

## Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2013

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Medieval & Renaissance Studies  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Center-Medieval & Ren Studies - D0505  
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences  
Level/Career Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 2888  
Course Title Holy Heroes: Saints' Lives  
Transcript Abbreviation Holy Heroes  
Course Description Study of popular medieval narrative genre in its cultural context; development of ideals of sanctity in the lives of martyrs, confessors, holy fools, and ascetics.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Lecture  
Grade Roster Component Lecture  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites 6 sem credit hours in literature.  
Exclusions

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 30.1301  
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course  
Intended Rank Freshman, Sophomore, Junior

## Quarters to Semesters

**Quarters to Semesters**

New course

**Give a rationale statement explaining the purpose of the new course**

The course will be modified from Classics 326 - "Christian Heroes: Byzantine Saints' Lives" so it may be taught by a wider array of faculty, and given a 2000-level number to fit within our other UG GEC/ elective courses.

**Sought concurrence from the following Fiscal Units or College**

**Requirement/Elective Designation**

General Education course:

Literature

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

**Course Details**

**Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes**

- Interdisciplinary appreciation of history, culture, and religion. Critical thinking skills. Use of primary and secondary sources in reading and research. Self-expression and sharpened communication skills through papers and exams.

**Content Topic List**

- Medieval
- Politics
- Saints
- History
- Culture
- Literature
- Popular Culture
- Art
- Martyrs
- Hagiography
- Byzantium
- Roman Empire
- Christianity
- Persecution
- Miraculous

**Attachments**

- 2888 assessment.docx  
*(GEC Course Assessment Plan. Owner: Heller, Sarah-Grace)*
- 2888 Sample Syllabus for Saints.docx  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Heller, Sarah-Grace)*
- 2888 Sample Syllabus for Saints-1.docx: Revised assignments and examinations section  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Burgoyne, Jonathan D)*
- 2888 assessment.docx: Revised assessment plan  
*(GEC Course Assessment Plan. Owner: Burgoyne, Jonathan D)*
- 2888 Sample Syllabus for Saints-1.docx: Revised midterm format and required texts.  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Burgoyne, Jonathan D)*

**Comments**

- Revisions highlighted in green *(by Burgoyne, Jonathan D on 12/03/2012 09:28 AM)*
- The format of the midterms, exam and essays would strengthen the case for GE review. Please consider a revision.  
An indication of where the required texts are available is also necessary. *(by Heysel, Garrett Robert on 12/02/2012 08:20 PM)*
- Attached are the requested revisions: syllabus and GE lit assessment plan. *(by Heller, Sarah-Grace on 12/14/2011 04:43 PM)*
- Course from Greek and Latin given to us in 2009 but not activated. Modified from CL326: Christian Heroes: Byzantine Saints' Lives so it may be taught by a wider array of faculty, and given a 2000-level number to fit within our other UG GEC/ elective courses. *(by Spitulski, Nicholas M on 06/13/2011 11:49 AM)*

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Spitulski, Nicholas M	06/17/2011 01:27 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Heller, Sarah-Grace	06/17/2011 05:50 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Williams, Valarie Lucille	07/08/2011 08:43 AM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Meyers, Catherine Anne	07/19/2011 11:59 AM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Spitulski, Nicholas M	01/10/2012 02:26 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Spitulski, Nicholas M	01/10/2012 02:27 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Heysel, Garrett Robert	01/11/2012 08:07 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Burgoyne, Jonathan D	11/27/2012 04:00 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Spitulski, Nicholas M	11/27/2012 04:07 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Heysel, Garrett Robert	12/02/2012 08:20 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Burgoyne, Jonathan D	12/03/2012 09:28 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Spitulski, Nicholas M	12/03/2012 09:33 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel, Garrett Robert	12/03/2012 10:36 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen, Dawn Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Hogle, Danielle Nicole Hanlin, Deborah Kay	12/03/2012 10:36 AM	ASCCAO Approval

Sample Syllabus  
MedRen 2888  
Semester/Year

# Holy Heroes: Saints' Lives in the Middle Ages and Renaissance

Meeting Days—times—location

Professor: Karen Winstead  
Email: [winstead.2@osu.edu](mailto:winstead.2@osu.edu)  
Office:  
Office hours:

## Description:

Study of popular medieval narrative genre in its cultural context; development of the ideal of sanctity in the lives of martyrs, holy fools, and ascetics. Not open to students with Comp Studs 4809.

