

Spring 2012
 Illuminated Manuscripts in the Middle Ages, Form,
 Function and Audience
 FINA-A323 class #27525
 FINA-A 520 class # 29575
 Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
 Lilly Library, Ellison Room 105

Instructor: Diane J. Reilly

From the fourth century a.d., artists created elaborate decorations and illustrations in manuscripts of sacred and secular texts. Meant to delight as well as instruct, these illustrations commented on the text at the same time that they enchanted the reader with visions and stories from the book itself. Starting with the invention of the codex in the first century, and continuing to the end of the Middle Ages, this course will investigate the tools, methods and inspiration behind the creation of the medieval manuscript. Lectures will survey the most important types of manuscripts, such as Psalters, Apocalypses and Books of Hours, and the most famous schools of manuscript illumination, such as the Hiberno-Saxon artists who produced works like the Book of Kells. The preferred audience of the manuscripts, from the embattled Mozarabic Christians of Spain, to noble women of the later Middle Ages, will also be investigated. This class will take place in the Lilly Library, and take advantage of the Lilly's extensive collection of medieval manuscripts and fragments.



