

2008



SUMMER

CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL  
& RENAISSANCE STUDIES

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OXFORD

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# THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

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July 3rd - 25th 2008

[www.cmrs.org.uk](http://www.cmrs.org.uk)

## SUMMER PROGRAMME 2008

### THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

The CMRS Summer Programme 2008 offers a broad, dynamic, multidisciplinary exploration of the medieval world, in an intensive three-week course based in the historic university city of Oxford. Designed primarily for undergraduates in their Junior or Senior years, the programme will also appeal to mature students, graduates, or anyone with a fascination for the period. For undergraduates a GPA of at least 3.00 points on a 4.00 point scale is expected, but the Admissions Committee attaches greatest importance to faculty recommendations.

The course is made up of four parts:

- **Tutorial Groups.** Students select **one** Tutorial from **SX/1 - SX/5** below as well as attending the Seminars, Field Trips and Lectures
- **Integral Seminar.** A weekly discussion forum based around key texts
- **Field Trips.** Three field trips to sites of major importance
- **Interdisciplinary Lectures.** Two weekly lectures by Oxford scholars and distinguished guest speakers complete the academic programme

### TUTORIAL GROUPS

Tutorial group courses offer an opportunity for detailed study within areas in which CMRS specializes. They meet twice a week for a one-hour session. Students are required to submit written work in the form of weekly essays, and are expected to be active participants in each week's discussions. The tutorial group allows a focus on each individual's work with no more than 5 students per tutor.

### HISTORY

#### SX/1 Questing for Camelot

*Tutor: Mark Philpott, M.A., D.Phil.*

Tales of Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table, Guinevere the Queen, Merlin and the Grail Quest retain today their power to evoke a variety of responses - mystical, literary, scholarly and spiritual. This course traces the evolution of the myths from their roots in post-Roman Britain, through their full flourishing in medieval Europe, to their Indian summer in Victorian England and their decadence in Hollywood. **Subject Credit:** *History, Literature.*



#### SX/3 Dante

*Tutor: Nicholas Crowe, M.A., Ph.D.*

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) remains a towering eminence in the culture of High Medieval Christendom. The monumental significance of his achievement continues to inspire and his influence on later literature and culture is incalculable, but always at its heart is the unique gift for making 'the spiritual visible'. This course investigates his vision both in terms of its special internal coherence and its place in the culture of the time. **Subject Credit:** *Literature.*

#### SX/4 Beowulf and Tolkien

*Tutor: John Holmes, M.A., Ph.D.*

The Old English epic (or as J.R.R. Tolkien preferred to call it, elegy) *Beowulf* was not only the single most powerful influence on Tolkien's fiction, but also a major focus of his scholarly career as Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford. Reading *Beowulf* along with Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and his published writings on the Old English classic, the student will explore the often surprising continuities between modern and medieval thought, as well as important divergences. **Subject Credit:** *Literature.*

### LITERATURE

#### SX/2 Chaucer and the Person: Five Canterbury Tales

*Tutor: Ralph Hanna, M.A., Ph.D.*

Traditionally, the Renaissance 'discovered' the human individual. Recent study, however, suggests that in England this 'discovery' may have been much earlier, at the end of the fourteenth century. One foundation for this view would be a reading of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. This course examines the ways in which Chaucer signals an abiding interest and concern with the individual person and how Chaucerian characters (including the Wife of Bath, Merchant and Franklin) enact that interest. **Subject Credit:** *Literature.*

### ART HISTORY

#### SX/5 Illuminating Books of Hours

*Tutor: Victoria Condie, M.A., D.Phil.*

Medieval bestsellers, Books of Hours are now famous for their stunning illuminations and other decoration. In this course they are both studied in their own right and placed in their cultural context in the history, literature and art of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The Books of Hours will thus shed light on topics including late medieval private devotion to God and the Virgin Mary, and the significance of the rise in literacy among the laity. **Subject Credit:** *Art History, History.*

## INTEGRAL SEMINAR

### *Medieval Worlds*

While the tutorial groups explore subjects in depth, the Integral Seminar allows for a more discursive reflection on the period and its enduring significance in the development of western culture. Students gather each week to discuss, under the guidance of a tutor, salient questions and issues arising from their reading of a key text. In so doing they will widen their appreciation of the Middle Ages as a whole in a supportive, stimulating atmosphere. The three texts provide a multidisciplinary framework for discussing the whole period from late Antiquity to the dawning of the Renaissance. Each work was groundbreaking on its publication, and continues to shape scholarly understanding today.

### SEMINAR TEXTS

<b>Week 1</b>	C.S. Lewis, <i>The Discarded Image</i>
<b>Week 2</b>	Colin Morris, <i>The Discovery of the Individual</i>
<b>Week 3</b>	Johan Huizinga, <i>The Waning of the Middle Ages</i>

### FIELD TRIPS

There are three trips outside Oxford to places of historical importance, each under the guidance of a tutor with specialized knowledge of the sites. Field trips are an important part of the academic programmes, and all students are expected to attend.

#### Gloucester and Berkeley Castle

*Gloucester:* The great cathedral of Gloucester became nationally important after the murder of King Edward II in nearby Berkeley Castle and his burial in the then Abbey Church. Royal master-masons from Westminster were responsible for transforming the Norman church, introducing the soaring, delicate Perpendicular style of the fourteenth century: great windows, tall choir, and the new fan vaulting in the cloisters.



