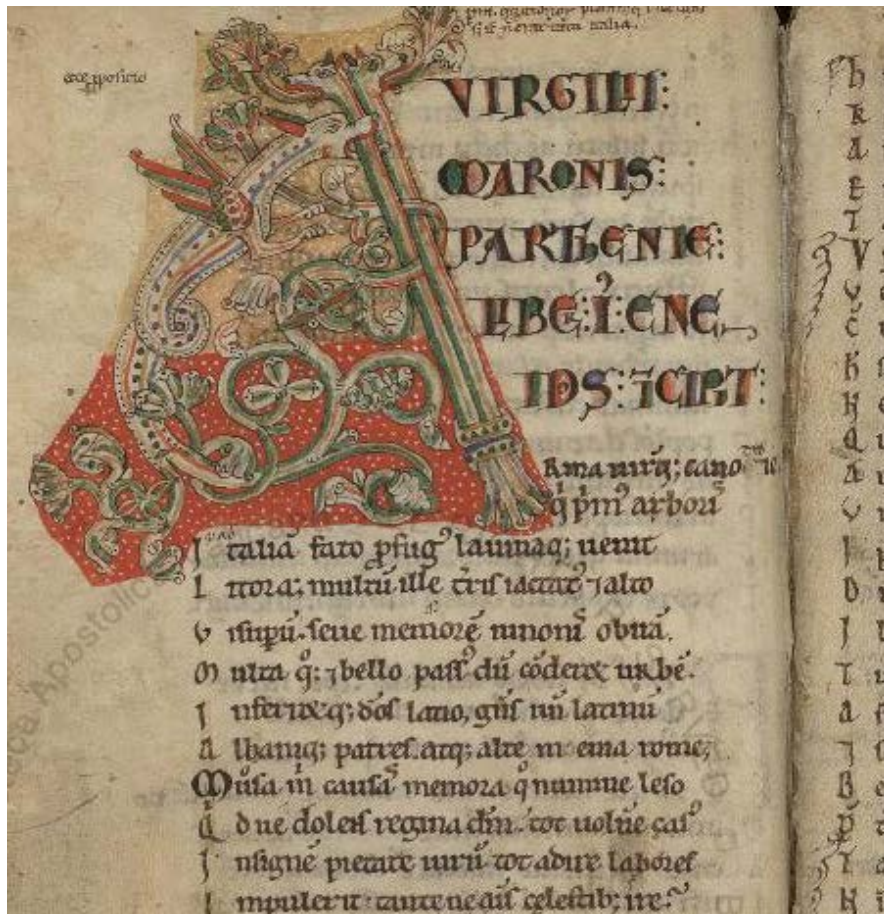


Introduction to Medieval Manuscripts



The University of Western Ontario
Medieval Studies 3022G / Classical Studies 3890G
Winter 2026 Dr. Kyle Gervais

INSTRUCTOR

My name is Kyle Gervais and I'll be your instructor for this course. I moved to UWO in 2014 after completing my Ph.D. in Latin literature at Otago University in New Zealand. Before that, I studied at Queen's (that other great university in Ontario). My research has typically centred on Latin poets of the early Roman Empire, especially Virgil, Ovid, Seneca, and Statius. But recently I've expanded my focus to include various receptions of Classical poetry in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and early modern period. Most relevant to this course is my recently published edition and translation of [John of Garland's *Integumenta Ovidii*](#), a 13th-century poem that reinterprets the Greco-Roman mythology of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* for a medieval Christian audience. For this project, I worked directly with two dozen manuscripts of the poem, which taught me a lot about codicology, palaeography, and the joys and challenges of medieval literature. More recently, I've begun a collaborative project to discover and analyse fragments of medieval manuscripts preserved in the bindings of Western's early print collection, and you'll likely hear quite a bit about that for me this year. Teaching is both my job and my pleasure, so please contact me in or out of class if you have any questions or thoughts about any topic in this course.

CONTACT DETAILS

Office: Lawson Hall 3226

Email: kgervai2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: just send me an email and we can set up a time to chat (in person or on Zoom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using materials available in the Rare Books Room and various digital collections around the world, this course will familiarize students with the investigation of medieval manuscripts. It will introduce medieval scripts, the description of a medieval manuscript, issues of provenance and date, and the decoration used. Students will consider the preparation of ink and pigments, and the kinds of illumination and decoration available through the medieval period.

PREREQUISITE(S)

For students enrolling in Medieval Studies 3022G: 70% or higher in 1.0, [Medieval Studies 1022](#), or both [Medieval Studies 1025A/B](#) and [Medieval Studies 1026A/B](#), or the former Medieval Studies 1020E.

For students enrolling in Classical Studies 3890G: there are no prerequisites, but you should expect to do some limited extra learning about medieval studies.

For all students: the ability to read Latin isn't required, but we will be spending most of our time studying manuscripts written in Latin, and some experience with the language will certainly be helpful. Those of you who have taken at least Latin 1000 should have the tools you need; those of you without any experience in Latin should expect to do some limited extra learning about the language.

****If you have any questions or concerns about these prerequisites, please feel free to send me an email (kgervai2@uwo.ca).****

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Clemens, R. and T. Graham. *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*. Cornell University Press. 2008. ISBN: 978-0-86516-040-8 \$54.67 (on amazon.ca)

ASSESSMENT

10%	Test 1
10%	Test 2
70%	Term project, with the following components:
10%	Essay outline and bibliography
10%	In-class presentation
50%	Essay ¹
10%	Preparation and Participation

Class Schedule TBA**CAN I HELP?**

It's important to me that you meet your goals in this course, and I'm eager to help either in or out of class with any academic matters. Moreover, I'm especially aware that there are many challenges (physical, cognitive, emotional, or personal) that can prevent students from performing to their full potential. In some cases, I may be able to make accommodations; in some cases, formal accommodations through your Academic Counsellor or Accessible Education will be the right decision. No matter how big or small the problem, the sooner you speak to me (or the appropriate person), the more likely it is that we'll be able to find a good solution.

IMPORTANT POLICIES (including policies on student absences): refer to [this document](#)

¹ **Formal Documentation Designation statement**

Please note that this assessment (the Essay) is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the following opportunity to make up this work: an extended deadline.