





THE NEWBERRY



The Center for Renaissance Studies promotes the use of the Newberry collection by scholars in the fields of medieval, Renaissance, and early modern studies (c. 1100 – c. 1800), making available programs that may not be feasible for individual institutions to mount alone. Founded in 1979, the center works with an international consortium of universities in North America and Europe. It offers a wide range of scholarly programs and digital and print publications using the Newberry collection, and provides a locus for a community of scholars who come from all over the world to use the library's early manuscripts, printed books, and other materials.

The Center for Renaissance Studies collaborates with the Folger Institute in Washington, DC, which also works with a consortium of universities. By a reciprocal arrangement, faculty members and graduate students from either consortium may apply for admission to the other's programs, and if they are admitted some fees may be waived. Faculty and graduate students of Center for Renaissance Studies consortium institutions are eligible to apply for travel grants to participate in programs or to do research at the Newberry Library or the Folger Shakespeare Library. Some member institutions may limit eligibility to certain departments, colleges, or other units within the university, and each member sets its own policies, limitations, and deadlines.

For medieval, Renaissance, and early modern studies, the Newberry collection is especially outstanding in six subject areas:

- early modern colonization
- history of the book
- humanism, education, and rhetoric
- maps, travel, and exploration
- music
- religion

Other strong subjects and genres include:

- French political pamphlets
- British local history and heraldry
- British political pamphlets, broadsides, and prints
- eighteenth-century periodicals, especially British and French
- languages, historical linguistics, and philology
- biographies
- works by women writers in all genres
- archival materials for Italy, Portugal, and the Spanish Empire

COURSES AND SEMINARS

Year-Long Dissertation Seminar

Early Modern Trans Studies

Led by Simone Chess (Wayne State University), Colby Gordon (Bryn Mawr College), and Sawyer Kemp (Queens College CUNY)

Four meetings across the academic year on Fridays:
Sept. 25, 2026 **Zoom**; Nov. 13, 2026 **In-person**;
Feb. 19, 2027 **Zoom**; May 7, 2027 **In-person**

9:30am-12:30pm Central Time

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026

This seminar provides an interdisciplinary, supportive community for graduate students in the early stages of dissertation preparation. Reading broadly in primary and secondary sources, we will cover existing conversations in the field of early modern trans studies. Together, we will theorize the connections and potential that trans methodologies bring to early modern criticism and, conversely, how early modern texts speak to the historical, theoretical, and political concerns that animate contemporary trans studies.

Ten-Week Graduate Seminars

Nahua World

Led by Edward Anthony Polanco (Virginia Tech)

Thursdays, September 24- December 3, 2026
1:00-3:50pm Central Time

Virtual with one in-person meeting on November 12

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026

This graduate course guides students through curated readings that explore the history and culture of Nahua people (often erroneously dubbed the Aztecs) indigenous to Mexico and Central America. The Nahua World first steeps students in key Indigenous Studies texts and trends and then embarks on themes such as gender, sexuality, religion, healing, and decolonization from Mexico to Nicaragua from 1200 to 1950. At each turn, students will strive to understand the last 700 years of Mesoamerican history through the lens of Nahua people. Students will elect to create an investigative podcast, historiographical essay, or public history exhibition on a topic of their choosing from the Nahua World as a final project. *Tipewakan tel* (Let's begin)!

Digital Humanities and Premodern Studies: An Introduction

Led by Christopher Fletcher (Newberry Library)

Thursdays, January 14-March 18, 2027

1:00-4:00pm Central Time

Virtual via Zoom with one in-person meeting on January 21

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

This course will introduce you to methods, approaches, uses, and challenges of digital humanities with respect to the study of the premodern world. We will discuss the ways in which digital humanities shape premodern studies, consider the advantages and disadvantages in the increasing use of digital tools in the classroom, and learn the ins and outs of digital projects from the scholars creating them. We will also familiarize ourselves with some basic tools, approaches, and platforms available for the creation of digital resources, and learn how to use them by engaging with medieval and early modern materials from the Newberry's collections.

Latin Paleography

Led by Ray Clemens

Thursdays, March 25-May 13, 2027

1:00-4:00pm Central Time

Virtual via Zoom with a few in-person meetings

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

The goal of the class is to introduce students to the history of manuscript hands in the Latin West from roughly 800 to 1500. We will study the history of Latin abbreviation to make students familiar with the basic system of abbreviations and will present reference works to help to expand more difficult abbreviations. Lastly, we will explore the history of manuscript production in order to date and localize manuscripts and to familiarize students with the culture surrounding books and their use in the medieval period.

