

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY  
*Center for Renaissance Studies*

2009-10 Graduate Seminar

***The Anglo-Saxon Seminar: Law and Literature***

2-5 p.m. Thursdays, January 7 – March 11, 2010

Professor Jana Schulman, Western Michigan University

Law and literature are both narratives that reveal much about the community that produces them. This seminar will explore legal issues such as feud, marriage and the status of women, and theft. We will read and translate legal texts that discuss these issues and then see how literary texts incorporate legal elements to create tension and drive the narrative. Some primary texts include laws issued by Æthelberht, Alfred, Edmund, and Canute as well as selections from Beowulf, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle,



▲ Newberry Library, Folio SC2775. Persius.  
[*Avli Flacci Persii...*]. Venice, 1520.

“Juliana,” and “Maxims I.” Much has been written on feud in early Germanic societies, less perhaps on women and law, but the secondary sources assigned on these and other issues will help to clarify the abbreviated language of the legal texts as well as provide background and fuel for discussion.

Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in a language course in Old English.

***Enrollment is limited.*** To register contact the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies. To receive credit you must enroll in either a Newberry course at your campus (available at several Chicago-area schools) or in an independent study. Please contact the consortium Representative Council member at your home institution for your university’s policies and for authorization to be reimbursed for travel to attend.

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