Princes, Peasants, and the Powers That Be: Government and its Sources in the Middle Ages

Friday, April 9, 2010

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Please photocopy this form for additional registrants.

The focus of this year’s interdisciplinary outreach is, broadly speaking, government; in more nuanced terms, we might say it is about power (“the possession of control, authority and/or influence,” Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 2010), and its varied nature, sources, and deployment, as reflected in medieval literary and administrative texts. Although medieval theories of royal power might lead us to think that kings were all powerful, able to demand the subjection of great and small, and that power descended purely “from above,” the reality was that power also ascended “from below” and was held by a multitude of individuals, offices, and groups, secular and clerical, throughout medieval society. This atomization of power was the reality that medieval kings faced; and while they helped lay the foundations of the absolutist states of the early modern period, they never enjoyed absolutist powers themselves. We shall explore these and other questions with faculty presenters from the departments of Music, Modern & Classical Languages, and History, and a doctoral student from the Medieval Studies program.

The Medieval Studies Outreach series, which began in 1998, is designed to bring together students and teachers interested in the history of Europe and the Mediterranean world in the premodern era, and to foster the exchange of ideas and information. The program’s mission has been enhanced, since 2004, by making this a cooperative venture with the University of Connecticut’s Early College Experience Program. For a description of the outreach and all past programs, go to the ECE website at www.ece.uconn.edu, or to the Medieval Studies website at http://medievalstudies.uconn.edu (Special Project/Annual Secondary Schools Outreach Program).
**Faculty Participants**

**Eric Rice** is an Assistant Professor in Music, and an active scholar, performer, and advocate of early music. He serves as director of the *Collegium Musicum* at the University of Connecticut and as artistic director of the Connecticut Early Music Festival. A specialist in music of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance, in his scholarship he focuses primarily on music of the Western liturgy and its relationship to architecture, politics, and secular music.

**Robert Hasenfratz** is a Professor in English and Director of the Medieval Studies Program. He is currently co-editor for the *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*, and is working on a book project on walking and movement in the Middle Ages.

**Andy Pfrenger** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Medieval Studies Program. He won a dissertation fellowship at the University of Connecticut’s Humanities Institute in 2007-2008, and is currently working on his dissertation entitled “The Wisdom to Choose: Emotion and Authority in King Alfred’s Books.”

**Anne Berthelot** is a Professor in Modern and Classical Languages. She specializes in Arthurian Literature with a comparatist approach, and has published numerous books and articles on this topic. Her current projects are a book on Merlin (in French) and a study on Late Arthurian French literature and the *Roman de Perceforest*.

**Brendan Kane** is an Assistant Professor in History who works on early modern Britain and Ireland. His book, *The Politics and Culture of Honour in Britain and Ireland, 1541-1641*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. He is currently editing a collection of essays on Elizabeth I and Ireland, and conducting research for a book on the relationship between the production of knowledge and the construction of social and political legitimacy in Britain and colonial Ireland.

**Sherri Olson** is an Associate Professor in History. Her most recent book, *A Mute Gospel: The People and Culture of the Medieval English Common Fields*, was published in 2009 by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies at Toronto. She is currently writing a book about daily life in a medieval monastery for Greenwood Press, and has begun work on a study of monastic estate administration in the 13th through 15th centuries.

**Seminar Program**

10:00 - 10:15 Welcoming Remarks
Robert Hasenfratz, Department of English & Director, Medieval Studies Program

10:15 – 11:00 Andy Pfrenger
Ph.D. candidate, Medieval Studies Program
“A Cognitive Approach to Rule: The Mind and Authority in the Kingdom of Alfred the Great (871-899)”

11:00-11:45 Brendan Kane
Department of History
“The Tudors and Gaelic Earls: Henry VIII and Ireland, 1509-1542”

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch (provided)

12:45 – 1:30 Anne Berthelot
Department of Modern & Classical Languages
“Good King, Bad King: Charlemagne and Arthur as *Specula regis*”

1:30 – 2:15 Sherri Olson
Department of History & ECE Coordinator
“Self-Government at the King’s Command (maybe)”

9:00 -10:00 Registration and Coffee
Period music will be performed during registration by the University of Connecticut Collegium Musicum, Director, Eric Rice, Department of Music

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**Enrollment Information**

**Who should attend:** This seminar is open to all secondary school teachers in the state of Connecticut who teach History, Social Studies and English. Students participating in History 1300 through UConn Early College Experience are warmly invited to attend. Instructors teaching History 1300: Western Traditions Before 1500 through UConn ECE are encouraged to attend.

**Fee:** A registration fee of $35.00 includes all costs of instruction, lunch and parking. UConn ECE instructors and students may attend at no charge. Students who are not registered through UConn Early College Experience will be charged a registration fee of $15.00.

**Location:** The seminar will be held in the Wilbur Cross Building, North Reading Room on the campus of the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

**Refunds:** The registration fee is refundable, less $15, up to 48 hours prior to the start of the program. To cancel, please call the ECE office at 860-486-1045. Participants who do not attend and fail to cancel are subject to the full fee.

**Further Information:** Please direct questions regarding program content to Professor Sherri Olson, Department of History, at (860) 486-3552 or 3722. For information on other program arrangements, please call UConn Early College Experience at (860) 486-1045.

**Continuing Education Units:** Connecticut Department of Education CEUs are available to teachers. You will be awarded .4 CEUs for this seminar.

Department of Education CEUs (provider number 706).