

Medieval Latin (Day 1)

Date: 2025-08-19

Potential semester readings

Note: Blurbs from Wikipedia

- **Jerome** (342-347 - 420): also known as Jerome of Stridon, was an early Christian priest, confessor, theologian, translator, and historian; he is commonly known as Saint Jerome. He is best known for his translation of the Bible into Latin (the translation that became known as the Vulgate) and his commentaries on the whole Bible.
 - **Book of Judith:** a deuterocanonical book included in the Septuagint and the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Church of the East Old Testament of the Bible but excluded from the Hebrew canon and assigned by Protestants to the apocrypha. It tells of a Jewish widow, Judith, who uses her beauty and charm to kill an Assyrian general who has besieged her city, Bethulia. With this act, she saves nearby Jerusalem from total destruction.
- **Aurelius Prudentius Clemens** (348-413): a Roman Christian poet, born in the Roman province of Tarraconensis (now Northern Spain) in 348.
- **Gregory of Tours** (538 - 594): a Gallo-Roman historian and Bishop of Tours during the Merovingian period and is known as the “father of French history.” He was a prelate in the Merovingian kingdom, encompassing Gaul’s historic region.
 - **History of the Franks**
- **Carmina Burana** (11th or 12th century): Latin for “Songs from Benediktbeuern” [Buria in Latin]] is a manuscript of 254 Poems and dramatic texts mostly from the 11th or 12th century, although some are from the 13th century. The pieces are mostly bawdy, irreverent, and satirical. They were written principally in Medieval Latin, a few in Middle High German and old Arpitan. Some are macaronic, a mixture of Latin and German or French vernacular.
- **Anselm of Canterbury** (1033-1109): Benedictine monk, abbot, philosopher, and theologian of the Catholic Church, who served as Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109.
- **Geoffrey of Monmouth** (1095 – 1155): a Catholic cleric from Monmouth, Wales, and one of the major figures in the development of British historiography and the popularity of tales of King Arthur. He is best known for his chronicle The History of the Kings of Britain (Latin: De gestis Britonum or Historia Regum Britanniae) which was widely popular in its day, being translated into other languages from its original Latin.
- **Albertus Magnus (Albert the Great)** (1200 - 1280): Considered one of the greatest medieval philosophers and thinkers.
- **Thomas Aquinas** (1225 - 1274): an Italian Dominican friar and priest, the foremost Scholastic thinker, as well as one of the most influential philosophers and theologians in the Western tradition.
- **Copernicus** (1473 - 1543): a Renaissance polymath who formulated a model of the universe that placed the Sun rather than Earth at its center. Copernicus likely developed his model independently of Aristarchus of Samos, an ancient Greek astronomer who had formulated such a model some eighteen centuries earlier.
- **Malleus Maleficarum** (1487): the best known treatise about witchcraft. It was written by the German Catholic clergyman Heinrich Kramer (under his Latinized name Henricus Institor) and first published in the German city of Speyer in 1486. Some describe it as the compendium of literature in demonology of the 15th century. Kramer presented his own views as the Roman Catholic Church’s position.
- **C. S. Lewis**
- **Latin nativity narratives** near end of semester.