

Medieval Christianity

Professor Jill Raitt

Fall Semester, 2018

RelSt 2610/2610H, Hist 2610.: 3 credits T/Th, 9:30-10:45 a.m. A&S 233

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Office Hours: TR, 10:50-11:45 a.m. and by appointment

Can you add cxiii + lxii? The answer is clxxv. Without the contribution of Arabic numerals, that's the way you would do arithmetic. In this class we will study the development of Christianity from 500-1500 CE. Although this class will focus on medieval Christianity, we will spend at least a week to introduce you to Arab and Jewish contributions to Christian culture, especially in the fields of philosophy, science, mathematics, and medicine.

There will be one mid-term and a final examination, plus one 10-page (Rel.St. and Hist. 2610); 15-page (2610H) paper and a class presentation. Honors students will also work with Dr. Raitt on a class lecture of their choice. Students will be graded on their daily participation (40%), the mid-term (20%), and paper with presentation (40%). Generally, classes will consist of discussion of the readings and a lecture that introduces the next assignment. The last classes will be devoted to presentations; presenters may form teams if their subjects are related.

This course satisfies the DI requirement for students in the College of Arts and Science by presenting Christianity as a world religion shaped through interactions with diverse cultures and religious movements. Students will reconsider their assumptions about religion, race, and gender by their study of the impact on Christian culture of tenth to twelfth century Muslim learning in philosophy, science, medicine, and mathematics. For example, unknown texts of Aristotle were preserved by Arab Muslims; Arabic numerals and algebra are Muslim in origin. Students will discover, with Marco Polo, the existence of Nestorian Christians in western China. It may surprise students to find that some Christian women were abbesses over both monks and nuns in "double" monasteries and that a Nubian king lived in luxury in Constantinople. Primary texts in class and in research assignments will introduce students into other cultures and values and to rethink their own ideas about religion, race, and gender.

Texts

Except for the books below, the required texts are available on-line.

Required:

Kevin Madigan, *Medieval Christianity, A New History*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1015. pb. ISBN: 978-0-300-21677-6.

Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*. San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1983. pb. ISBN: 0-15-600131-4

Adele Haft, Jane G. White, and Robert J. White: *The Key to the Name of the Rose*.

Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2004. pb. ISBN: 0-472-08621-9

Recommended:

Arthur Hyman, James J. Walsh, and Thomas Williams, Eds. *Philosophy in the Middle Ages: The Christian, Islamic, and Jewish Traditions*. Indianapolis and Cambridge, Mass.: Hackett Publishing Co, 2010, third edition, pb. ISBN: 978-1-60384-208-2

(On Reserve in Ellis Library.)

Susan Signe Morrison. *A Medieval Woman's Companion: Women's Lives in the European Middle Ages*. Oxford, England and Havertown, PA: Oxbow Books, 2016. pb: ISBN 978-1-78590-079-8 (On Reserve in Ellis Library.)

Mark R. Cohen. *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2008. pb ISBN: 978-0-691-13931-9 (Be sure to get new edition, 2008)

CALENDAR

August

- 21 To the Middle Ages Madigan I and II,
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/gnostics.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea
- 23 Keepers of the Books Madigan 3-4
https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=s9h9W7mnLJC6ggfanpT4Bg&q=saint+patrick+explains+the+trinity&oq=St.+Patrick+and+the+trinity&gs_l=psy-ab..1.4.0i22i30k1l5.2704.10224.0.17457.27.22.0.5.5.0.108.2040.18j4.22.0....0...1c.1.64.psy-ab..0.27.2081...0j0i131k1j0i22i10i30k1.0.3v16e5yc8Kk
<https://carm.org/christianity/creeds-and-confessions/chalcedonian-creed-451-ad>
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Council-of-Chalcedon>
<https://www.5minutesinchurchhistory.com/who-was-pelagius/>
- 28 Life: 800-1050 Madigan 5-6
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Iconoclastic-Controversy>
- 30 Learned Islam Madigan 7; on-line reading
 The URL below highlights striking uses of light in Muslim art and scientific invention. It will be shown during the lectures on Islam.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olOcOujFksY>
<https://www.history.com/topics/islam>
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/arabic-islamic-metaphysics/>
 I will provide more URLs as needed

September

- 4 Reforms and Problems Madigan 8.
- 6 Monks and Nuns Madigan 9; Julian of Norwich
- 11 Heresies and Preachers Madigan 10-11
- 13 Franciscans Madigan 12: Francis of Assisi

18	Universities and Scholars	Madigan 13-14
20	Learning and Life	Madigan 15-16.
25	Jews and Christians	Madigan 17; Maimonides
27	Calamities and Councils	Madigan 18-19

October

2	Reforms and Pieties	Madigan 20-21
4	Review	Review
9	Review	Review
11	Midterm	Free
16	Renaissance	on-line
18	Papal Problems	The Name of the Rose
23	Spiritual Franciscans	The Name of the Rose
25	Books and Marginalia	The Name of the Rose
30	Inquisitors, Witches	The Name of the Rose

November

6	Summing up	Papers and presentations
8	Presentations	Papers and presentations
13	Presentations	Papers and presentations
15	Presentations	Papers and presentations

Thanksgiving Break

27	Presentations
29	Presentations

December

- 4 Review
- 6 Last Class ALL PAPERS ARE DUE
- 7 Reading Day
- 10-14 Final Exams
- 14 Semester ends. 14-16: Commencement Weekend
- 18 Grades due

Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the [MU Disability Center](#), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](#); the [MU Equity Office](#)

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of [section 200.020](#) of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.