

Medieval Latin (Latin 3205/5205)
Syllabus Spring 2025 (dates to be filled in)

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All readings will be on Canvas

Week 1

Introduction
Auerbach, “*Sermo humilis*”

Week 2

Transforming classical style
Augustine, *De doctrina christiana* book 4 on style
Passio sanctarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis

Week 3

Classics in the Middle Ages
Virgil commentary—Fulgentius and (attributed to) Bernardus Silvestris

Week 4

Classics in the Middle Ages (con’t)
Vatican Mythographers
Accessus ad auctores

Week 5

Medieval historical sensibilities
Alcuin, *De patribus regibus et sanctis euboricensis ecclesiae*
Abelard, from *Historia calamitatum*

Week 6

Letters, life, love
Abelard, from *Historia calamitatum* con’t
Heloise, letter to Abelard (her first letter, considered letter 2 in the collection)

Week 7

Dialogue and letters
Boncompagno da Signa, from *Rota Veneris*

Week 8

Twelfth-century sciences
Bernardus Silvestris, from *Cosmographia*
Alan of Lille, from *Anticlaudianus*

Week 9

Twelfth-century learning: the arts
Hugh of St. Victor, from *Didascalicon*
Alan of Lille, from *De planctu Naturae*

Week 10

The sermon
Bernard of Clairvaux, on the Song of Songs
Macaronic sermon (Anglo-Latin/Middle English)

Week 11

Poetic innovations and traditions
Abelard, *Planctus*
Troy & Thebes laments from *Carmina burana* and *Cambridge Songs*

Week 12

Pedagogies of Latin composition
Geoffrey of Vinsauf, from *Poetria nova*
Guido Faba, preface to *Rota nova*

Week 13

Pedagogical poetry

Poetry of emotional impact: invective, satire, humor

Week 14 Seeking philosophical transparency (no style!)—scholastic writing

Aquinas, from *Summa theologiae*

Giles of Rome, from *De regimine principum*

Week 15

TBD

TBD

Final projects (tbd) due about 10 days after the last class