GE category: 2. Breadth. C. Arts and Humanities. 1. Literature

## **Goals:**

Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

## **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students develop abilities to be informed observers of, or active participants in, the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.
2. Students develop an understanding of the foundations of human beliefs, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior.
3. Students examine and interpret how the human condition and human values are explored through works of art and humanistic writings.

## **(1) Literature Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students learn to analyze, appreciate, and interpret significant literary works.
2. Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students learn to understand and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.

## Course Objectives. Students will:

1. be introduced to some of the main currents of medieval and early modern culture in Western Europe through the study of saints.
2. examine the legacy of Biblical and late antique models in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.
3. examine the representation of saints in art and music.
4. examine the role saints in popular culture.
4. gain a critical sense of historical chronology by looking at how representations of saints change over time and between regions and cultures.

5. read primary texts in translation, with the goal of appreciating the form and content of hagiographic texts.

Expected Learning Outcomes (ELOs) for students in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, for which this is an introductory level course:

1. demonstrate a broad, interdisciplinary appreciation of the history and culture of the Medieval and Renaissance world.
2. demonstrate skill at critical thinking through the study of diverse disciplines
3. demonstrate skill at utilization of primary and secondary sources.
4. demonstrate the capacity to express themselves and to exercise sharpened communication skills in exams, papers, and discussions.

### Assignments and examinations

A series of weekly Carmen quizzes on the readings and lectures (25%)

Midterm (20%) and final (25%) exams

2 Short papers (15% each)

The format of quizzes will be divided into two sections: (1) short answer identification questions and (2) multiple-choice questions.

The format of the Midterm will consist of three sections: (1) a multiple-choice section, (2) a brief answer section that will test students' knowledge of critical terms and texts, and (3) a section in which students will write a brief (1.5 – 2 page) essay that analyzes primary sources, rehearses critical concepts, and presents the student's position on readings and class discussion in a well-organized critical argument. The Midterm will cover the material up to the time of the exam.

The Final exam will be cumulative, and have the same format as the Midterm.

Short papers (approx. 3 – 5 pp.) allow students to explore their own critical responses to readings and class lecture through critical writing. Papers will be graded based on a rubric that outlines scores for each of the following categories: Focus, organization, critical sources, and mechanics.

### Statement on Academic Misconduct

*"It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp))."*

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

### Required texts:

- Gregory the Great, *Life of Saint Benedict* (Liturgical Press). Available at SBX Bookstore, 1806 North High St., Columbus, OH 43201. Tel. 614-291-9528.
- Capgrave, *Life of St. Katherine* (Notre Dame) Available at SBX Bookstore, 1806 North High St., Columbus, OH 43201. Tel. 614-291-9528.
- Hrotsvitha, *Florilegium* (Boydell & Brewer) Available at SBX Bookstore, 1806 North High St., Columbus, OH 43201. Tel. 614-291-9528.
- Jacobus de Voragine, *Golden Legend* (Penguin) Available at SBX Bookstore, 1806 North High St., Columbus, OH 43201. Tel. 614-291-9528.
- Other readings will be available online through the OSU course management system, Carmen, site for the course (under Contents).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### FOUNDATIONS

#### Week 1

T: Introduction to the course

R: Biblical models

Read: Acts (martyrdom of Stephen), Apocryphal Acts of Paul and Thecla (online)

#### Week 2

T: Early Martyrs:

Read: Acts of Polycarp and Perpetua (online)

R: Desert Fathers:

Read: Selections from the Life of Anthony by Athanasius (online)

### THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

#### Week 3

T: Gregory the Great on How to Read a Saint's Life

Read: Gregory the Great, *Life of Saint Benedict*

R: Gregory of Tours, theorist of saints' lives  
Read: Selections from the *Lives of the Fathers* and *History of the Franks* (online)

Week 4

T: Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim: Saints in legend and drama  
Read: Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim, *Dulcitius, Callimachus, & "Pelagius"*  
R: Hrotsvitha, cont.  
Read: Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim, *Abraham*  
Paper #1 due

### **LITURGY, VISION, DRAMA, AND ROMANCE**

Week 5

T: St. Nicholas  
Read: Liturgical plays (online)  
R: Saint Ursula and the Eleven Thousand Virgins  
Read: Elizabeth of Schonau and Hildegard of Bingen (online)

### **SAINTS IN POPULAR CULTURE: LEGENDARIES, CULTS, PILGRIMAGES**

Week 6

T Jacobus de Voragine's *Golden Legend*: A "medieval bestseller"  
Read: Lives of Nicholas, Benedict, Ursula, Anthony  
R Saints in art: Emblems and Attributes

Week 7

T Pilgrimage: Thomas Becket, "holy, blissful martyr"; St. Faith, "serial killer"  
R **MIDTERM**

### **LEGENDARY SAINTS IN LITERATURE & ART**

Week 8

T Family saints  
Read: Lives of Saints Anne and Joseph (online)  
R Married saints  
Read: Lives of Cecilia and Alexis from the *Golden Legend*

Week 9

- T Katherine of Alexandria: Sovereign, scholar, and virago  
Read: John Capgrave, *Life of St. Katherine*, Books 1-3
- R St. Katherine, cont.  
Read: Capgrave *Saint Katherine*, Books 4-5

Week 10

- T Dragon slayers  
Read: lives of Michael, Margaret, and George from the *Golden Legend*
- R Mary Magdalene: preacher, reformed prostitute, & born-again virgin  
Read: life of Mary Magdalene from the *Golden Legend*

**SAINTS OF THE LATE MIDDLE AGES**

Week 11

- T Founding friars  
Read: lives of Francis and Dominic in the *Golden Legend*
- R “Holy anorexics”  
Read: Selection from Bynum, *Holy Feast and Holy Fast* (online)

Week 12

- T Elizabeth of Hungary  
Read: Life of Elizabeth from the *Golden Legend* and Nicholas Bozon (online)
- R Christina “the Astonishing” and the Beguines  
Start reading *The Book of Margery Kempe*, part 1

Week 13

- T Dorothy of Montau and Margery Kempe: Wives, mothers, and mystics  
Read: Finish Book 1 of *The Book of Margery Kempe*
- R Joan of Arc  
Read: Selections from *The Trial of Joan of Arc* (online)

**POST-MEDIVAL SAINTS**

Week 14

- T John Foxe: Reforming Legendaries  
Selections from the *Book of Martyrs* (online)
- R John Foxe: Reforming Saints  
Selections from the *Book of Martyrs* (online)

Paper #2 due

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS)

MedRen 2888, "Holy Heroes: Saints' Lives in the Middle Ages and Renaissance"

Rationale for GE Literature Category and Assessment Plan for the Course

Description:

Study of the popular medieval narrative genre of saints' lives (hagiography) in its cultural context; development of ideals of sanctity in the lives of martyrs, confessors, holy fools, and ascetics.

This course, originally Classics 326 "Christian Heroes: Byzantine Saints," has been transferred to Medieval and Renaissance Studies with the thought that it could be taught by a number of faculty from diverse points of view.

