

Johns Hopkins University
Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures
Italian 214.371
Imagining Medieval Italian Culture: *The Name of the Rose*
Prof. Walter Stephens
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Class meets Tuesdays, 2:00—4:30 PM in 223 Gilman Hall
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 PM

Goals and Rationale of the Course

Eco's *The Name of the Rose* (1980) is probably the most successful novel of the last quarter-century, having been translated into dozens of languages and selling dozens of millions of copies. Its success took the book world by surprise, but in retrospect such popularity is completely understandable. Structured as a murder mystery, it manages to provide a panoramic and largely accurate view of fourteenth century Europe, illustrating one of the most fascinating centuries of a period that has intrigued the Western imagination since the 1700's. Eco himself is a medievalist, a historian of philosophy, and a theorist of language and literature. Critics and medievalists were initially surprised at ordinary readers' ability (or claim, some critics cautioned) to have read the whole novel, given its extensive treatment of social, ecclesiastical and intellectual history. But the qualities that make it a useful introduction to the study of the Middle Ages also make it a good read. In this course we will read the novel through once quickly, and then return to its various themes with the help of works written by other medievalists, and films that have fictionalized the Middle Ages in various ways. Students will learn about major issues of medieval cultures and about research strategies for exploring them.

Schedule of class meetings and activities

January

29 Introduction and organization

February

5 (Please wait to view the film of *The Name of the Rose* until after 12 February!)

Read: *Name of the Rose*, days 1-3 (using *Key to the Name of the Rose*)

Writing: Reaction, 300 words

12 Read: *Name of the Rose*, day 4 through Last Page (using *Key to the Name of the Rose*)

Writing: Reaction, 300 words

19 The Benedictines: Adso, Abo, et al.

Read: Lawrence, 1-40, 111-48; Swanson, chaps. Intro.-4

Writing: analysis of a passage (will be distributed by email a week ahead of time)
1000 words

26 Jorge of Burgos: The Library

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Read: Richard of Bury, *Philobiblon*; Curtius, “The Book as Symbol”; Aristotle, ed. Janko, 47-55, 159-60; Haren, 83-116

During this week we will visit Special Collections in Eisenhower Library to view medieval manuscripts and incunabula (books printed before 1501). We will also arrange for a trip at a later date to the Peabody Library, which has another fine collection of early books.

March

- 4 William of Baskerville: The Preaching Friars and Theology
Read: Barber, 141-67; Swanson, chaps. 5-7; Ozment, 22-72
- 11 William of Baskerville, II: Friars and Natural Philosophy
Sylla (in McGrade) 171-95; Lindberg, 183-244; Haren, 117-211; French & Cunningham 1-4, 269-74; Copleston 2: 442-53
Writing: 1000-1250 word essay due on an area of interest
- 18 Spring Vacation Week
- 25 Ubertino: Mysticism and Reform
Read: St. Francis, “Song of the Creatures”; Swanson, chap. 8-end; Revelation; McGinn, *Apocalyptic Spirituality*, 81-117; McGinn, *Visions of the End*, 186-90, 196-218; Ozment, 98-134; Lambert, 189-214
View: *The Seventh Seal*

April

- 1 The Common People: Salvatore’s Odyssey
Read: McGinn, *Visions of the End*, 226-29, 234-38; Gurevich, chaps. 1-3; Barber, chap. 7
Writing: Prospectus, 750-1000 words, for final paper
- 8 The Common People, II: “The Girl”
Read: Song of Songs (Song of Solomon); Dante, “Tanto gentile”; Davidson/Ward, 26-32, 62-63; Gurevich, chaps. 5-6; Stephens, “Desperately Seeking Satan” (in Bouchard/Pravadelli 99-126)
View *Sorceress (La Sorcière et le moine)*
- 15 Common Ground: Magic
Read: Kieckhefer, *Medieval Magic*
View (if possible): Burton, *Dr Faustus*
- 22 Bernard Gui: The Inquisition
Read: Borst, 91-122; Wakefield/Evans, 373-445; Guenée, 37-70; Kors/Peters 104-20
Deadline for first draft of final paper (3000 words)
- 29 *The Name of the Rose* as Literary and Critical Phenomenon

