

FL 3394 SCHEDULE OF LESSONS - Reading

DAY 1. Course Intro: reading in the age of technology
narrative and *fabula*

Begin Apuleius' *The Golden Ass* (and some contemporary considerations regarding narrative, except for books, all assignments in course packet)

Make three observations about the story

DAY 2. Boccaccio and his sources: a matter of *inventio*

Read excerpt from *Italy: A Short History* 2nd ed.

Ask three factual questions not answered in your reading

Read Intro and proem of Decameron

DAY 3. The *novella*, something new

Read excerpt from *A History of Italian Literature* vol. I

Ask two convergent questions about your reading

DAY 4. The medieval reader: Latin professional or vernacular merchant?

Read excerpt from

Ask two divergent questions about the topic

DAY 5. Are poets liars? Looking at allegory

Read excerpt from Dante's *Convivio*, and Boccaccio's *On the Genealogy of the Gods* (Bk X-XII "On Poetry")

Answer three questions provided

DAY 6. Narratives before the Decameron: a matter of *auctoritas*

I Latin translations of Greek romances and Latin stories

Apuleius' *The Golden Ass*: compare BK IX to Dec. VII, 2; and chs. 14-26 to Dec. V, 10; compare passages from *The Antiquities of the Jews* by Josephus Flavius and *The Life of Alexander of Macedon* by pseudo-Callisthenes to Dec. IV, 2.

II Classical *exempla*

Valerius Maximus' *Factorum ac dictorum memorabilium libri* (Memorable Deeds and Sayings): Read the table of contents to determine how the material is organized, and at least three exempla from different sections; determine the moral, and be prepared to recount the story.

III Practical literature

A. Manuals

- Skim Isidore of Seville's *Etymologia*. Note how the information is organized. Choose three words and be prepared to explain them to the class.
- Choose an animal from the [The Medieval Bestiary](#) and describe its symbolism and associations to class.
- Read the chapter from Freud's [Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious](#) and Fabliaux VI.
- Read excerpt from Vincent of Beauvais' *Speculum maius* ([The Great Mirror](#))

B. Illustrative stories or *exempla* for sermons

- Petrus Alphonsus *Disciplina clericalis* ([A Training-school form the Clergy](#))
- unknown, *Gesta romanorum* ([Deeds of the Romans](#))
- Jacques de Vitry *Sermones vulgares* ([Vernacular Sermons](#))

Compare *Disciplina clericalis* 14th exemplum to [Dec. VII, 4](#); 15th exemplum to [Dec. VIII, 10](#) and *Gesta romanorum* ch. 118th and 2nd exemplum to [Dec. X, 8](#).

C. Saint's Lives, Legendaries, Miracles (hagiography) or *Legenda* or *Gesta sanctorum*

Read at least two tales from the above text and two from Butlers' [Lives of the Saints](#). Choose a saint that appears in both texts and compare the versions of their lives. Be prepared to recount one. Read the excerpt from The Road to Paradise in packets and [Dec. III, 10](#). Decide which aspects of the story follow traditional saints' lives.

*We could go the Cathedral of St. Francis in the afternoon to look at the visual portrayal of St. Francis.

IV Oriental Tales: Arabian Nights

Compare the narrative frame of [The Golden Ass](#), [Decameron](#), and the [Arabian Nights](#). Read first cycle of tales in the latter.

V Tales of love, sex, and misogyny

A. Courtly love

Read excerpt from Andreas Capellanus' [The Art of Courtly Love](#) and Canto V of Dante's [Inferno](#).

B. Fabliaux from the Old French: the mechanism of humor

Read I, III, IV, V, VII, XI, XIV in [Fabliaux Fair and Foul](#) and then "Screwed on Husband's Grave," and "The Snowflake."

DAY 17 to end. The Decameron and its themes

We will read a selection of tales from the text.