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THE ARTS OF LANGUAGE IN THE MIDDLE AGES: THE TRIVIUM

Spring 2021



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

Martianus Capella and the Seven Liberal Arts: Vol. II The Marriage of Mercury and Philology, trans. William Harris Stahl with E.L. Budge (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992) [ISBN-13: 9780231096362]

John of Salisbury, *The Metalogicon: A Twelfth-Century Defense of the Verbal and Logical Arts of the Trivium*, trans. Daniel D. McGarry (Philadelphia: Paul Dry Books, 2009) [ISBN-13: 9781589880580]

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*?

Dorothy Sayers, "The Lost Tools of Learning" (1947) [<http://www.gbt.org/text/sayers.html>]

April 1 Education in the Middle Ages

Lynn Thorndike, "Elementary and Secondary Education in the Middle Ages," *Speculum* 15.4 (October 1940): 400-408

Caroline M. Barron, "The Expansion of Education in Fifteenth-Century London," in *The Cloister and the World: Essays in Medieval History in Honour of Barbara Harvey*, eds. John Blair and Brian Golding (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), pp. 219-45

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

Karl F. Morrison, "Incentives for Studying the Liberal Arts," in *The Seven Liberal Arts in the Middle Ages*, ed. David L. Wagner (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983), pp. 32-57

Honorius Augustodunensis, "Concerning the Exile of the Soul and its Fatherland; also called, About the Arts," in *Readings in Medieval Rhetoric*, ed. Joseph M. Miller, Michael H. Prosser, and Thomas W. Benson (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1973), pp. 198-206

Henri d'Andeli, "The Battle of the Seven Arts," ed. and trans. Louis John Paetow, *Memoirs of the University of California* 4.1, *History* 1.1 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1914), pp. 37-60

April 8 The Nuptials of Eloquence and Learning

Martianus Capella, *The Marriage of Mercury and Philology*, bks. I-II, trans. Stahl, pp. 3-63

W.H. Stahl, "To a Better Understanding of Martianus Capella," *Speculum* 40.1 (Jan. 1940): 102-115

Cora Lutz, "Remigius' Ideas on the Origin of the Seven Liberal Arts," *Medievalia et Humanistica* 10 (1956): 32-49

Cora Lutz, "Remigius' Ideas on the Classification of the Seven Liberal Arts," *Traditio* 12 (1956): 65-86

I. GRAMMAR

April 13 What did Grammar teach?

Martianus Capella, *Marriage*, bk. III, trans. Stahl, pp. 64-105.

Cassiodorus, *Institutions of Divine and Secular Learning*, bk. II, preface, trans. James W. Halporn (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2004), pp. 171-78

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

April 15 *Ars grammatica antiqua*

Aelius Donatus, *Ars Minor, Ars Maior*, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 82-99

Priscian, *Institutiones Grammaticae* and *Institutio de Nomine Pronomine Verbo*, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 167-89

Isidore of Seville, *Etymologiae*, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 232-41

Alcuin, *Ars Grammatica*, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 272-87

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

Accessus ad auctores [Introductions to the Authors], in *Medieval Literary Theory and Criticism, c. 1100-c.1375: The Commentary Tradition*, eds. A.J. Minnis and A.B. Scott, with David Wallace, rev. ed. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988), pp. 12-36

Conrad of Hirsau, "Dialogue on the Authors," in *Medieval Literary Theory*, eds. Minnis and Scott, pp. 37-64

April 22 *Ars grammatica nova*

Alexander of Villa Dei, *Doctrinale*, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 573-83

Eberhard of Béthune, *Graecismus*, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 584-93

James J. Murphy, "The Teaching of Latin as a Second Language in the Twelfth Century," in *Latin Rhetoric and Education in the Middle Ages and Renaissance* (Aldershot: Ashgate/Variorum, 2005), III: 159-74

Robert Black, "The Vernacular and the Teaching of Latin in Thirteenth and Fourteenth-Century Italy," *Studi Medievali*, 3rd ser. 37 (1996): 703-51

Nicholas Orme, "John Holt (d. 1504), Tudor Schoolmaster and Grammarian," *The Library*, 6th ser. 18.4 (December 1996): 283-304

II. DIALECTIC

April 27 What did Dialectic teach?

Martianus Capella, *Marriage*, bk. IV, trans. Stahl, pp. 106-154

Cassiodorus, *Institutions*, bk. II, chap. III, trans. Halporn, pp. 188-208

Eleanore Stump, "Dialectic," in *The Seven Liberal Arts*, ed. Wagner, pp. 125-46

April 29 NO CLASS—Grammar exercise due on Canvas

May 4 The Problem with Education These Days

John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon*, Prologue; bks. I-II; trans. McGarry, pp. 3-141

May 6 The Point of It All

John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon*, bks. III-IV, trans. McGarry, pp. 142-276

May 11 Applied Dialectic: Universals and Particulars

Aristotle, Porphyry, Boethius, Garlandus Compotista, and Abelard, "Universals and Particulars,"
in *Basic Issues in Medieval Philosophy*, eds. Bosley and Tweedale, Topic VI, pp. 352-92
[Canvas: Files]

John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon*, bk. II, chaps. 17-20; bk. III, chaps. 1-4; trans. McGarry, pp. 111-41, 146-70

III. RHETORIC

May 13 What did Rhetoric teach?

Martianus Capella, *Marriage*, bk. V, trans. Stahl, pp. 155-214

Cassiodorus, *Institutions*, bk. II, chap. II, trans. Halporn, pp. 178-88

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

May 17 Dialectic exercise due on Canvas

May 18 *Rhetorica christiana*

Augustine of Hippo, *On Christian Doctrine*, bk. IV, trans. J.F. Shaw, pp. 154-203 [CCEL
<http://www.ccel.org/a/augustine/doctrine/>]

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*

Matthew of Vendôme, *Ars versificatoria* [*The Art of Versification*], trans. Aubrey E. Galyon
(Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1980), pp. 25-112 [Canvas: Files]

Geoffrey of Vinsauf, *Poetria nova*, trans. Margaret F. Nims (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of
Mediaeval Studies, 1967), pp. 15-93 [Canvas: Files]

May 25 *Ars dictaminis*

John of Garland, *Parisiana poetria*, ed. and trans. Traugott Lawler (New Haven: Yale University
Press, 1974), chaps. 1-4, 7, pp. 3-83, 143-59 (odd numbered pages)

Anonymous of Bologna, *Rationes dictandi* [*The Principles of Letter-Writing*], trans. James J.
Murphy, in *Three Medieval Rhetorical Arts*, ed. James J. Murphy (Berkeley and Los
Angeles: University of California Press, 1971), pp. 3-25

May 27 *Ars praedicandi*

Thomas of Chobham, *Summa de arte praedicandi*, in *Medieval Grammar and Rhetoric*, eds. Copeland and Sluiter, pp. 614-38

Robert of Basevorn, *Forma praedicandi* [*The Form of Preaching*], trans. Leopold Krul, O.S.B., in *Three Medieval Rhetorical Arts*, ed. Murphy, pp. 111-215 [Canvas: Files]

June 8 Rhetoric exercise due on Canvas