



5-day Advanced Course in Medieval Studies

The Cultural Space of the European Middle Ages: Comparing Romance and Germanic Literatures (Genoa, Italy, 17-21 October 2022)

The course, which will combine theoretical and practical approaches, will deal with central themes and texts of both Germanic and Romance medieval literary traditions (e.g. heroic epic, courtly romance, lyric, text and image relationship).

Course program

Monday 17 October 2022

Germanic literatures: Medieval German Heroic Epic This module deals with medieval heroic epic in the German language area. The texts of this genre are rich in themes and motifs, and diverse in emphases, while at the same time retaining a number of archetypal elements. Particular attention will be paid to the Nibelung tradition and the Dietrich epics which draw their origins in remote events related to the Germanic Migration Period.

Germanic literatures: Medieval German Courtly Romance This module focuses on the emergence of medieval verse romances in the German language area. On the basis of a series of significant examples from the works of Hartmann von Aue, Wolfram von Eschenbach and Gottfried von Straßburg, the features of this genre, its relationship to the Romanic sources and its relationship with other medieval German literary genres will be taken into consideration.

Tuesday 18 October 2022

Germanic literatures: Medieval German Lyric (1150-1300) This module deals with the main aspects of the medieval German Lyric tradition from its beginnings in the mid twelfth century to the early years of the fourteenth century, a distinct period delimited by the main manuscript collections which embrace poems on the theme of love as well as those on didactic, political, and religious subjects. Particular attention will be paid to the nature of the manuscript transmission, to the manuscript illustrations and to the relationship to Old Provençal and Old French lyric.

Germanic literatures: The reception of courtly romance and heroic epic in Scandinavia (sagas and ballads) The aim of this module is to show how some of



the most popular themes and characters of both courtly romance and heroic epic (e.g. Yvain, Percival, Charlemagne and the Paladins) are transformed and adapted to two of the most characteristic genres of medieval and post-medieval Scandinavian literature: the saga and the ballad.

Wednesday 19 October 2022

Romance literatures: Romance literatures and popular culture This module analyses the relationship between popular culture, often rife with pre-Christian heritage, and 'high' culture. The effects of this dialogical and osmotic relationship can only be understood through the analysis of the literary texts that preserve more or less explicit traces of myths, beliefs, legends, and traditions which lived exclusively in orality.

Romance literatures: Romance literatures and popular culture – *Narratio brevis*. Case study: *barbeoire* and *papeoire* This module proposes the analysis of two adiaborous variants of a *fabliau* by Jean Bodel, *Le vilain de Farbu*. The aim is to study in depth, on the basis of historical semantics, the relationships existing between the mask (understood as an artefact), the names attributed to it and its uses in war, magic and ritual contexts.

Thursday 20 October 2022

Romance literatures: The text/image relationship This module deals with the problems connected to the multiple relationships possibly existing between text and image and to the relations established between two language codes, which are distinct (in one case predominantly discursive, in the other predominantly iconic) but, from a semiotic point of view, not too different. The different forms of relationship *in praesentia* (coexistence of text and images) and *in absentia* (images that refer to a pre-text) will be investigated.

Romance literatures: The text/image relationship - Epic poem. Case study: Cruet's pictorial cycle This module analyses the transposition of an epic poem into images. The pictorial cycle of the Château de Verdon-Dessous near Cruet, the residence of the Lords of Verdon (early 14th century) and its relationship with its source: the *Girart de Vienne* by Bertrand de Bar-sur-Aube, composed between 1190 and 1224, will be analyzed.

Romance literatures: The text/image relationship - Romance. Case study: the Siedlecin painting cycle This module analyses the transposition of a novel into



images. The painting cycle of the residential tower of Siedlęcín on the Bóbr (Silesia), possibly built by Henry I, Duke of Jawor, around 1313-1314, and its relationship with *Lancelot en prose* (first half of the 13th century) will be analyzed.

Friday 21 October 2022

Romance literatures: The Mediterranean Space This module explores the role of the Mediterranean as a privileged point of contact of cultures and traditions: on its shores and along its routes, stories of different origins and nature meet, have a dialectic relationship, mix and hybridize, becoming the lifeblood of the future 'European' literatures.

Romance literatures: The Mediterranean Space. Case study: the *Legenda mirabilis* This module is devoted to an apocryphal Life of St Anthony Abbot of which Alfonsus Bonihominis translated six *excerpta* from Arabic into Latin in 1342. The second one, «S. Antonii iter barcinonense» is particularly interesting, since it exposes in explicit terms the dynamics of narrative reworking of the links which continued to exist between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

Course duration: five days (five hours a day). Languages: English and Italian.
Inscription fee: 400 €

Participation in the course (except for those belonging to Italian institutions) **can be financed with funds from the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals.**

Instructors:

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