

HUM 300, Fall 2019, Prof. Laskaya

This course explores Medieval Manuscript Culture, examining some digitally-preserved British manuscripts, like the Aberdeen Bestiary, the Auchinleck Manuscript, the Book of Kells, the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Beowulf Manuscript (the Nowell Codex), the Luttrell Psalter, and more. Beginning with an introduction into how parchment and inks were made, we will explore medieval paleography (handwriting), and major features of early-to-late-medieval handwriting in workshop settings, allowing us to experience the challenges and aesthetics of various scripts like early insular, uncial, and late Gothic. Students will also work on decorated letters and miniature manuscript paintings, imitating and exploring major visual elements of medieval British manuscripts. Two-thirds of class time will investigate Manuscript Culture and the features and contexts for particular medieval texts; one-third of the class will offer students hands-on workshops where they can experience paleography, decorated letters, and miniature painting. Key questions for the course include: How does the world of the Middle Ages make itself known within medieval manuscripts? Can we locate traces of production, textual reproduction/transmission, and dissemination, as well as identify handwriting, images, and cultural/multicultural material within manuscripts? What influences did manuscripts have on the world of the Middle Ages? How do writing and manuscripts reveal major differences between our world and the medieval world,? Are there also continuities?

Two 4-5 page academic papers
One research project
One short presentation
Quizzes and short informal writing tba

Proposed texts and materials:

Primary Readings will include exploration of online digitized manuscripts: The Aberdeen Bestiary, The Auchinleck MS, student independent exploration at <https://manuscrits-france-angleterre.org/polonsky/en/content/accueil-en?mode=desktop>, and at <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/welcome.htm> select digitized images from Beowulf MS and Luttrell Psalter from professor's personal collection of images

- *Richard Barber's *Bestiary*, MS Bodley 761. ordered pbk 19.95
- **Calligraphy of the Middle Ages*, M. Drogan ordered pbk 11.98
- **Beginning Illumination: Learning the Ancient Art, Step by Step*, C. Travers pbk 24.99
- *Strathmore 405-11 50 sheet pad, 8½ x 11"
- * tba pen and ink for calligraphy
- *? materials for painting

On Reserve CD Book of Kells MS, others tba

Secondary Readings, including chapters and articles provided on Canvas will be drawn from:

Christopher de Hamel, Alexandra Gillespie, Ben Withers, Lucy Sandler, Keith Houston, selections from *The Medieval Manuscript Book*, ed. Michael Johnston, Marc M. Epstein, Raymond Clemens, Michelle Brown, Jonathan J. G. Alexander, Janet Backhouse, Claire Brey & Johanna Story

Materials

Drogin, Marc *Calligraphy of the Middle Ages and How to Do it* (1998)

AIVN Natural Handcrafted Calligraphy Pen Set
Bienfang Calligraphy Parchment 50 sheets 60lb paper
Paint and brush set tba

Costs:

Free: Digital resources available online for studying Medieval Manuscript, online and on reserve materials

Barber, Richard Bestiary, MS Bodley 761 (2013) 19.95

Travis, Clare Beginning Illumination: Learning the Ancient Art Step by Step (2016) 21.00

Drogin, Marc Calligraphy of the Middle Ages and How to Do it (1998) 12.00

AIVN Natural Handcrafted Calligraphy Pen Set 19.99

Bienfang Calligraphy Parchment 50 sheets 60lb paper 7.30

Paint and brush set tba (about 20.00)

Total books & materials: about 100.00