FALL WORKSHOPS

Mid-Career Writers' Workshop

Facilitated by Jean E. Howard, Emerita (Columbia University) and Valerie Traub, Emerita (University of Michigan)

Two meetings on Fridays: Oct. 2, 2026 (9:30am-4:30pm)
In-person; Dec. 4, 2026 **On Zoom** (9:30am-11:30pm);
Plus bi-weekly accountability group Zoom meetings from late October to late November

One in-person meeting at the Newberry and several meetings via Zoom

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026

This workshop aims to help mid-career scholars make progress on a writing project (book chapter, article, research statement, fellowship application) through one-on-one coaching with workshop leaders and group work. Skills addressed include time management, defining a topic, gathering materials, concept mapping, developing an argument, making decisions about project parameters and scale, articulating method and/or theoretical framing, articulating stakes and exigence, identifying interlocutors, and identifying an audience.

Application requires a project description with explanation of stage of work and description of what each participant wants to gain from the workshop.



Cistercian Missal, Germany, c. 1173 (VAULT case MS7)

Bringing Premodern Studies to K-12 Classrooms: Reflecting on America 250

Led by Bradley Phillis (Appalachian State University)

October 23, 2026
9:30am-4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026

The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence offers academics an opportunity to reflect on our engagement with one of the most important and enduring institutions championed by the founders: public schools. In particular, this workshop will focus on building connections between academic medievalists and early modernists and elementary and high school teachers. Through discussions, activities, and hands-on work with Newberry materials, participants will investigate the place that the premodern world occupies in contemporary K-12 content standards across the United States, with an eye toward creating more robust dialogue between academics and teachers, students, and curriculum designers. Participants will learn how to unpack state content standards and local curricula, how to produce scholarship and materials that are practically useful for a variety of students and teachers, and how to tailor their own teaching and mentoring practices to support the development of K-12 teachers who understand and incorporate premodern studies into their classrooms.

Undergraduate Workshop: Ecologies of Premodern Books

Led by Elizabeth Hebbard (Indiana University)

October 9, 2026
9:30 am-4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026

This workshop will explore how to find the cultural experiences and stories that are hidden in the materials used to make medieval and early modern books. Participants will learn how parchment, paper, inks, pigments, decorations, and other materials can shed light on how artists, artisans, and patrons in the distant past managed resources, interacted with the environment, and participated in global trade networks. In addition to discussions and hands-on activities with Newberry collection items, participants will also have the opportunity to make (and use!) their own ink, paint, and glue. No previous training or experience is required.

SPRING WORKSHOPS

Representing Textiles in Renaissance Culture

Led by Sophie Pitman (University of Wisconsin Madison) and Timothy McCall (Villanova University)

Friday, January 22, 2027
9:30am–4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Hosted in conjunction with the *Impressive Textiles* exhibition, this workshop explores Renaissance textiles, particularly varieties of silk, and their representation in both word and image. Participants will be asked to come with a question or source (textual, visual, or material) for us to work through, as we pay close attention to distinctions in sensory effects, weaves, surfaces, and other material aspects of precious textiles. We will gain first-hand knowledge of textiles while also exploring their visual and literary representations, attentive to the confusions, contradictions, and opportunities that representation affords.



"Marchant Arabe" in Cesare Vecellio and Sulstatius Gratianus. *Habiti antichi et moderni di tutto il mondo*, Venice, 1598. VAULT Ayer 335.V3.1598

Emerging Pedagogical Approaches to PCRS

Led by Joanna Huh (University of Cincinnati), Montse Li, (Macalester College), Willnide Lindor (SUNY Cortland)

Friday, February 26, 2027
9:30am–4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

This workshop invites graduate students and scholars teaching on race and race-making before 1800 to explore exciting pedagogical approaches in Premodern Critical Race Studies. Through pre-circulated readings, lively discussion, guided pedagogical activities, and engagement with the Newberry's rich archive, participants will expand their teaching toolkit to engage with premodern texts and materials through the lens of critical race theory. How do educators teach racial histories while also cultivating an alternative imagining of that past that challenges what we know? How can we expand our approaches to teaching race in premodernity that reflect, refract, and differ from the ways we understand race in our contemporary moment? How can we adapt the new approaches, theories, and discoveries taking place in PCRS scholarship to the classroom context in approachable and accessible ways?

Scholars Making Comics: An Introduction

Led by Patrick Murphy, Miami of Ohio

Friday, April 2, 2027
9:30am–4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

In this workshop we will consider and practice the art of scholarly comics. How might making comics serve our professional goals as scholars and teachers of premodern studies? In particular, how might comics help make premodern cultures more accessible for audiences in academia and beyond? Participants will explore these questions through discussions and hands-on activities with Newberry collection materials while being introduced to the basics of cartooning, sequencing, and composing in text and image. Although we will be handling nibs and pens, no prior experience in drawing is expected!



