

LATN 723 (LATIN PALEOGRAPHY)  
Epigraphy Room, Davis Library (Room 6010)  
Instructor: R. Babcock

Fall 2013

### **Course description**

This course deals with Latin writing from antiquity through the Renaissance, concentrating on the medieval period. Students will learn through first-hand experience how to read and interpret early manuscripts and how to describe them. We will study the variety of script types used in the early period, the changing types and formats of books, and the role of medieval libraries in preserving Latin literary texts. Students will be introduced to current research in paleography and codicology and to the major works in these fields. The course focuses on medieval scripts and books, but we will also look, to a limited extent, at Latin papyri. The class will normally meet in the Epigraphy room of Davis Library, but several sessions will take place in the Rare Book Room of Wilson Library or the Rare Book Room at Duke.

Students will prepare transcriptions of assigned texts for each class; will make class presentations (ca. 10 minutes each, usually summarizing, critiquing, and leading discussions of works of secondary scholarship); and will write a term paper on a relevant topic. Class participation (preparation, presentations, and transcriptions) counts 60% of grade, mid-term 20%, paper 20.

### **Required Texts :**

Bernhard Bischoff, *Latin Palaeography. Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, English trans. by Dáibhí O Cróinín and David Ganz (Cambridge, 1990). ISBN: 0521-367-263