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Read: *Postscript to the Name of the Rose*; Borges, “The Library of Babel” and “Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius”; “Averroës’ Search,” “Death and the Compass”; Coletti, 11-38
Stephens, “Ec[h]o in Fabula”

May

6 Deadline for final draft of final paper (3000 words)

Requirements for the Course

- Attendance at all class meetings and activities (more than two unexcused absences disqualify for the grade “A”)
- Participation, including formal presentations, in class discussions
- Completion on time of all written assignments (send as email attachments)
- 300 word critical reactions (2)
- 1000 word analysis of a passage
- 1000-1250 word essay on an area of interest
- one meeting (at least) with instructor to decide area of final paper
- 750-1000 word prospectus for final paper
- 3000 word essay (two drafts)

Grading: class discussion, 25%; first draft final paper 15%; second draft final paper 25%; other writing assignments 35%. I do not negotiate grades, but I will gladly discuss them with you, and correct them if I make a mistake.

Ethics: The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. If at any time you are hesitant as to whether an action you are contemplating is ethically permissible, please contact me (beforehand, of course); there is no penalty for asking. In general, I encourage students to study and discuss together, and will alert you to any exceptions.

Report any violations you witness to me, the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of students and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on “Academic Ethics for Undergraduates” and the Ethics Board web site (<http://ethics.jhu.edu>) for more information.

I encourage any student who knows or believes s/he has a disability (including so-called invisible disabilities) to alert me in private during office hours so that we can discuss appropriate accommodations.

Required Texts (Available at JHU Bookstore or online)

Eco, Umberto. *The Name of the Rose Including the Author’s Postscript*. Harvest Books, 1994 or later

Gurevich, Aron. *Medieval Popular Culture: Problems of Belief and Perception*. Trans. János M. Bak and Paul A. Hollingsworth. Cambridge University Press. 1988 (1992)

Imagining Medieval Italian Culture: *The Name of the Rose*

- Haft, Adele J., Jane G. White, and Robert J. White. *The Key to "The Name of the Rose"* University of Michigan Press, 1999 or later
- Haren, Michael. *Medieval Thought. The Western Intellectual Tradition from Antiquity to the Thirteenth Century*. 2nd ed. University of Toronto Press, 1992
- Kieckhefer, Richard. *Magic in the Middle Ages*. Cambridge University Press; 2nd edition, 2000 or later
- Richard of Bury. *The Philobiblon of Richard De Bury*. Kessinger Publishing 2004 or later
- Swanson, Robert N. *Religion and Devotion in Europe, ca. 1215-ca. 1515*. Cambridge University Press, 1995 or later

Texts in General Reference Section of MSEL:

- Crosby, Everett Uberto. *Medieval Studies: A Bibliographical Guide*. CB351 .Z9 C76 1983
- Dahmus, Joseph. *Dictionary of Medieval Civilization*. CB 351 .D241 1984
- Loyn, H. R. *The Middle Ages: A Concise Encyclopaedia*. CB351 .M621 1989
- Powell, James M., ed. *Medieval Studies: An Introduction*. D 116 .M4 1992
- Strayer, Joseph R., gen. ed. *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. 13 vols. D114 .D51 1982
QUARTO
- The New Catholic Encyclopedia* BX 841 .C366 1967 QUARTO (an older and often more relevant work, *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, is in the Eisenhower Stacks [BX 841 .C365 1907Q])
- Vauchez, André, et al. *Dictionnaire encyclopédique du moyen-âge*. CB 351 .D5 1997QUARTO

Books on Reserve in MSEL:

- Aristotle. *Poetics I. With the Tractatus Coislinianus*. . . . P3040 .A71 1987
- Barber, Malcolm. *The Two Cities: Medieval Europe, 1050-1320*. CB351.B239 2004
- Benedict, Saint. *RB 1980: The Rule of St. Benedict in English*. . . . Ed. Timothy Fry, Imogene Baker, et al. BX3004 .E6 1982
- Borges, Jorge Luís. *Collected Fictions*. PQ7797 .B635 A24 1998
- . *Selected Nonfictions*. PQ7797.B635 A22 1999
- Borst, Arno. *Medieval Worlds: Barbarians, Heretics, and Artists in the Middle Ages*. CB 351 .B5913 199
- Bouchard, Norma, and Veronica Pravadelli, Eds. *Umberto Eco's Alternative: The Politics of Culture and the Ambiguities of Interpretation*. PQ4865.C6 Z92 1998
- Coletti, Theresa. *Naming the Rose: Eco, Medieval Signs, and Modern Theory*. P99 .C558 1988
- Copleston, Frederick. *A History of Philosophy*. Vol. 2, *Medieval Philosophy, from Augustine to Duns Scotus*. B 72 .C78 1960
- Curtius, Ernst Robert. *European Literature and the Latin Middle Ages*. PC2001 .C981 1953 PC2001 .C981 1953
- Davidson, L. S., and J. O. Ward, *The Sorcery Trial of Alice Kyteler*. KDK104.K98 L43 1993
- Dolan, John Patrick. *Catholicism: An Historical Survey*. BX 945.2 .D6 1968

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- Doob, Penelope Reed. *The Idea of the Labyrinth from Classical Antiquity Through the Middle Ages*. P2056 .L23 D6 1990
- Emmerson, Richard K., and Bernard McGinn. *The Apocalypse in the Middle Ages*. BS2825.2 .A8331 1992
- French, R. K., and Andrew Cunningham. *Before Science: The Invention of the Friars' Natural Philosophy*. B738 .N3 F74 1996
- Ginzburg, Carlo. *Clues, Myths, And The Historical Method*. AC45 .G5413 1989
- Guenée, Bernard. *Between Church and State: The Lives of Four French Prelates in the Late Middle Ages*. BX4682 .G8413 1991
- Gurevich, Aron. *Medieval Popular Culture: Problems of Belief and Perception*. CB353 .G8713 1988
- Habig, Marion A., ed. *St. Francis of Assisi: Writings and Early Biographies*. BX4700 .F6 S6631 1983
- Haft, Adele J., et al. *The Key to the Name of the Rose*. PG1865 .C6 N6345 1987
- Hamilton, Bernard. *The Medieval Inquisition*. BX1712 .H26 1981
- Inge, M. Thomas. *Naming the Rose: Essays on Eco's The Name of the Rose*. PG1865 .C6 N626 1988
- Kors, Alan Charles, and Edward Peters. *Witchcraft in Europe: A Documentary History, 400-1700*. BF1566.W739 2001
- Lambert, Malcolm. *Medieval Heresy: Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation*. 2nd ed. (1992). BT1319 .L35 1992
- Lawrence, C. H. *Medieval Monasticism: Forms of Religious Life in Western Europe in the Middle Ages*. BX2470 .L37 1989
- Lindberg, David C., ed. *Science in the Middle Ages*. Q124.97 .S35 1978
- . *The Beginnings of Western Science*. Q 124.95 .L551 1992
- McGinn, Bernard, ed. *Apocalyptic Spirituality: Treatises and Letters of Lactantius, Adso of Montier-en-Der. . . .* BT885 .A65 1979
- . *Visions of the End: Apocalyptic Traditions in the Middle Ages*. D5.5 .R3 no. 96
- McGrade, A. S. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy*. B721.C36 2003
- Mc Grath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. BT 65 .M341 1994
- Ozment, Steven. *The Age of Reform, 1250-1550*. BR 270 .O9 1980
- Peters, Edward. *Inquisition*. BX 1712 .P481 1988
- Powell, James M., ed. *Medieval Studies: An Introduction*. D 116 .M4 1992
- Reeves, Marjorie. *The Influence of Prophecy in the Later Middle Ages: A Study in Joachimism*. BR115 .H5 R4 1969
- Richard of Bury. *Philobiblon. The Text and Translation of E. C. Thomas. . . .* Z992 .A92 1960Q
- Swanson, R. N. *Religion and Devotion in Europe, c. 1215—c. 1515*. Cambridge UP (England), 1995. BR 735 .S93 1995
- Wakefield, Walter L., and Austin P. Evans, eds. *Heresies of the High Middle Ages*. D5.5 R3 no. 81

