

Ancient and Medieval Studies Spring 2018 Offerings

Prof. Michael Cuthbert

21M.220 Medieval and Renaissance Music (TR 3:30-5pm)

Examines European music from the early Middle Ages until the end of the Renaissance. Includes a chronological survey and intensive study of three topics: chant and its development, music in Italy 1340-1420, and music in Elizabethan England. Focuses on methods and pitfalls in studying music of the distant past. Students' papers, problem sets, and presentations explore lives, genres, and works in depth. Works studied in facsimile of original notation, and from original medieval and Renaissance manuscripts at MIT, where possible. Requires ability to read music. Co-Req of 21M.301 (Music Theory I) is waived for AMS concentrators/minors/majors who may substitute historical projects for musical analysis. (In the past AMS students have made major contributions to the class and are highly encouraged to register.) Includes a brief history of music in the ancient world.

Dr. Linda Rabieh

CC.116 How to Rule the World (T 3:00-5:00 and R 3:00-4:00)

This course considers fundamental political questions of justice and leadership, such as the tension between justice and interest, the causes of political crises, and the allure and limits of the political life, through a careful reading of original works that deal, in very different ways, with the theme of political ambition. Texts include works by Thucydides, Xenophon, Machiavelli, as well as portions of the Hebrew Bible. We will also discuss and read about contemporary political conflicts and leaders.

Prof. Stephanie Frampton

21L.001 Foundations of Western Literature: Homer to Dante (TR 9:30-11:00) CI-H

Some of the most important and profound works of European literature read with an emphasis on the roots of the classical tradition and the range of influence. Core texts include the *Odyssey*, the *Aeneid*, and Dante's *Divine Comedy*, with Sappho, Plato's *Symposium*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, and Disney's *Coco*. We will meet heroes and monsters, gods and demons, and read deeply into the foundational texts of Western literature. We ask what it means to be a "classic" and explore the ways in which literary authority comes into being in the context of history and society.

Prof. Arthur Bahr

21L.460 Arthurian Literature (T 7:00-10:00pm)

As a quasi-historical, quasi-legendary figure of consistently great popularity, King Arthur has been subject to an extraordinary amount of reinvention and rewriting: as a Christian hero and war-leader; as an ineffective king and pathetic cuckold; and as a tragic figure of noble but doomed intentions. As we trace Arthur's evolution and that of principal knights, we will ask what underlies the appeal of this figure whose consistent reappearance in western culture has performed the medieval prophecy that he would be *rex quondam et futurus*: the once and future king. Readings will include early Latin and Welsh texts, the great Old French romances of Chretien de Troyes (Yvain, Lancelot, Perceval), and the extraordinary *Morte d'Arthur* of Sir Thomas Malory.

Prof. Will Broadhead

21H.132 The Ancient World: Rome (MW12:00-1:00; Recitation: R 12:00-1:00 or F 1:00-2:00) CI-H

History of Rome from its humble beginnings to the 5th century A.D. First half: Kingship to Republican form; the conquest of Italy; Roman expansion: Pyrrhus, Punic Wars and provinces; classes, courts, and the Roman revolution; Augustus and the formation of empire. Second half: Virgil to Constantine; major social, economic, political and religious trends at Rome and in the provinces. Emphasis on use of primary sources in translation. Enrollment limited.

Prof. Eric Goldberg

21H.230 Barbarians, Saints, and Emperors (T 7:00-10:00pm)

Explores the late Roman Empire and its transformations during Late Antiquity (c.300-c.700). Questions the traditional decline and fall narrative of the period, which argues that Christianity and barbarians destroyed classical civilization and ushered in the Dark Ages. Explores such topics as Romans and barbarians, paganism and Christianity, politics and war, Rome and Constantinople, and bishops and saints. Discusses the influence of such characters as Constantine the Great, St. Augustine, Attila the Hun, and the prophet Mohammed.