Hagiography has recently become a hot topic in Medieval and Early Modern studies. Lives of the saints represent a significant body of literature, including many versions in Latin as well as some of the earliest extant texts in the vernaculars. These texts often outnumber vernacular texts such as romances, epics, and lyrics, which have generally been far more privileged in language and literature studies. Hagiography has been largely neglected, despite its status as the "best-selling" genre of the medieval period. It is now accepted that miracle stories and saints lives should be read as literary constructs grounded in history as well as the contemporary realities in which they were read and re-written.

The course title, "Holy Heroes," emphasizes the parallels between hagiography and heroic literature. Professor Anthony Kaldellis of Greek and Latin taught the course with a Greek-Byzantine focus, comparing medieval saints' representations with those of ancient heroes such as Achilles, and biblical heroes such as Daniel and the Maccabees. The supernatural powers of the saints also beg comparisons with modern superhero and supernatural literature, comics, and films. Professor Karen Winstead's attached sample syllabus draws on her expertise on representation of women in saints' lives in the high and later Middle Ages (13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries), particularly in England. (See her studies reassessing the hagiographic material through the lens of feminism, such as *Virgin Martyrs* and *Chaste Passions*). The course could equally be taught by a specialist in the Early Middle Ages (5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries), as hagiography constitutes one of the richest if also most problematic sources from that period.

Representations of saints deal with many social problems such as sexual mores, women's desire, violence, torture, political struggles, and religious intolerance. This GE course invites students into interdisciplinary work, as saints offer an entry point for studying the religion, folklore, geography, material culture, art, architecture, and literary structures of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

GE category: 2. Breadth. C. Arts and Humanities. 1. Literature

**Goals:**

Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students develop abilities to be informed observers of, or active participants in, the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.

*Students will examine the sources, structures, tropes/ themes, and rhetoric of hagiography, comparing texts with artistic representations.*

2. Students develop an understanding of the foundations of human beliefs, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior.

*Students will examine saints and heroes across time from antiquity through the Middle Ages, Early Modern, and Modern periods, gaining appreciation for changes in representation in different times and places and thereby gaining a sense of historical chronology and cultural difference. Students will examine saints through the lenses of religion as well as literary criticism and theoretical approaches such as psychoanalysis and feminism.*

3. Students examine and interpret how the human condition and human values are explored through works of art and humanistic writings, *particularly texts on heroes, saints, and Judeo-Christian conduct.*

**(1) Literature Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students learn to analyze, appreciate, and interpret significant literary works.

2. Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students learn to understand and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.

Course Objectives. Students will:

1. be introduced to some of the main currents of medieval and early modern culture in Western Europe through the study of saints.

2. examine the legacy of Biblical and late antique models in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

3. examine the representation of saints in art and music.

4. examine the role saints play in popular culture.

4. gain a critical sense of historical chronology by looking at how representations of saints change over time and between regions and cultures.

5. read primary texts in translation, with the goal of appreciating the form and content of hagiographic texts.

Assessment Plan

The instructor will assess the degree to which the main objectives of the course, as stated above, have been achieved in the various course assignments. More specifically, student achievement will be evaluated through direct, and indirect measures

Direct measures: quizzes, exams, and short essays. The structure of quizzes and exams, as well as the criteria for evaluating written work is outlined in the syllabus under "Assignments and Examinations". Successful achievement of the expected learning outcomes will be determined by 75% of the class earning 80% or higher on exams, quizzes, and essays.

Indirect measures: exit surveys. Successful achievement of expected learning outcomes will be demonstrated by 75% of students reporting that they were able to analyze and appreciate literary works, and that through their analysis they were able to evaluate their own personal and cultural values, as well as those of others.

The CMRS office will maintain the instructor's assessment and other comments, such as exit surveys, in the course file for future review. Students will also be asked to complete the SEI evaluations (including the on-line SEI narrative evaluations) for the course. Based on the comments of the students and the instructor's assessment (which includes an evaluation of the materials and pedagogy employed), appropriate changes will be made to the syllabus.