Throughout the Middle Ages, formal education began with the study of language under three disciplines:

- **Grammar**, including the study of literature as well as the practical mastery of the mechanics of language (here, Latin);
- **Logic or dialectic**, whether narrowly defined as the art of constructing arguments or, more generally, as metaphysics, including the philosophy of mind; and
- **Rhetoric**, or the art of speaking well, whether to praise, criticize, or persuade.

In this course, we will be following this medieval curriculum insofar as we are able through some of its primary texts, so as to come to a better appreciation of the way in which the study of these arts affected the development of medieval European intellectual and artistic culture.

**Books available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op bookstore**


All other readings are available through Canvas: Library Reserves, unless otherwise noted.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Grammar: Lesson plan with sample exercise (4-5 pages, due April 29) 25%
2. Dialectic: Cornificius’s answer to John of Salisbury on the importance of studying logic (5-6 pages, due May 17) 30%
3. Rhetoric: Poem, letter, or sermon, according to the appropriate ars (6-7 pages, due June 8) 35%
4. Reading and participation in class discussion 10%

All written assignments should be submitted online via Canvas under “Assignments.” Please save files as PDFs with file name “YourLastName Grammar.pdf,” “YourLastName Dialectic.pdf,” or “YourLastName Rhetoric.pdf,” as appropriate.

READING AND DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS

March 30 Why study the trivium?

April 1 Education in the Middle Ages
Lynn Thorndike, “Elementary and Secondary Education in the Middle Ages,” Speculum 15.4 (October 1940): 400-408
Alexander Nequam, A list of textbooks from Sacerdos ad altare, in Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric: Language Arts and Literary Theory, AD 300-1475, eds. Rita Copeland and Ineke Sluiter (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 531-41
“Appendix I: A Time-Table of Lectures in the Arts Course of the University of Toulouse, 1309,” in Louis John Paetow, The Arts Course at Medieval Universities with Special Reference to Grammar and Rhetoric (Champaign, IL: 1910), pp. 95-99 [Regenstein on-line resource]

April 6 The Seven Liberal Arts
H. Parker, “The Seven Liberal Arts,” The English Historical Review 5.19 (Jul. 1890): 417-61

April 8 The Nuptials of Eloquence and Learning

I. GRAMMAR

**April 13 What did Grammar teach?**

Jeffrey F. Huntsman, “Grammar,” in *The Seven Liberal Arts*, ed. Wagner, pp. 58-95

**April 15 Ars grammatica antiqua**
Glosses on Priscian by Remigius and His Followers, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 299-310

**April 20 Reading the classics**

**April 22 Ars grammatica nova**


II. DIALECTIC

**April 27 What did Dialectic teach?**


**April 29 NO CLASS—Grammar exercise due on Canvas**

**May 4 The Problem with Education These Days**

**May 6 The Point of It All**

**May 11 Applied Dialectic: Universals and Particulars**


**III. RHETORIC**

**May 13 What did Rhetoric teach?**


Martin Camargo, “Rhetoric,” in *The Seven Liberal Arts*, ed. Wagner, pp. 96-124

**May 17 Dialectic exercise due on Canvas**

**May 18 Rhetorica christiana**

Bede, *De schematibus et tropis* [“Concerning Figures and Tropes”], trans. Gussie Hecht Tannenhaus, in *Readings in Medieval Rhetoric*, eds. Miller et al., pp. 96-122

**May 20 Ars poetica**


**May 25 Ars dictaminis**

May 27  *Ars praedicandi*

June 8 Rhetoric exercise due on Canvas