

Medieval and Renaissance Studies:

# Materiality and the Religious Impulse

Winter 2009

Faculty: Elizabeth Williamson and Lisa Sweet

program website: <http://academic.evergreen.edu/curricular/materiality/>

**Qualified new students will be admitted by faculty signature as space in the program is available.**

Qualified students will have some or all the following experience:

- Basic understanding of medieval and early modern Art History
- Basic understanding of medieval history – especially with respect to Christianity, printing, and the Reformation
- Will have an interest in developing major independent projects, demonstrated either through research/writing OR through the creation of a body of artworks in print, books or other media covered in the program.

New students who are accepted into the program will be asked to do some reading prior to the winter quarter to enhance their understanding of the ideas in the winter quarter. All readings will be available on the program website in the form of PDFs.

*The Power of Images* by David Freedberg (Introduction and Chapters 1 – 4)  
"Lewd and Learned" and "The Devotions of Primers" by Eamon Duffy  
"Art and Iconoclasm in Early Modern England" by Keith Thomas  
excerpt on Byzantine iconoclasm by Robin Cormack  
excerpt from *Furta Sacra* by Geary

In addition to completing the readings above, new students will be asked to seminar on the texts with other new students as well as provide informal written responses demonstrating their understanding of the concepts addressed in each reading.

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## Winter Quarter Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 – 12 Lecture 1-3 Project roundtable		9 – 1 Performance workshop		9 – 11 Seminar  Afternoon: Printmaking Group A 12 – 2 p.m. Group B 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

## Credits

6 credits Independent Research (studio or writing or performance)

3 introductory intaglio and book binding

3 Shakespearean drama

4 Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Material culture

## Program Structuring Questions

- 1) What role do theological questions and debates play in artistic production?
- 2) What can we learn from the techniques used by medieval and early modern artists? What role do material constraints play in artistic production?
- 3) How do the stories of particular artists or artistic communities complicate standard historical and political narratives about the institutional church's policy on images?
- 4) How does the relationship between material images and transcendent ideas continue to play out in our own lives?

## Winter Book List

These are the books you will need to purchase; other reading assignments will be available in PDF format via the program website:

*The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare (Orgel), ISBN: 019953914 / ISBN 13: 978-199-53591-0, Oxford U. Press

*The Reformation of the Image* by Joseph Koerner, U of Chicago Press, 2004, paperback, ISBN: 0-226-44837-1

*Nuns as Artists* by Jeffrey Hamburger, U of California Press, 1997, ISBN: 0-520-20386-0 (cloth)

***\* A student fee of \$40 will be charged by the college at a significantly reduced price from retailers. We'll pass out copies of the text the first day of class.***

## Art Materials (materials costs: approx. \$30 - \$60 depending on independent studio research)

copper plates	Purchase from TESC printmaking studio
linoleum blocks	Purchase from TESC printmaking studio
woodcut/linocut tools	You can borrow these from the printmaking studio or purchase your own through the bookstore.
engraving burins	You can borrow these from the printmaking studio or purchase your own through the bookstore.
burnisher	You can borrow these from the printmaking studio or purchase your own through the bookstore.
scraper	You can borrow these from the printmaking studio or purchase your own through the bookstore.
printing papers (5-7 sheets)	Purchase from the bookstore or print studio as needed
davy board	purchase from the TESC bookstore
book-binding needle	purchase from the TESC bookstore
book-binding thread	purchase from the TESC bookstore
folding bone	purchase from the TESC bookstore
cake of beeswax	purchase from the TESC bookstore

## Independent Projects

Students will have the opportunity to pursue a significant independent research or studio project that draws from the content, ideas, era, and media (linocuts, woodcuts, engraving and/or bookbinding) presented in the program.

## Project Roundtable meetings

Students will participate in weekly peer-review workshops to present their developing independent projects, discuss their sources for research or artistic projects, and respond to feedback on the project.