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VIRTUES AND VICES IN MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

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London, British Library, Harley 3244, fols. 27v-28

What is virtue? How does a soul acquire it? What happens when it succumbs to vice? As medieval monks, preachers, poets, and scholastics understood, training the soul in virtue is no easy task. The vices, like demons, are ever ready to attack, rendering the soul a battlefield—or a castle under siege. How ought the soul prepare? In this course, we read across the medieval tradition of thinking about the soul's struggle with virtue and vice from Prudentius's *Psychomachia* to Dante's *Inferno* and *Purgatorio*. We will consider sources commenting on scripture, particularly Gregory the Great's *Moralia in Job*, as well as those drawing on Aristotle, including William of Auvergne's *Treatise on the Virtues*. We will pay special attention to the role of memory, allegory, and confession as practices for training the soul, along with more formal theories of virtue and vice.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE SEMINARY CO-OP BOOKSTORE

- William of Auvergne, *On the Virtues: Part One of On the Virtues and Vices*, trans. Roland J. Teske, Medieval Philosophical Texts in Translation 45 (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2009) [ISBN 9780874622485]
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae, Secunda Secundae Partis, quaestiones 92-189*, trans. Laurence Shapcote (Lander, Wyoming: Aquinas Institute, 2012) [ISBN 9781623400118]
- Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy I & II: Inferno, Purgatorio*, trans. Mark Musa (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1985, 2002) [ISBN 9780142437223; 9780140444421]
- Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*, trans. Suzanne Noffke, Classics of Western Spirituality (New York: Paulist Press, 1980) [ISBN 9780809122332]
- Denis the Carthusian, *Vices and Virtues*, trans. Íde M. Ní Riain (Portland: Four Courts Press, 2009) [ISBN 9781846821639]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Reading and discussion* (30%). This is mainly a reading course, intended to introduce you to the genre of the treatise on virtues and vices, as well as to the analytical problems associated with studying this tradition.
2. *Scavenger hunt* (30%): Each * week, bring examples from the news of the virtues and vices we are reading about in our primary sources (write up 2-3 pages each, 8 total). **Due in class.**
3. *Source analysis* (40%): Description and analysis of one major treatise on the virtues and vices, including list of manuscripts, contents, description of method and sources (10-12 pages). **Due December 13 on Canvas.**

READING AND DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS

October 2 Whose virtues are these anyway?

- Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*, 3rd ed. (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007), pp. 146-80 (chapters 12-13) [BJ1012.M325 2007]
- Dierdre N. McCloskey, *The Bourgeois Virtues: Ethics for an Age of Commerce* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006), pp. 303-313, 346-51, 361-78 (chapters 26, 31, 33-34) [HB501.M5534 2006 e-book]
- Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations*, trans. Edmund Jephcott (Oxford: Blackwell, 1994), pp. 52-59, 387-97 (part two, chapter II; part four, chapter IV) [CB83.E4130 1994]
- Siegfried Wenzel, "The Seven Deadly Sins: Some Problems of Research," *Speculum* 43.1 (January 1968): 1-22 [JSTOR]

October 9 The Battle of the Soul*

- Psalms 6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129, and 142 (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143, Hebrew numbering)
- Evagrius Ponticus, *The Praktikos*, trans. John E. Bamberger, Cistercian Studies Series 4 (Spencer, Mass.: Cistercian Publications, 1970), pp. 12-42 [BR65.E93L831B34]
- Benedict of Nursia, *Rule of St. Benedict*, trans. Leonard J. Doyle, chapters 4-7
[<http://www.osb.org/rb/text/toc.html>]

Prudentius, *Psychomachia*, trans. H.J. Thomson, Loeb Classical Library I (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1949), pp. 274-345
[<https://archive.org/details/prudentiuswithen01pruduoft>]

October 16 On the dungheap*

Gregory the Great, *Moralia in Job*, trans. John Henry Parker, 3 vols. (London: J.G.F. and J. Rivington, 1844) [<http://www.lectionarycentral.com/gregorymoraliaiindex.html>]

- The Epistle [vol. 1:5-15]
- First Part: Preface, I.xxxvi; II.i-lvi; IV.xxvii-xxx; V.xlv-xlvi [vol. 1:17-32, 58-63, 65-121, 199-210, 279-87]
- Second Part: VI.xxiii-xxv, xxxvii; VIII.vi; IX.lvii; X.vi, xiv-xv [vol. 1:317-19, 328-35, 386-90, 515-17, 534-41, 551-56]
- Third Part: XIV.xiii; XV.iii-xxxiii; XVI.xx-xxi [vol. 2:123-24, 167-90, 230-31]
- Fourth Part: XVIII.vii-x; XVIII.liv; XX:xiv [vol. 2:310-14, 367-72, 439-47]
- Fifth Part: XXIII.i; XXIV.viii-xi, xxiii; XXV.i, xi; XXVI.xii-xiii, xvii; [vol. 3:5-12, 58-74, 85-86, 90, 113, 135-39, 142-46]
- Sixth Part: XXVIII.xix-xxii; XXIX.xxi-xxii; XXX.iii, xviii; XXXI.xlv; XXXIII.xii, xxviii-xxix; XXXIV.xxiii [vol. 3: 277-80, 306-10, 341-47, 374-79, 453-56, 533-37, 556-60, 602-609]

