

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

Sém. Ang. I : Vibrant Matter: Stones and Bones (2AN2141)

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 this seminar, we will explore the intricate connection between stone, bones and the human in medieval texts. In both classical and biblical traditions, the first humans are thought to have been formed from stone, an idea that medieval authors take up and elaborate on. At the other end of the life spectrum, the bones of deceased saints (composed of "stony" minerals) are said to move on their own as well as to move others, while the skeletons of ordinary people are able to speak to the living from beyond the grave. Some stones possess the power to travel of their own accord, or they can be moved only by magic, as when Merlin builds Stonehenge. Gemstones in turn are able to change humans as they are thought to be imbued with magical and medicinal qualities. Thus, the boundaries between the inanimate and the animate are far less clear-cut than they may appear, raising the timeless question about where life begins and where it ends.

Forme de l'évaluation

A research paper of 12-15 pages (100%), to be handed in by 15 August 2026.

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 a month after the publication of the result.

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.

Documentation

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

Pré-requis

Students ought to 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 :

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

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Compétences transférables

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