CONVERSATIONS

Race in Dialogue

Virtual

This series of virtual conversations brings together scholars across professional generations to discuss the past, present, and future of premodern critical race studies and critical Indigenous studies.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Cervantes, escritor alegre; regocijo de las musas

October 15-17, 2026

In-person at the Newberry

In Cervantes, *alegria* is a vital, generous, and hopeful lightness never frivolous, always profound that opens spaces of lucidity, conviviality, and shared humanity. It may be evoked through notions such as *regocijo*, *gozo*, *jubilo*, *deleite*, *dicha*, *contento*, *ventura*, *buen animo*, *optimismo*: forms of creative, philosophical, and affective energy that ease suffering while affirming community, freedom, and imagination. Beyond humor, Cervantine *alegria* can be understood as a revolutionary stance, a force at once ethical, aesthetic, and intellectual. It is *alegria* as ethos, poetics, and community: a lucid, profound, and humane disposition that resists despair and sustains a shared horizon of conviviality. In Cervantes, this *alegria* emerges as the capacity to live, create, and think together, as well as a gesture of freedom that unsettles tragedy, violence, and rigid hierarchies. Cervantine *alegria* is thus both individual and communal: a space where invention, irony, and play redefine the very conditions of human life.

Organized by the Cervantes Society of America and co-sponsored by the Cervantes Institute of Chicago

For more information and call for paper at the following link: <https://cervantessocietyamerica.org>

Image above right: Page from Cornelius Heylwagen, Stam[m] Buch worinnen die edle Nahmen und das angenehme Zudencken seiner hoch und werthgeschätzten Göner und Freunde : mit aller Hochachtung und Ergebenheit, Johannegeorgenstadt, Germany, 1727. VAULT Case MS 5471



Early Modern Trans Archives 2.0

November 13-14, 2026

In-person at the Newberry

What does it look like to do trans studies in premodern archives? How might early modern trans studies be more archival? What tools would we need or might we make to help scholars locate archival sources that inform our thinking on premodern gender? While Early Modern Trans Studies has officially passed the point of “emergent,” the relationship between trans studies methods and the archive has not always felt intuitive. At our “Trans Archives” workshop at the Newberry in 2025, we opened a wide-ranging conversation about what early modern trans studies archives might look like and how to overcome real and perceived barriers to this kind of work. At Early Modern Trans Archives 2.0, speakers will offer examples of trans archival methods, suggest new ways for trans studies to infiltrate archives like the Newberry, and model strategies for archival scholars to work with trans studies perspectives and research questions. A hands-on component will encourage participants to engage with the Newberry’s collection as well as nontraditional archives of trans studies that exist alongside and within it. We will close with a mentorship session where attendees can consult with Newberry librarians, scholars with archival experience, and scholars working in trans studies.

Organized by Simone Chess (Wayne State University), Colby Gordon (Bryn Mawr), and Sawyer Kemp (Queens College CUNY)

Sponsored by Carole Levin



2027 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Premodern Studies

Thursday, January 28, 2027 – Saturday, January 30, 2027

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2026

In-person at the Newberry

The Center for Renaissance Studies' annual graduate student conference, organized and run by advanced doctoral students, has become a premier venue for emerging scholars to present papers, participate in discussions, and develop collaborations. This supportive, welcoming conference comprises as many as sixteen panels with nearly fifty presenters, plus plenary discussions, and professionalization opportunities.



Participants at the 2026 CRS Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Premodern Studies

Premodern Violence

April 8-9, 2027

In-person at the Newberry

May 2027 marks the 500th anniversary of the sack of Rome—one of history's deadliest moments. The medieval and Renaissance periods experienced remarkable violence when the technology of warfare rose to new heights. This interdisciplinary symposium, organized by consortium members from several universities, will explore various topics related to premodern violence: the legacies of violence, intergenerational trauma, enslavement and colonization, violence and human rights, the materiality of warfare, the technologies of violence, arms and armor, and images of wars and sieges. Comparative approaches will allow us to better understand the past and to evaluate the current state of the world. The symposium will also include a workshop providing first-hand experience with swordsmanship.

NEWBERRY SCHOLARLY SEMINARS

Premodern Studies Seminar

This seminar provides a forum for new approaches to classical, medieval, and early modern studies, allowing scholars from a range of disciplines to share works-in-progress with the broader community at the Center for Renaissance Studies. Our sessions feature discussion of a pre-circulated paper and a presentation of materials from the Newberry collections. We meet three times a year. Every meeting is free and open to the public, and participants are encouraged to attend as many seminars as they are able.

