

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Sém. Ang. I : Forms of (Medieval) Violence (2AN2135)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

Katrin Rupp

Contenu

In our day and age, the term "medieval" is often associated with violence, cruelty and backwardness. US President Joe Biden, for example, said that during the attack on the Capitol on 6th January 2021 "brave law enforcement officers were subject to medieval hell for three hours." Biden thus tried to establish a distance between the (presumably civilised) present and the (presumably barbaric) past. At the same time, his statement acknowledges that we continue to witness forms of violence that we would like to firmly lock away in the distant past.

In this seminar, we will study medieval texts (in translation) which deal with various kinds of violence such as warfare, murder, rape, defamation of the religious Other (Muslims, Jews) and psychological manipulation. We will put these forms of violence in their socio-cultural context and examine how they may reflect on violent behaviour in our time.

Forme de l'évaluation

A research paper of 12-15 pages (100%), to be handed in by 15 August 2025.

Students must submit their own, original work. They may not engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of AI composition software. The same applies if the seminar takes place online.

Modalités de rattrapage

A thoroughly revised paper or a new research paper of 12-15 pages (100%), to be handed in within a month after the publication of the result. The same applies if the seminar takes place online.

Documentation

A course reader will be made available (at cost price, c. 10 CHF)

Pré-requis

Students should have completed their BA studies.

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminar

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Develop an understanding of medieval culture
- Apply medieval cultural concepts to medieval literature
- Analyse texts in a critical manner
- Formulate relevant questions regarding the texts under discussion
- Discuss texts in an informed way both in groups and in class
- Present ideas in front of a group
- Produce a research paper based on the texts discussed in class

Compétences transférables

- Carry out critical textual analyses
- Develop intellectual rigor and curiosity
- Generate new ideas

URLs	1) https://www.unine.ch/anglais
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- Communicate in English
- Apply knowledge to other texts / situations