

RELI2225; Fall Term  
The College of the Humanities

**MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY: 300-1500**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:35 - 16:05

**Dr. Timothy Pettipiece**

Office Hours: TBA (Room 2A35 Paterson Hall)

Course Email: [Timothy.Pettipiece@carleton.ca](mailto:Timothy.Pettipiece@carleton.ca)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course will examine the unfamiliar and fascinating world of medieval Christianity. It is a period of religious history populated by monks and scholars, priests and popes, mystics and saints. Students will be provided with an outline of medieval Christian religious, social, and political history from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, but will also examine four key aspects of the medieval church—intellectual life, social and cultural life, private life, and interior/spiritual life. Students will learn to critically engage with primary sources and develop tools to interpret them in their socio-historical contexts. Some of the themes explored will include the intersection of medieval theology and philosophy, the tensions between spiritual and erotic desire, the roots of religious conflict and violence, and the pursuit of mystical union. NB: Due to time constraints the course content is focused primarily on the “western” branch of Christian tradition.

**EVALUATION**

Response Paper 1 (Anselm or Guibert)	(25%)	due Nov 1
Midterm (multiple choice)	(25%)	Nov 1
Response Paper 2 (Abelard or <i>Cloud</i> )	(25%)	due Dec 8
Final Exam (multiple choice)	(25%)	TBA

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Anselm of Canterbury, *The Major Works* (Oxford University Press)

*The Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (Penguin Classics)

Guibert of Nogent, *Monodies and On the Relics of Saints* (Penguin Classics)

*The Cloud of Unknowing: A New Translation* (Shambhala)

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION**

Carleton’s Connect Mail is the official mode of email communication for all matters having to do with the university and with this course. All communications sent by Connect are official, and you are expected to get them. It is not an option to claim you did not get some announcement or request because you have another email address. You can configure your connect account to forward university emails to another address, but you must be reachable through your Connect account. Also, any communication between you and me involving your personal information (like grades) must originate from a Connect account (FIPPA).

**NOTE ON ATTENDANCE**

If you want to succeed in this course, then attending class and keeping up with readings is essential. Please note that this is not an independent reading course or self-directed study. You are ultimately responsible for all course material (readings and lectures).

## LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Sept 8           **EARLY MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY 600-1050**

### UNIT 1: MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN INTELLECTUAL LIFE

Sept 13          Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion*

Sept 15          Anselm of Canterbury, *On Truth*

Sept 20          Anselm of Canterbury, *On Free Will*

Sept 22          Anselm of Canterbury, *On the Incarnation*

Sept 27          **HIGH-MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY 1050-1300**

### UNIT 2: MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Sept 29          Guibert of Nogent, *Monodies* 1

Oct 4            Guibert of Nogent, *Monodies* 2

Oct 6            Guibert of Nogent, *Monodies* 3

Oct 11          Guibert of Nogent, *The Saints and Their Relics*

Oct 13          Guibert of Nogent, *On the Bipartite Body of the Lord*

Oct 18          Guibert of Nogent, *Against the Monks of Saint-Médard*

Oct 20          Guibert of Nogent, *On the Inner World*

### BREAK

Nov 1           **Midterm / Paper 1 due**

Nov 3           **THE CRUSADES AND THEIR AFTERMATH**

### UNIT 3: MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN PRIVATE LIFE

Nov 8            Abelard, *Story of His Misfortunes*

Nov 10          Abelard and Heloise, *Personal Letters* 2, 3, 4, 5

Nov 15          Abelard and Heloise, *Letters of Direction* 6, 7

Nov 17          **LATE-MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY 1300-1500**

### UNIT 4: MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN INTERIOR LIFE

Nov 22          *Cloud of Unknowing* 1-25

Nov 24          *Cloud of Unknowing* 26-50

Nov 29          *Cloud of Unknowing* 51-75

Dec 1            *Book of Privy Counsel*

Dec 6            Film TBA (part 1) / Discussion

Dec 8            Film TBA (part 2) / Discussion / **Paper 2 due**

## HOW TO WRITE A RESPONSE PAPER

**What a reader response paper is:** A critical essay that expresses what a text means to you. It reflects a close reading of the work, contains specific examples drawn from the work (documented parenthetically with page numbers), and provides your well-considered opinion of the work. The essay demonstrates that you have read the book and can articulate and substantiate your reactions to it.

**What a reader response paper is not:**

- A descriptive summary of the book or of the historical events it describes (NOT a book report!)
- A research paper. No other sources should be consulted.
- A classic “thesis” paper: must have a main point but it should be more analytic than descriptive.
- An opportunity for general opinionating, making statements not supported by evidence from the text.
- A test of whether you had the “right” interpretation of the book. This is a chance for you to express what the book means to **you**. It should display thoughtful evaluation of the text and express of how it may have contributed (or not contributed) to your understanding of the subject matter.

**Ask yourself the following questions** as you prepare to write a reader response paper. You don’t need to include the answers to these questions in your paper, but they can help you organize your thoughts and decide what you’d like to write about in your response.

- What were the main themes of the book?
- What parts of the book did you like the most, and why?
- How does this book relate to what interests you about medieval Christianity?
- What did you learn from it? If you didn’t learn much, why was that?
- What questions did this text leave you with? What would you like to learn more about?

**Sample format for a reader response paper of 4 pages (double spaced):**

1. **Introduction/theme:** 1-2 paragraphs that “set the stage” for what will follow.
2. **Background:** 2-3 paragraphs that introduce the book, its main arguments and context in which it was written, and place the text in its context.
3. **Analysis:** use the remainder of the paper to hone in on a certain element of the book and provide your opinion of it. You may choose to focus on the main argument of the book, or just one element of the book. The analysis should contain direct quotes or paraphrased examples from the book (all cited with page numbers) to support your argument.
4. **Conclusion:** one paragraph that brings us back to your entering statement and states the wider significance of this work to you, and to the literature.

**NB: Late papers will receive a 5% deduction per day.**

**NB: Only hard copies of assignments will be accepted. No electronic submissions.**

**RESPONSE PAPER EVALUATION**

**Length:** number of pages (at least 5 pages double spaced. NB: It can be longer but not shorter)

**Presentation:** typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, standard margins, stapled

**Style:** proper grammar, spelling, and syntax

**Organization:** information is structured and presented in clear and readable manner

**Comprehension:** source material has been understood

**Response:** critical reflection upon source material

Criteria	Unacceptable	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Excellent
Length:	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation	1	2	3	4	5
Style	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Comprehension	2	4	6	8	10
Response	4	8	12	16	20
Deductions					
COMMENTS:				Total:	



## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 9, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 7, 2017**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 11, 2016** for the Fall term and **March 10, 2017** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic & Career Development Services 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library