October 23 Ordering the virtues*

Peter Abelard, *Ethics*, trans. Paul Vincent Spade, in *Ethical Writings* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1995), pp. 1-58 [BJ1240.A23130 1995]

Bernard of Clairvaux, *The Steps of Humility and Pride*, trans. M. Basil Pennington, Cistercian Fathers Series 13A (Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1989), pp. 1-89 [BV4647.H8 B45 1989]

Richard of St. Victor, *Benjamin minor*, trans. Grover Zinn as *The Twelve Patriarchs*, Classics of Western Spirituality (New York: Paulist Press, 1979), pp. 51-148 [BX890.R5B461]

Hildegard of Bingen, *Ordo virtutum*, trans. Peter Dronke in *Nine Medieval Latin Plays* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 147-84 [PA8165.N560 1994]

October 30 Training the soul

Mary Carruthers, *The Book of Memory: A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 153-233 (chapters 4-5: “The arts of memory,” “Memory and the ethics of reading”) [BF371.C325 2008]

Bert Roest, *Franciscan Literature of Religious Instruction Before the Council of Trent* (Leiden: Brill, 2004), pp. 314-55 (chapter 5: “Confession Handbooks”) [BX3606.3.R64 2004 e-book]

Adolf Katzenellenbogen, *Allegories of the Virtues and Vices in Medieval Art: From Early Christian Times to the Thirteenth Century* (Toronto; Buffalo: University of Toronto with the Medieval Academy of America, 1989) [N7710.K221 1989]

Joseph Goering, “Pastoralia: The Popular Literature of the Care of Souls,” in *Medieval Latin: An Introduction and Bibliographical Guide*, ed. F.A.C. Mantello and A.G. Rigg (Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, 1996), 670-76 [PA2802.M43 1996 e-book]

Morton Bloomfield, *Incipits of Latin Works on the Virtues and Vices, 1100-1500 A.D.: including a section of incipits of works on the Pater noster* (Cambridge, Mass.: Mediaeval Academy of America, 1979) [Z6611.T3I37][also e-book][skim]

November 6 Philosophical virtue*

William of Auvergne, *On the virtues*, trans. Roland J. Teske [B765.B83 D4813 2009]

November 13 Theological virtue*

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae, Secunda Secundae Partis, quaestiones 92-189*, trans. Laurence Shapcote [selections]

November 20 The way of the pilgrim*

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy I & II: Inferno, Purgatorio*, trans. Mark Musa [PQ4315.M97]

November 27 The way of the bride*

Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*, trans. Suzanne Noffke [BV5080.C351]

December 4 Summa virtutum*

Denis the Carthusian, *Vices and Virtues*, trans. Íde M. Ní Riain [BV4625.D46 2009]

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Guilelmus Peraldus, *Summa de vitiis* [Special Collections, MS 174]

Guilelmus Peraldus, *Summa virtutum ac vitiorum*, vol. 1 (Paris: Ioanne Petit, 1519?) [Special Collections, BV4630.P402]

Guilelemus Peraldus, *Summa virtutum ac vitiorum*, 2 vols. in 1 (Lyon: G. Rovillium, 1585) [Special collections BV4630.P404]

Morton Bloomfield, "A Preliminary List of Incipits of Latin Works on the Virtues and Vices, mainly of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Centuries," *Traditio* 11 (1955): 259-379 [JSTOR]

Morton Bloomfield, *The Seven Deadly Sins: An Introduction to the History of a Religious Concept, with Special Reference to Medieval English Literature* (Michigan: State University Press, 1967) [PR275.S5 B6]

Michael Evans, "An Illustrated Fragment of Peraldus's Summa of Vice: Harleian MS 3244," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 45 (1982): 14-68 [JSTOR]

Colum Hourihane, ed., *Virtue and Vice: The Personifications in the Index of Christian Art* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000) [N8012.V57 2000]

Richard Newhauser, *The Treatise on Vices and Virtues in Latin and the Vernacular*, *Typologie des sources du Moyen age occidental* 68 (Turnhout: Brepols, 1993) [Z6203.T95 fasc.68]

Rosamond Tuve, "Notes on the Virtues and Vices," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 26 (1963): 264-303; 27 (1964): 42-72 [JSTOR]

Siegfried Wenzel, "Dante's Rationale for the Seven Deadly Sins," *The Modern Language Review* 60.4 (October 1965): 529-33 [JSTOR]