and texts I: Liturgical and monastic, including calendars and Books of Hours.

12:30-1:30 p.m.: **Lunch, catered by CalRBS in GSEIS** **Building, second floor Information Studies Salon**

1:30-3:00 p.m. (3rd period) Types of manuscripts, continued; Introduction to paleography and the development of script I: Pre-Caroline to early Gothic.

**3:00-3:30 p.m.: Break**   
  
3:30-5:00 p.m. (4th period) Introduction to paleography and the development of script II: High Gothic to Renaissance. Scribal abbreviations.

**Day 2:** Tuesday, July 31, 2018

9:00-10:30 a.m. (1st period): Introduction to manuscript illumination I: Pre-Caroline to Early Gothic. Varieties of initial letters.

**10:30-11:00 a.m. Break**  
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (2nd period): Introduction to manuscript illumination II: High Gothic to Renaissance. Varieties of initial letters.

12:30-1:30: Lunch

1:30-3:00 p.m. (3rd period): 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): Practicum: How to identify a detached single leaf

5:30 pm: **UCLA YRL Special Collections Mixer**

**Day 3:** Wednesday, August 1, 2018

9:50 a.m.: Board bus for Getty Museum field trip. **Bus pickup location: MacGowan Hall (across the street from the UCLA Guest House).**

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Session with Getty Museum manuscript curator, Dr. Elizabeth Morrison.

12:30 noon to 2:45 pm: Lunch and exhibitions on your own at the Getty.

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

4:00-5:00 p.m. (4th period): Who’s Who (and What’s What) in Medieval Manuscripts: Angels and Demons; Saints and Sinners; Owners, Hybrids, and Drolleries.

5:30 p.m.: **CalRBS Lecture** (Speaker and location TBA)

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

**Day 4:** Thursday, August 2, 2018

9:50 a.m.:  Board bus for Huntington Library field trip. **Bus pickup location: MacGowan Hall (across the street from the UCLA Guest House).**

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Session with Huntington Library manuscript curator, Dr. Vanessa Wilkie.

Seaver Classroom 3/Munger Research Library (just down the hall from the President’s Conference Room)

12:30 p.m. to 2:45 pm: Lunch and exhibitions on your own at the Huntington.

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

4:00-5:00 p.m. (4th period): The proper handling of pre-1600 manuscripts; Putting *your* skills to the test with your very own (digital) leaf.

**Day 5:** Friday, August 3, 2018

8:50 a.m. **Meet outside Young Research Library.**

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon: Field trip to UCLA Special Collections, Lower Level, Smith Seminar Room, Young Research Library

12:00-1:30 pm: Lunch

2:30-4:00 p.m.: 3rd period Wrap-up of exercises; presentations on assigned digital leaves; Q/A session and class evaluation.