Prof. Will Broadhead

21H.331 Julius Caesar and the Fall of the Roman Republic (TR 2:30-4:00) CI-M

Ancient Rome from 133 to 27 BC. Explores political, social, and economic factors commonly offered to explain the fall of the Roman Republic: growth of the territorial empire, increased intensity of aristocratic competition, transformation of the Italian economy, growth of the city of Rome and dependence of the urban plebs, changes in military recruitment and dependence of soldiers on their generals. Emphasis on the reading of ancient sources in translation, including Cicero, Sallust, Caesar, Augustus, Appian, Plutarch, and Suetonius. Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided. Taught in seminar format with emphasis on class participation.

Instructor Eliza Gettel

21H.S02 Citizenship and Exclusion in Ancient Greek Worlds (T 10:00-1:00)

Right now, questions about how we should define citizenship are at the forefront of national debates. This seminar explores related discourses in ancient Greek worlds, such as Sparta, Athens, and Ptolemaic Egypt. We will discuss who was a citizen and how someone practiced 'good' citizenship in these contexts. Moreover, special attention will be paid to who was not considered a citizen and why. Among other primary sources, we will read ancient court cases and tragedies. Certain class meetings will involve field trips to local museums to interact with objects and documents that are over 2,000 years old!

Dr. Max Price

3.987 Human Evolution: Data from Palaeontology, Archaeology, and Materials Science (MW 3:00-4:30; Lab: M 8:00-11:00, T 7:00-10:00pm, F 2:00-5:00)

Examines human physical and cultural evolution over the past five million years via lectures and labs that incorporate data from human palaeontology, archaeology, and materials science. Topics include the evolution of hominin morphology and adaptations; the nature and structure of bone and its importance in human evolution; and the fossil and archaeological evidence for human behavioral and cultural evolution, from earliest times through the Pleistocene. Laboratory sessions include study of stone technology, artifacts, and fossil specimens.

Dr. Max Price

3.993 Archaeology of the Middle East (MW 1:00-2:30)

Explores the long history of the Middle East and its role as an enduring center of civilization and human thought. Beginning over 100,000 years ago and ending up in the present day, tackles major issues in the human career through examination of archaeological and written materials. Students track the course of human development in the Middle East, from hunting and gathering to cities and empires.

Dr. Randall Colaizzi

21L.611 Latin I/21L.612 Latin II

Latin I (first half of term) introduces rudiments of ancient Latin to students with little or no prior knowledge of the subject, and is aimed at laying a foundation to begin reading ancient and/or medieval literary and historical texts. Latin II (second half of term) is for continuing students or those with some prior knowledge of basic grammar and vocabulary, intended to refresh and enrich ability to read ancient and medieval literary texts. Latin II may be taken independently of Latin I with permission of instructor. Latin I and II may be combined by petition. Greek I/II will be offered in Fall 2019.

Prof. Stephanie Frampton

21L.609 Greek Readings/21L.610 Advanced Greek Readings: Lucian's *True Story* (1st half of term; time TBD)

Read Greek literature in the original language! This semester, we will continue reading the fabulous adventure story—a earliest sci fi novel—by the second century CE Syrian author, Lucian, known as the "*True Story*." 21L.609 serves as a bridge for students with at least one semester or more of formal Greek training (Greek I/II, high school Greek, or equivalent) between the study of Greek grammar and vocabulary and the reading of Greek authors. 21L.610 offers more of a challenge for advanced readers. They run simultaneously and each may be repeated once for credit.

Prof. Stephanie Frampton

21L.613 Latin Readings/21L.614 Advanced Latin Readings: Ovid *Metamorphoses* (2nd half of term; time TBD)

Read Latin literature in the original language! This semester's we will read selections from Ovid's marvelous mythological epic, the *Metamorphoses*. 21L.613 serves as a bridge for students with at least one semester or more of formal Latin training (Latin I/II, high school Latin, or equivalent) between the study of Latin grammar and vocabulary and the reading of Latin authors. 21L.614 offers more of a challenge for advanced readers. They run simultaneously and each may be repeated once for credit.

Visit ams.mit.edu for more news and events, including information about our trips to Italy and Greece during IAP!