

# Introduction to Medieval Latin Literature

## Medieval Latin 10



Houghton MS Lat 36, f. 226r

Instructor: Dr. Julian Yolles

[jyolles@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jyolles@fas.harvard.edu)

Tu/Th 10-11:30am, Boylston 237

Office Hours: Boylston 218, Wed 11am-12pm, or by appointment

### Course description

Medieval Latin 10 offers close reading and analysis of post-classical literary texts, both prose and poetry, beginning at an intermediate pace. Participants will improve their reading proficiency while developing an appreciation for features of style, genre, and meter.

### Prerequisites

Any one of the following: Latin Ab (prior to Fall 2016); Latin 3; Latin 2x; Latin Ax.

Students who have not studied Latin at Harvard should take the Latin Placement Exam and consult with the Preceptor in the Classics ([livings@g.harvard.edu](mailto:livings@g.harvard.edu)).

### Required Texts

Keith Sidwell, *Reading Medieval Latin* (Cambridge 1995).

Karl Pomeroy Harrington, *Mediaeval Latin* (Boston, 1925). (NB: the first edition, **not** the revised edition of Joseph Pucci. A full text is available via Hollis:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015037819193>

## **Grading**

Preparation and class participation:	25%
Quizzes:	25%
Houghton presentation:	10%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	20%

## **Participation and Preparation**

Attendance, active participation, and due preparation are crucial components of the course. All assigned readings are to be completed **prior** to the meeting of the class under which they are listed.

After more than one unexcused absence, a student's final grade will be reduced by one third of a letter grade (e.g., an A will become an A-) for each such absence. If you cannot attend a class meeting (for illness, a family emergency, an interview, or a varsity athletic match), please contact me beforehand.

## **Midterm and Final Exam**

The midterm and final exams will consist primarily of translation, and will be taken in a single one-hour class.

## **Accessibility Education**

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) and speak with me by the end of the second week of the term.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Discussion of scholarship and sharing of sources are essential for successful academic work. You are encouraged to consult with the instructors about the written assignments for this course and to exchange ideas with your classmates. You should, however, ensure that any written work that you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing, and that it reflects **your own approach** to the topic. You must also provide full citation for any books, articles, websites, etc. that you have used in the preparation of your work. Other people's ideas and opinions must always be attributed to them. All quotation from published sources must be enclosed in quotation marks and the source must be acknowledged with a full citation. If you paraphrase a source, you must still acknowledge it by supplying a citation. **Plagiarism, whether of published sources or another student's work, will not be tolerated.** If this occurs, a grade of zero will be assigned and the case will be brought to the attention of university officials.

## Schedule of Readings

S = Sidwell, *Reading Medieval Latin*

H = Harrington, *Mediaeval Latin*

CW = to be given in class and available on the course website

### Week 1

**Th 09/01:** Introduction. Egeria's *Itinerarium* (CW).

Course materials and reference works

How to Prepare a Premodern Text

Mini assignments and small additional sec. readings

Assignment: Goddard; Vulgate grammar; Ladouceur; point out 3 non-classical elements

### Week 2

**Tu 09/06:** Psalm 1, 2, 3 (CW); Ambrose, *Hymns* 1 and 4 (CW). Introduction to the Vulgate and Ecclesiastical Latin

Rhythmic poetry

Send link to O'Donnell's commentary

**Th 09/08:** Augustine, *Confessions* I (CW); Jerome, *Letter 22 to Eustochium* (CW).

Classical learning and Christian culture (Study Card Day) **Quiz 1**

### Week 3

**Tu 09/13:** *The Rule of St. Benedict* (S 19-21); Cassiodorus, *Institutiones* 1.28.3-5 (CW). Monastic literature

**Th 09/15:** Gregory of Tours (H 26-27, 30-32, 37-39); Venantius Fortunatus, *Vexilla regis prodeunt*. Merovingian Gaul

### Week 4

**Tu 09/20:** Gregory of Tours (H 26-27, 30-32, 37-39); Venantius Fortunatus, *Vexilla regis prodeunt*.

**Th 09/22:** Bede, *Historia Aecclesiastica* (CW). Anglo-Latin. **Quiz 2**

### Week 5

**Tu 09/27:** Alcuin, *O mea cella* (CW); *Conflictus veris et hiemis* (H 129-132). Carolingian Renaissance.

**Th 09/29:** Einhard, *Life of Charlemagne* (CW)

### Week 6

**Tu 10/04:** Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim, *Calimachus* (S 160-169). Ottonian Renaissance

**Th 10/06:** *Waltharius* (CW). Introduction to dactylic hexameter. **Quiz 3**

*Week 7*

**Tu 10/11:** Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion* (CW) Midterm review: timeline

**Th 10/13:** MIDTERM (in class)

*Week 8*

**Tu 10/18:** *Gesta Francorum* (CW). Crusades

**Th 10/20:** Abelard (S 278-282); Heloise (S 284-285). Medieval letters

*Week 9*

**Tu 10/25:** Hildebert of Lavardin (CW); Archpoet (S 347-352). The Twelfth-Century Renaissance; Goliards

**Th 10/27:** Peter the Venerable, *Letter to Bernard of Clairvaux* (S 268-273). Latin polemical writings on Islam. **Quiz 4**

*Week 10*

**Tu 11/01:** Ps.-Turpin, *Historia Turpini* (CW). *Chansons de geste*. **Houghton Signups Due.**

**Th 11/03:** Walter of Châtillon, *Alexandreis* (CW). Twelfth-century epic

*Week 11*

**Tu 11/08:** *Carmina Burana* (CW)

**Th 11/10:** Walter Map, *De nugis curialium* (CW). Courtly entertainment. **Quiz 5**

*Week 12*

**Tu 11/15:** HOUGHTON VISIT

**Th 11/17:** Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae* (CW). Scholasticism

*Week 13*

**Tu 11/22:** Dante (?), *Letter to Can Grande* (CW). Poetic exegesis. **Quiz 6**

**Th 11/24:** THANKSGIVING--NO CLASS

*Week 14*

**Tu 11/29:** Petrarch, *Epistulae ad familiares* (CW). Humanist prose

**Th 12/01:** FINAL EXAM (in class)