

# The Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies 2009-10 Graduate Student Seminar

## *Introduction to the Troubadours*

Professor William D. Paden, Northwestern University

Time: Thursdays 2-5 p.m., September 24 – December 10, 2009

Place: Newberry Library, room TBA.

Northwestern Course Information: French 410: Studies in Medieval Literature, Fall Quarter 2009



This course will introduce students to the troubadours, poets of the South of France in the Middle Ages, and the Occitan language in which they wrote. Students will focus on learning to read the texts in the original language, and on understanding the phenomenon of love, often called “courtly,” that was the troubadours’ greatest subject. They will study the language in Paden, *An Introduction to Old Occitan*, and learn to translate troubadour poetry in that book; read a book of English translations, Paden and Paden, *Troubadour Poems from the South of France*; and refer to selected essays in two recent collaborative histories, Gaunt and Kay, *The Troubadours: An Introduction*, and Akehurst and Davis, *A Handbook of the Troubadours*. Students will consider the performance of troubadour poetry in song as well as historical issues including the court, gender relations, and desire.

To register, you must contact the Center for Renaissance at [renaissance@newberry.org](mailto:renaissance@newberry.org). **Enrollment is limited.** To get credit for the class, you must contact your Consortium Executive Committee representative at your home institution, and either enroll in a numbered class on your campus or enroll in an independent study. Please contact your Executive Committee representative for more information on your campus's policies and on pre-authorization for funding for travel to attend Consortium graduate seminars.