*Berkeley Castle:* This is one of the finest and most famous castles in England, and the home of the Berkeley family for over eight centuries. Much remains of the medieval fortress of pink and grey stone, including the Great Hall, the Keep, and the Dungeon where the hapless King Edward II suffered an agonizing death in 1327.

#### Glastonbury Abbey and Wells Cathedral, Somerset

In an area steeped in the legends and mysteries of King Arthur, Glastonbury Abbey even today in its ruins is a dramatic relic of the greatest abbey of the English Benedictines. The town grew in the beneficent shadow of the Abbey and still has two of its oldest buildings: The George and Pilgrim and The Tribunal. Six miles away lies Wells, the smallest cathedral city in England. The building of the cathedral began about 1175 and continued over the following two centuries: the 'Angel Steps' and fan-vaulted Chapter House are exceptionally fine. Nearby, the moated Bishop's Palace is set in broad waters fed by the many wells which gave the town its name.



#### Warwick Castle and Town

The castle incorporates a 14th-century fortress developed by the Earls of Warwick into an imposing residential stronghold, allying the military might of the towers and walls with the domestic comforts of the Great Hall and private apartments. The modern visitor has access to the ramparts and towers, the gatehouse barracks, the armoury, the dungeons and the park. The town is an intriguing amalgam of 16th-century half-timbered houses and 17th-century classical buildings, with a church showing both Medieval and Renaissance features. The West Gate and Tudor Almshouses escaped the 1694 fire which destroyed much of the town and thus enabled a programme of fashionable rebuilding.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY LECTURES

There will be two lectures each week, attended by all students. Linked to the subjects of tutorials, these lectures will be given by Oxford scholars and distinguished visiting academics. Thus students will gain a complementary deepening of their understanding, in particular, of important areas of research.

## ACADEMIC CREDIT & TRANSCRIPTS

**Academic Credit:** While courses at CMRS are intended to form part of a student's studies for an undergraduate or graduate degree, the final right to accept credits must remain with the home university/college. Candidates should consult their academic advisor and obtain the agreement of their Academic Dean and Registrar before submitting their application.

The academic load for undergraduates and graduates is four credits. Work is assessed on the quality of essays and the contribution to discussion in the tutorial and integral seminar. Performance is graded A, B, C, D (plus & minus) and F. At the end of the programme, a transcript, report and grade are sent to the student's university or college.

## ACADEMIC FACILITIES

**Libraries:** The CMRS Library contains the standard works and reference books required by undergraduates for the subjects taught here, with multiple copies of the essential texts required for the Tutorial Group and Integral Seminar. Students may also join the Oxford Central Library which houses, in addition to its main lending and reference sections, material of interest for specialist research, particularly in the field of local history.

**Computer Facilities:** CMRS has a networked AppleMac computing system with permanent access to the internet. The Computer Room, open 24 hours a day, has AppleMacs and a cross-platform printer for general use. There are ethernet points in teaching rooms and every study-bedroom in St Michael's Hall, and most of the building is covered by wireless networks. Students are encouraged to bring laptops.

## FEES

The fees for the 3-week Summer Programme in July 2008 are **£1,600** to include all tuition, room in St Michael's Hall or a student annexe, full board at St Peter's College from Monday to Friday each week, and three full-day field trips.

The deadline for applications is **April 15**. A deposit of **£600** is required by **May 1**. Deposits are credited in full against the fee for the course. The balance of **£1,000** is due by **June 1**.

The deposit is not refundable under any circumstances once the student has been accepted on a course. Participants are advised to take out insurance cover against illness and unforeseen circumstances that may arise between payment of the deposit and completion of the course. A student who withdraws after making the final payment but not less than 14 days before the beginning of the course will receive a full refund minus the deposit. No fees can be refunded after that date. Students will not be permitted to commence any course or part thereof unless all fees have been paid in full or payment dates have been guaranteed in writing by their scholarship or institutional loan provider.

Fees should be paid by **either** wiring into the CMRS bank account (information supplied with invoice), **or** bank draft in pounds sterling made payable to 'The Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies'. Bank drafts can normally be arranged through your local bank. CMRS cannot accept dollar cheques or payment by credit card.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**BOARD:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner from Monday to Friday are included in fees and provided at St Peter's College. Student residences have kitchen and dining facilities where students may prepare other meals.

**CREDIT CARDS:** It is wise to carry a credit card. Remember to tell your card provider that you will be using your card regularly in the U.K. Some American credit cards (**Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Plus** and **Cirrus**) are widely used in the U.K., and there are many ATMs in Oxford where you can use them to withdraw cash in pounds sterling.

**MEDICAL CARE:** Dr John Sichel serves as the medical officer to CMRS. All students are registered with him, but are not eligible for free care under the National Health Service unless registered for at least six months.

**ROOM:** Accommodation is provided in single and shared rooms in St Michael's Hall and, if required, in student annexes. CMRS is situated in the very heart of Oxford. The annexes are in central Oxford or within a mile of CMRS. Rooms are comfortably furnished, with bedding and linen provided. Priority for single rooms is given to graduates and older students.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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