

The Medieval Studies Program at the University of Connecticut and the Center for Professional Development present the fifth annual Medieval Studies Secondary Schools Outreach Seminar

## **THE EMERGENCE OF A WORLD RELIGION : ISLAM IN LATE ANTIQUITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES**

A One-Day Seminar for Middle and High School Teachers of History, English and the Social Sciences on Friday, April 12, 2002 (with Connecticut Department of Education CEUs Available)

### **Location:**

Konover Auditorium  
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, Connecticut

### **Intent and Description:**

In the seventh-century Near East, a new world religion arose that drew upon Arabic culture, the monotheistic tradition, and the classical culture of the Mediterranean world. Within a century of the death of the founder, Islam was shaping a new civilization in numerous societies from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indus River. This outreach is designed to assist public school teachers in teaching the history and culture of medieval Islam, from its origins to the end of the Middle Ages. The faculty speakers represent the disciplines of History, Art History, and Modern and Classical Languages.

As part of the University of Connecticut's mission to promote multicultural studies and teaching excellence, the Medieval Studies faculty offers its fifth annual outreach to secondary school teachers. Public school and university educators will benefit from the exchange of ideas and curriculum objectives in introducing the Middle Ages to students of all ages. The faculty of the Medieval Studies program wishes to foster an understanding of the history and culture of the Middle Ages and its determinative role in the dynamics of the modern world.

### **Faculty Speakers:**

**Benjamin Liu** is Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Connecticut, specializing in the literatures and cultures of medieval Iberia. His current research focusses on the economic aspects of interfaith relations in medieval Spanish literature.

**Fakhreddin Azimi** is Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut. Educated at the universities of Tehran, London, and Oxford, he teaches courses on medieval as well as modern history of the Middle East. He is currently working on two books on twentieth-century Iran.

**Daniel Caner** is an Assistant Professor in history and classics at the University of Connecticut. His field is late antiquity (c. 150-750) with special focus on religious and cultural change. He is currently working on a collection of sources that describe relations between pilgrims, monks and “Saracens” on the Sinai frontier from the fourth to seventh centuries.

**Jean Givens** is an Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Connecticut. Her research specialty is thirteenth-century art in England and Europe, and her publications touch upon a range of topics, among them: medieval botanical illustration and workshop practice in the visual arts.

### **Seminar Program**

9:00 Registration and Coffee

Please Note!

Period music will be provided during registration by the Storrs *Collegium Musicum*

10:00 Welcoming Remarks

Sherri Olson

Faculty Organizer, Medieval Studies Outreach

10:15 Benjamin Liu, “Muslims and Christians in Medieval Spain”

11:00 Fakhreddin Azimi, “The Emergence of Islam”

11:45 General discussion

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Daniel Caner, “Muhammad in his late Antique Context”

1:45 Jean Givens, “The Islamic Garden”

2:30 Closing Remarks

*The Medieval Studies program* at the University of Connecticut offers coursework leading to the interdisciplinary degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Medieval Studies. The Departments of Art, Dramatic Arts, English, History, Modern and Classical Languages, Music, and Philosophy cooperate in the program.