Organized by Lydia Barnett (Northwestern University), Timothy Crowley (Northern Illinois University), Christopher Fletcher (Newberry Library), Megan Heffernan (DePaul University) and Caterina Mongiat-Farina (DePaul University)

Eighteenth Century Seminar

The Eighteenth Century Seminar is designed to foster research and inquiry across the scholarly disciplines in eighteenth century studies. It aims to provide a methodologically diverse forum for work that engages ongoing discussions and debates along this historical and critical terrain. Each year the seminar sponsors one public lecture followed by questions and discussion, and one work-in-progress session featuring a pre-circulated paper.

Organized by Timothy Campbell (University of Chicago), Jason Farr (Marquette University), Lisa A. Freeman (University of Illinois Chicago), and Alicia Caticha (Northwestern University)

Lieb Newberry Milton Seminar

This seminar brings together interested scholars to read and discuss pre-circulated papers on aspects of Milton studies. The Milton seminar's new format includes one junior scholar (not yet tenure-track) and one senior scholar who will circulate their work in advance for the seminar's discussion.

Organized by Angelica Duran (Purdue University), Stephen Fallon (University of Notre Dame), Timothy Harrison (University of Chicago), Katarzyna Lecky (Loyola University), and Regina Schwartz (Northwestern University)

SUMMER INSTITUTES 2027

Center for Renaissance Studies Institute in Spanish Paleography

Directed by J. Michael Francis (University of South Florida)

June 28-July 9, 2027

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2027

Center for Renaissance Studies Weeklong Intensive in Náhuatl/ Nawat Language Study

Directed by Abelardo de la Cruz de la Cruz (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Edward Polanco (Virginia Tech)

July 12-23, 2027

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2027

Herzog August Bibliothek (HAB)/ Newberry CRS summer course

Directed by Lia Markey and Christopher Fletcher (Newberry Library)

August 2-13, 2027

In-person at the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2027

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Monteverdi's *Orfeo*

Discussion and Performance by the Haymarket Opera and the Newberry Consort

August 4, 2026 5:30-6:30pm

5:30 to 7:15pm Central Time

2027 – 2028 FELLOWSHIPS

Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies Consortium Fellowships

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 2027

These short-term fellowships support scholars at Center for Renaissance Studies consortium member institutions. They offer support for one month's work in residence at the Newberry for one PhD candidate with ABD status and one postdoctoral scholar working in medieval, Renaissance, or early modern studies. The postdoctoral scholar could be a full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty, librarian, curator, or other staff member (with preference given for non-tenured faculty).

See all the Newberry's long- and short-term fellowships: www.newberry.org/fellowships.

STAFF

Director: Lia Markey

Assistant Director: Christopher Fletcher

Program Manager: Dylan Bingham

Funding for the Center is provided in part by the Bernard P. McElroy Fund in Renaissance Studies.

Programs are open to the public unless otherwise noted, but registration in advance is required for most events. Program dates and times are subject to change. Please see individual calendar entries on our website for registration and cost information.

renaissance@newberry.org | (312) 255-3514

www.newberry.org/renaissance

(Image on front cover): Jacques Callot, *Le Siege de La Rochelle Sous Le Regne de Louis XIII et Sous Le Ministère Du Cardinal de Richelieu*, 1629, Novacco 4F 112

CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen, Scotland

University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

University of California, Davis
Davis, California

University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Claremont Graduate
University
Claremont, California

Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

DePaul University
Chicago, Illinois

Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida

University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland

University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Marquette University
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

University of Nebraska-
Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Queen Mary, University of London
London, England

Saint Louis University
Saint Louis, Missouri

University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Knoxville, Tennessee

University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

Tulane University
New Orleans, Louisiana

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

University of Warwick
Coventry, England

Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan

Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan

University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

FALL EXHIBITION

Impressive Textiles: Printing on Fabric

December 10, 2026–April 03, 2027

Printing images and texts on luxurious fabrics—instead of paper—has elevated the touchable allure of portraits and devotional images for centuries. These rare creations brokered powerful relationships and memorialized important events on shining broadsides and durable handkerchiefs alike. Whether fancy or functional, these memorable imprints and their modern-day equivalents have remained largely overlooked as an artform. *Impressive Textiles* will reveal the artistry and the innovation that we've been missing for the last six hundred years. A scholarly exhibition catalogue available in open access and print from the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Press will accompany the exhibition.

EXHIBITION STUDY DAY

Friday March 26, 2027

We welcome scholars to join Curator Suzanne Karr Schmidt to view the *Impressive Textiles: Printing on Fabric* exhibition and discuss this groundbreaking project.

Details will be forthcoming.



PhD Thesis on satin published by Manuela Cerezo in Puebla Mexico in 1746. Ayer oversize BC60.F74 1746.