*Preliminary Syllabus*

**FROM THE DESERT TO THE CITY: HISTORY OF WESTERN MONASTICISM FROM 400 TO 1500**

This seminar puts a special emphasis on the characteristic features of the various forms of monasticism in medieval Europe, from the first Benedictine experience to the crisis of monastic life on the eve of Reformation. In the seminar, we will consider more precisely the nature of spirituality, its evolution under social and economic forces, and, in turn, its own impact on contemporary society. It is also of major importance to focus on the changing forms of monasticism in the context of the rapid evolution of the economic and social realities after the eleventh century.

**ASSIGNMENTS and EVALUATION:**

1. Book reviews: 15%
   - 18-25 September & 2 October, 2009

2. Document Analysis: synopsis, oral presentation & discussion: 15%
   - 9 to 16 October, 2009

3. Title, Thesis (one paragraph), Outline (point form) and Bibliography (one page): 5%
   - 9 October 2009

4. Paper Presentation (20 minutes) and responses to comments: 10%
   - 30 October to 4 December 2009

5. Essay Paper (3,000 words, double-spaced, typed): 30%
   - One week prior to presentation

6. Weekly Participation: 25%

7. Optional: weekly paleographic exercises (last thirty minutes of every meeting)

N.B.: Absence of, or unsatisfactory footnoting in the term paper will involve an “F”; prior to writing your essay, please refer to the Department Essay Guide (Department of History Web Site: http://hist.ucalgary.ca/essay/Handbook.htm). In case of doubt, consult with your instructor. ALL
assignments must be completed in order to receive the minimum passing grade, i.e., “D”. If one of the abovementioned assignments is missed, the final score for the course will be an automatic “F”. Faulty grammar and spelling will affect the grade. Plagiarism constitutes a serious intellectual offence: A PLAGIARIZED PAPER WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY FAILED. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the entire course and other penalties as noted in The University of Calgary Calendar.

N.B.: For the research paper assignment, you may additionally consult the on-line bibliography on Medieval Monasticism: www.ucalgary.ca/library/subjects/HIST/index.htm.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:


COURSE CALENDAR:
**Week One (18 September):**
Western Medieval Monasticism: An Institutional Development
- C.H. Lawrence’s *Medieval Monasticism 600-1500*, New York: Longman, 3rd edition, 2001 (overview);

**Week Two (25 September):**
Monasticism in a Changing Society
- L.K. Little’s *Religious Poverty and the Profit Economy in Medieval Europe*, Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1984 (a paradigm);
- Barbara Rosenwein and Lester K. Little, “Social meaning in the monastic and mendicant spiritualities”, *Past and Present*, 63 (1973), p. 4-32

**Week Three (2 October):**
Monasticism and Lay Society

**Week Four & Five (9-16 October):**
Document Analysis: In-class textual analysis pertinent to selected research topics (seven presentations per day). Each student will be responsible for making the document available to his/her colleagues prior to the time of presentation (10 minute presentation).

**Week Six to Ten (30 October to 4 December):**
Paper Presentation and Discussion: A week prior to their paper presentation, students will make the written version available to their colleagues and instructor in order to enhance the quality of the question and discussion period (50 minutes) that follows the
presentation and justification of the research itself (20 minutes). There will be three presentations per week.

LIST OF TOPICS:
1. Benedictine Experience
2. Irish Monasticism; St. Columbanus and the Continent
3. Converting the Heathen; Celtic vs. Benedictine Missions
4. Converting the Kindred: Queens, Daughters, Abbesses: Royal Blood and Female Spiritual Leadership
5. Monastic Ideals, Society, and Hagiography: The Cluniac Era
6. Monks, Saints & Miracles
7. Nuns and Literacy
9. Regularis Concordia: English Monastic Reform and Kingship
10. The Attraction of Twelfth-Century Radical Reformers: The Cistercians
11. The Rise and Fall of Double Monasticism
12. The Nuns’ Question: Female Religious under Traditional Monasticism (12th-14th c.)
13. Holy Anorexia: a Female Response to Monastic Empowerment?
14. Heresies, the Preaching of the Friars and their Popularity
15. Independent Holy Women? The Beguinal Movement
16. Hermits and Recluses
17. An English Experience: the Ancrene Wisse
18. The Franciscan Crisis: Spirituals vs. Conventuals
19. Monastic Ideals, Mysticism, and the Laity in the Middle Ages
20. Religious Orders and The Impact of the Black Death
21. Prayers, Pastoral Care and Charity: The Social Function of the Late Medieval Monk and Nun
22. Case Study: Benedict of Nursia, Hildegard von Bingen, Christina of Markyate, Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis of Assisi, Clare of Assisi, Marie d’Oignies, Dominic of Guzman, Marguerite Porete, Douceline of Digne, Catherine of Sienna, Julian of Norwich, Walter Hilton, and others (i.e.: Rules for nuns).

BIBLIOGRAPHY: TBA
Bynum, C.W. Jesus as Mother: Studies in the Spirituality of the High Middle Ages, Berkeley, 1982;
Dunn, Marilyn, The Emergence of Monasticism: From Desert Fathers to the Early Middle Ages, Oxford, Blackwell, 2002


Lekai, L. *The Cistercians : Ideals and Reality.* Kent (Ohio), 1977;


**Emergency Evacuation**

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints