

The Great Conversation 116 a,b,c
“The Tradition Redefined: The Medieval Synthesis”
Spring, 2010; MWF 12:55 - 1:50

Section A Holland 514	Professor David Booth, Religion Department BMC 108D: office hours by appointment x3575, booth@stolaf.edu
Section B Holland 515	Professor Ed Langerak, Philosophy Department HH 601C: office hours by appointment x3494, langarak@stolaf.edu
Section C Holland 516	Professor Douglas Casson, Political Science Department HH 303: office hours by appointment x3484, casson@stolaf.edu

We are examining the expansion of the Christian church and faith throughout the Roman world, the intellectual synthesis of Christian faith with Greco-Roman thought. We are trying to understand the relation of faith and reason; the rationales offered for violence between religious communities; the emergence of autobiography; courtly love; monastic discipline; emerging voices of women as poets, philosophers, and social critics.

Texts Required for Purchase:

The Letters of Abelard and Heloise, ed. Radice, Penguin 9780140448993
Beowulf, trans. Heaney, Norton 9780393320978
Song of Roland, trans. Burgess, Penguin 9780140445329
St. Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. Wills, Penguin 9780143039518
The Rule of St. Benedict, Liturgical Press 9780814612729
Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*, adapted by Wright, Oxford 9780192833600
Dante, *The Divine Comedy*, trans. John Ciardi 9780451208637
Hildegard of Bingen, Selected Writings, trans. Atherton, Penguin 9780140436044
Marie de France, *The Lais of Marie de France*, trans. Burgess and Busby, Penguin
9780140447590
The Qur'an, trans. Haleem, Oxford 9780199535958

Other Required Texts:

Melchert, *The Great Conversation*
St. Anselm *Cur Deus Homo* (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/anselm-curdeus.html>)
Bernard of Clairvaux, *Sermons on the Song of Songs*
(<http://www.pathsoflove.com/bernard/songofsongs/contents.html>)
Chartres (GC loan)
Chretien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart* (<http://omacl.org/Lancelot/>)

Requirements and Expectations:

Wholehearted participation; including participation in class conversations, question writing,	10
Brief essays.	5
Essay 1	20
Mid-Term Exam	15
Essay 2	20
Final exam, May 25 9:00 – 11: 00 (arrange travel accordingly)	30

Everyone is expected to attend every class, having already read assigned material (including emailed communication on background and debates) and having prepared to participate in discussions. *To “participate” well in discussion includes contributing ideas by speaking.* If you are absent, you are responsible to contact a classmate (or your instructor) to make sure you are well aware of what has happened in class, and aware of any possible adjustments to the assigned readings. Written work is due on the dates specified; late work may be penalized. Exams occur on the dates specified; arrange travel accordingly.

Note Well:

Plagiarism of any kind (from careless cutting and pasting to intentional misrepresentation of authorship) is an offense against the ideal of a conversation. It is hostile to the values of an academic community. It is against the rules of St. Olaf College. The penalty for plagiarism may include failing the course. See the Student Handbook or confer with your instructor if you have any uncertainty about what counts as plagiarism. Ask.

Consider the college's honor policy:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/honor.html>

And the policy on academic integrity:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/integrity.html>

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Ruth Bolstad (bolstadr@stolaf.edu) or Connie Ford (ford@stolaf.edu) in the Academic Support Center (x3288) located in the Modular Village. If you already have documentation on file with Student Disability Services in the Academic Support Center you are required to present your letters to the professor within the first two weeks of class.

General Education Credits Awarded in the Great Conversation:

GC 113: One Elective

GC 115: WRI, BTS-B

GC 116: first HWC, FYS

GC 217: ALS-L, WRI

GC 218: second HWC, ALS-A, ORC, WRI

Readings and Assignments		Themes / Milestones
February		
M 8	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> 1-3; Melchert pp. 226-32.	
W 10	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> 6-8; Melchert pp. 232-51.	
F 12	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> 10; Melchert pp. 252-63.	<i>Brother Wolf</i> , 2/12-2/14 and 2/18-2/20
M 15	<i>Beowulf</i> , pp. 3-103	
W 17	<i>Beowulf</i> , pp. 103-213	
F 19	The Rule of St. Benedict	Saturday, 2.20, Trip to St. John's Abbey (alternate date)
M 22	Professor Eric Lund Plenary Lecture: Introduction to the Qur'an Qur'an: Haleem's Intro, Suras 1; 86-114; 7:10-51&103-162 (the numbers after the hyphen refer to verses).	
W 24	Qur'an: Sura 12; 17:1-44&97-111; 29; 37:75-181; 38; 71; 24:27-31; 33:28-59; 65; 47; 57; 4:1-35; 9.	
F 26	Qur'an: Suras 2; 3; 5.	Saturday, 2.27, Trip to St. John's Abbey
March		
M 1	Song of Roland: Intro and <i>laissez</i> 1-126.	Brief Essay due
W 3	Song of Roland: <i>laissez</i> 127-298.	Dinner (with Jim May on Gregorian Chant)
F 5	Hildegard, "Know the Ways," pp. 3-34	
M 8	Hildegard, "In Praise of Creation," pp. 89-130.	
W 10	Professor David Booth Plenary Lecture: Atonement, Satisfaction, and the Feudal Context of <i>Cur Deus Homo</i> Anselm, <i>Cur Deus Homo</i> (excerpts)	
F 12	Anselm, "Proslogion," Melchert pp. 264-68.	
M 15	Abelard and Heloise: the Intros and letters 1 (<i>Historia Calamitatim</i>) and 2.	
W 17	Abelard and Heloise: letters 3-6 (skim 8) and some of the "lost letters" pp. 237-44.	
F 19	Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermons on the Song of Songs (selections)	Essay #1 due
M 22	Chretien de Troyes, "The Knight of the Cart" (online)	
W 24	St. Francis Thomas of Celano, "First and Second Lives of St. Francis" (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/stfrank-lives.html); "The Testament of Clare" (http://www.poorclarestmd.org/testament-of-saint-clare.htm)	
F 26	Mid-Term Exam	
Spring Break		

April

- W 7 Chartres Cathedral: Fleming (in packet) and Miller, 8-31, 42-47, 84-86
- F 9 Chartres, Miller, 32-41, 48-82, 88-93
- M 12 Marie de France, "Prologue," "Guigemar," "Equitan"
- W 14 Marie, "Yonec," "Bisclavret," "Lanval"
- F 16 Thomas: Melchert pp. 269-85.
- M 19 Thomas: Melchert pp. 285-92 and Handout on the Virtues and on the Laws.
- W 21 Thomas on Law and War Dinner (with Ed Langerak on Faith and Reason)
- F 23 Dante: *Inferno*, Intros, Cantos 1-12; Melchert pp. 298-302.
- M 26 Dante; *Inferno*: 18-20, 23, 26, 28-34; *Purgatorio*, Intro, 1-2, 5-6, Brief Essay due
- W 28 Dante: *Purgatorio*, 9-11, 17-18, 29-33; *Paradiso*, Intro, 1-5.
- F 30 Dante: *Paradiso*, 9-11, 20-21, 24-26, 30-33.

May

- M 3 Karen Cherewatuk Plenary Lecture:
Introduction to Chaucer
Chaucer, General Prologue, Miller's Prologue and Tale
- W 5 Chaucer, Clerk's Tale, Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale Dinner (with Talent Show?)
- F 7 Chaucer, Prioress's Tale, Pardoner's Prologue and Tale
- M 10 Chaucer, Parson's Prologue, Retraction
- W 12 Professor Karen Marsalek Plenary Lecture:
Wakefield Mystery Plays and Medieval Drama
- F 14 Select Mystery Plays Essay #2 due
- M 17 Summary

Final Exam Tuesday, May 25, 9:00 – 11:00
(do not schedule travel before this day!)
