

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON  
Semester II: 2007-08

**MEDIEVAL MONASTICISM**

History 366  
Medieval Studies 366  
Religious Studies 366  
1-2:15 TR, 1101 Humanities

William Courtenay, 4102 Humanities  
wjcourte@wisc.edu  
Office Hrs: W 2-3:30 & by appt.  
TA: James Matenaer

The course will cover the history of Christian monasticism from its origins to the end of the Middle Ages. In addition to the texts listed below, other materials will be distributed as the semester progresses. There will be two examinations: a mid-term and a final. In addition, students are expected to do a short research paper (10-12 pages), due April 17, on a topic approved by and discussed with the instructor. Graduate students and honors students are expected to write a longer paper appropriate to their level.

Required Texts:

C. H. Lawrence, *Medieval Monasticism* (Longman)  
J. Leclercq, *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*  
*The Rule of St. Benedict* (Doubleday/Image)

Recommended:

*The Cistercian World: Monastic Writings* (Penguin)  
C. H. Lawrence, *The Friars* (Longman)

Jan. 22: Course Introduction

Jan. 24: The Egyptian Desert and the Origins of Monasticism

Jan. 29: Training of the Desert; the Concept of the Holy Man

Jan. 31: Trier, Rome, & Bethlehem: Marcella, Jerome & Paula

Feb. 5: Monasticism in the West II: Augustine and John Cassian

Feb. 7: Early Monastic Rules: Pachomius, Basil, and Augustine

Feb. 12: Women in Religious Life, 400-800

Feb. 14: Lerins and the Abbatial Bishop

Feb. 19: St. Benedict and Cassiodorus

Feb. 21: Rule of St. Benedict

Feb. 26: Celtic Monasticism in Ireland

Feb. 28: Irish Monasticism in England and on the Continent

Mar. 4: Feudalization of Monasticism: the Aristocracy  
Mar. 6: Carolingian Monasticism: Royal Abbeys

Mar. 11: Monastic Education [Klais]  
Mar. 13: Mid-term Examination

Mar. 25: Monastic Architecture  
Mar. 27: Cluny; Canons and the Common Life

Apr. 1: Italian Reform Movements in the 11th century  
Apr. 3: La Grande Chartreuse and le Bec Hellouin

Apr. 8: The Cistercians  
Apr. 10: Women in the Monastic Life, 1000-1400

Apr. 15: Canons from 9th to 12th centuries  
Apr. 17: The Franciscans

Apr. 22: The Dominicans  
Apr. 24: Augustinian Hermits, and Carmelites

Apr. 29: Monasticism and University Education  
May 1: Beguines and the Devotio Moderna

May 6: Monastic Reform and Urbanism  
May 8: No Lecture (Evening Film: Name of the Rose)

May 14: Final Examination (2:45)