Texts on Electronic Reserve in MSE Library

Aristotle 47-55, 159-60

Barber, 141-92

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- Borges, *Collected Fictions* 68-81, 112-118, 147- 56, 235-41
 Borst 91-122
 Coletti, 11-38
 Copleston 2.442-53
 Curtius 302-47
 Davidson/Ward 26-32,62-63
 French/Cunningham 1-4, 269-74
 Guenée 37-70
 Kors/Peters 104-20
 Lambert 189-214
 Lawrence 1-40, 111-48
 Lindberg, *Beginnings of Western Science* 183-244
 McGinn, *Apocalyptic Spirituality* 81-117
 McGinn, *Visions of the End* 186-90, 196-218; 226-29, 234-38
 McGrade 171-95 (by Sylla)
 Ozment 22-72, 98-134
 Stephens, Walter. "Ec[h]o in Fabula." *Diacritics*, Summer 1983, pp. 51-64
 Stephens, Walter, in Bouchard/Pravadelli, pp. 99-126
 Wakefield/Evans 373-445

Films about the Middle Ages at MSEL Audio-Video Center (most are also at Vidéo Américain)

- Annaud, Jean-Jacques. *The Name of the Rose*. MSEL Audio-Video Center Video A4088
 Bergman, Ingmar. *The Seventh Seal*. Video A467
 ———. *Virgin Spring*. (ditto, Video A3159; DVD Newly Acquired)
 Burton, Richard. *Dr Faustus* (on order)
 Kurosawa, Akira. *Ran*. (ditto, A505)
 ———. *Throne of Blood* (ditto, DVD 2005)
 Olivier, Laurence. *Henry V*. (ditto, A392)
 Branagh, Kenneth. *Henry V*. (ditto, A394)
 Eisenstein, Sergei. *Alexander Nevsky*. (ditto, 479)
 Vigne, Daniel. *The Return of Martin Guerre*. (ditto, A271)
 Schiffmann, Suzanne. *Sorceress (La sorcière et le moine)*. Video A4130

More books about the Middle Ages. Some of these are available mainly through the library system. Others are still in print and can be had quickly and relatively cheaply from local bookstores or over the Internet. Also check for good bibliography in *The Key to "The Name of the Rose."*

- Brantl, George. *Catholicism*. BX1751.2 .B7 1962
 Burr, David. *Olivi and Franciscan Poverty*. BX3603 .B871 1989
 Butler, Edward Cuthbert. *Benedictine Monachism*. BX3002 .B88
 Cantor, Norman F. *Inventing the Middle Ages. The Lives, Works, and Ideas of the Great Medievalists of the Twentieth Century*. D 116 .C351 1991
 ———. *The Civilization of the Middle Ages*. D 118 .C3 1993 Cantor is opinionated, frequently vain, often unfair, sometimes invidious. But he usually writes well, he

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does take the trouble to explain medieval studies to the nonspecialist writer, and his bibliographies are extensive, though ultimately incomplete. These features make him valuable to beginning medievalists as well as passionate amateurs.

Douie, Decima L. *The Nature and the Effect of the Heresy of the Fraticelli*. BX3602 .D73

Eco, Umberto. *Travels in Hyperreality*. PG1865.C6 T7 1986

Eco, Umberto. *On Literature*. Trans. Martin McLaughlin. Orlando: Harcourt, 2004.

Gallenga, Antonio Carlo Napoleone. *The Historical Memoir of Fra' Dolcino and His Times*. . . . Peabody 273 D662G DUODECIMO

Tuchman, Barbara. *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous Fourteenth Century*. DC97.5

.T821 1978 Another author frequently criticized by professional historians, but this book gives a vivid sense of the problems of the fourteenth century.

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Ideas

Francis, Song of Creatures

Dante, Tanto gentile

Dante, Paradiso 10-12

Dante Inferno 19