From Voice to Parchment
Media and Communication before the Printing Press, 800-1440

AS 100.257
Fall 2017
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Dr. Jenna Phillips
Office Hours: Friday: 12:00-1:00 and by appointment
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Epic traditions, call to Crusade, public curses, music of the troubadours: this course examines oral tradition and music—the "viral media" of pre-modern Europe—while tracing the impact of new recording technologies: early musical notation, manuscripts, and book production.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Participation in discussions: 10%
Assignment 1, due September 15: memorization of a Psalm, KJV or Vulgate; 2-3 page essay, 15%
Midterm exam: in class in week 7. 25%
Final exam: in class, week 13. 25%
Final essay, due December 17: 5 page double-spaced essay. 25%

Required Books:
Thomas Forrest Kelly, Capturing Music: The Story of Notation
Barbara Rosenwein, A Short History of the Middle Ages, 3rd or 4th edition. (all page numbers are from 3rd edition; this syllabus will be updated to include relevant page #s in 4th edition)

All other texts will be posted to Blackboard, or handed out in class. Please print out and bring hard copies of primary sources to discussions; do not read from a computer or tablet during discussions.

Optional Books
(we will read selections that are both posted to Blackboard, and on reserve in the library. You may, however, choose to read the whole work and write your final paper on one of these, and may wish to own a copy for your personal library)
The Song of Roland
Njáls Saga
Dante Alighieri, Inferno
Giovanni Boccaccio, Decameron

This is a provisional syllabus; please expect some readings to be adjusted during semester
**Week 0: Introduction**

*Thursday, August 31*

Introduction

Handout: psalms, KJV

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**Week 1: The Medieval Arts of Memory**

*September 4, Monday*

LABOR DAY --no class--

*September 6, Wednesday*

The Medieval Arts of Memory

*September 8, Friday*

Discussion of primary sources

Reading:

*Rhetorica Ad Herennium, Book III ch. 4*


*Carruthers, The Book of Memory, pp.94-98* (description of a modern memory palace)

*Rosenwein, Short History of the M.A., pp. 44-53* (The New Order of the 6th century; The Ruralization of the West; monasteries as important corporate landowners)

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**Week 2: The Carolingian Renaissance: Books and Music**

*September 11, Monday*

Charlemagne and Books

*September 13, Wednesday*

Gregorian Chant

*September 15, Friday*

ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE. Be prepared to recite your psalm from memory in class; essay to be handed in in class.

Readings:

*Rosenwein, Short History of the M.A., pp. 118-136* (An Empire in Spite of Itself; The Making of the Carolingians; Charlemagne; Charlemagne’s Heirs; The Wealth of a Local Economy; The Carolingian Renaissance)

*Kelly, Capturing Music, pp. 1-59*
Week 3: Medieval Manuscripts as Multimedia Objects

September 18, Monday  Entering the scriptorium

September 20, Wednesday  ***CLASS MEETS in SPECIAL COLLECTIONS***

September 22, Friday  discussion

Readings:
Michael Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, pp. 88-115 “Technology of Writing”

Week 4: Invaders and their Oral Traditions

September 25, Monday  Vikings and Oral Literature

September 27, Wednesday  The Norman Conquest I

September 29, Friday  discussion

Readings:
*Njal's Saga*, excerpt
Rosenwein, pp.152-161, 197-199 (The Last Invaders of the West, The Vikings (muslims, Hungarians); Public Power and Private Relationships; Lords and Vassals; Lords and Peasants; Warriors and Bishops; Cities and Merchants) (England under Norman Rule)
Reichl, *Medieval Oral Literature*, excerpt
OR: Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, pp. 231-257

Week 5: Oral and Written Legal Traditions

October 2, Monday  Norman Conquest II and Trial by Ordeal

October 4, Wednesday  The Changing English Language

October 6, Friday  discussion

Reading:
*Song of Roland*, excerpts and trial of Ganelon
Robert Bartlett, *Trial By Fire*, selection
Optional: P. Brown, “Society and the Supernatural”
Week 6: Crusaders and their Propaganda

October 9, Monday  Preaching the Crusade
October 11, Wednesday  Women and the thirteenth-century “Political Crusades”
October 13, Friday  discussion

Reading:
Pastourelle Text
Adam de la Halle, the Play of Robin and Marion
Translation of two Sicilian Chronicles
Rosenwein, Short History of the M.A., pp. 256-7

Week 7: Review: Four Centuries of Texts and Contexts

October 16, Monday  Half lecture & midterm review
October 18, Wednesday  MIDTERM
October 20- FALL BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 8: The Musical Revolution and Courtly Culture

October 23, Monday  Musical Notation goes secular
October 25, Wednesday  Chivalric Fictions
October 27, Friday  discussion

Reading:
Jean Renart, Guillaume de Dole
Kelly, Capturing Music, pp. 61-77
Rosenwein, Short History of the M.A., pp. 237-244 (“Culture and Institutions in Town and Countryside; Inventorying the Countryside; The Culture of the Courts; Urban Guilds Incorporated”)
Optional: Christopher Page, The Owl and the Nightingale, excerpt
Week 9: Medieval Debating Culture and the Old French *Jeu Parti*

**October 30, Monday**  Universities and the Public Debate

**November 1, Wednesday**  Debates of Love, Sex and Social Etiquette

**November 3, Friday**  *discussion* *performers from Peabody to stage Jeu Parti?*

Reading:
*Jeux Partis in translation*

Novikoff, *A Culture of Disputation*, excerpt


Week 10: Dante and the triumph of the Italian Vernacular

**November 6, Monday**  Dante: early life and the use of the vernaculars

**November 8, Wednesday**  Dante’s *Inferno*

**November 10, Friday**  *discussion*

Reading:
*Dante Alighieri, De Vulgari Eloquentia*, excerpt

→,  *Vita Nuova*, excerpt

→,  *Inferno, cantos I-V*

Week 11: The Black Death in Music and Literature

**November 13, Monday**  The Black Death and Music

**November 15, Wednesday**  The Black Death and Boccaccio

**November 17, Friday**  *discussion*

Final Essay Proposal (1 paragraph) to be handed in by Friday, 11am.

Reading:
Giovanni Boccaccio, *Decameron*, excerpt

Remi Chiu, *Plague and Music in the Renaissance*, excerpt
November 20-26 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 12: The Fifteenth Century: Scribes, Books, Music, and Print

November 27, Monday  Christine de Pizan and the Cordiforme Chansonnier
November 29, Wednesday  Gutenberg and the Print Revolution
December 1, Friday  discussion

Reading:
Christine de Pizan, The Book of the Mutability of Fortune, excerpt
Charity Cannon Willard, Christine de Pisan: Her Life and Works, chs. 1-2
Michael Clanchy, “Looking Back from the Invention of Printing”

Week 13: The Importance of being Printed

December 4, Monday  Lecture 24 the Printing Press and Beyond
December 6, Wednesday  Final Lecture Conclusion and review.
December 8, Friday  Final Exam in Class.

December 17, Monday  Final Essay, to be emailed to professor by 5pm EST.