



Latin European Medieval Palaeography

Online course

Course overview

The Latin European Medieval Palaeography online course will take you on a fascinating journey to discover the key scripts of the Latin European Middle Ages. From the Late Antique period to the 15th century, this course is designed to provide you with the skills to identify and transcribe at least seven scripts; and with the latest trends and projects in Digital Humanities.

Key features

- *Self-study and group sessions:* The course content is offered as self-learning materials and it will be complemented by daily live sessions (Zoom) where you can ask questions, meet your peers and transcribe as a group. Each section of the course will also have an online forum.
- *A full time course:* We have designed this course as a full-time introduction to Latin Palaeography. How many hours a day it will take to complete will depend on each student, but on average 5 to 6 hours of daily study should be sufficient to make the most of the course and complete the assessment portfolio.
- *Abbreviation, punctuation and Digital Humanities:* Throughout the course you will have specific sessions on Abbreviation and Punctuation, and Digital Humanities. This will provide you with specific, practical knowledge on

how to work with and transcribe abbreviations and punctuation, while giving you insight into the latest trends in Digital Humanities applied to Palaeography and Manuscript Studies. With the participation of Dr Peter Stokes and Dr Richard Higgins.

- *Optional content:* Two of the 10 sessions of the course will be dedicated to optional content. You will be able to choose between additional scripts, introductions to other manuscript cultures and aspects of codicology and Digital Humanities.
- *Resources:* Every daily session has a downloadable file with sources and links to all manuscripts shown in the videos. Every new script comes with a Quick Guide with its key features, and every video has a downloadable transcript.
- *Assessment:* Every daily session has a quiz to complete. The key piece of assessment, however, is a Palaeography Portfolio, a collection of transcriptions to be delivered by the end of the course. You will receive written feedback on it, so it gives you a chance to practice your skills and consolidate your knowledge.

Meet the tutor



Dr Manuel Muñoz García is IMEMS Lecturer in Latin Palaeography of the European Middle Ages at Durham University. He specialises in the Gothic scripts of the Late Middle Ages (late 12th-15th centuries) and his main interests are: scribal identification and collaboration, Digital Humanities, fragments and transitional scripts.

His PhD – ‘Matthew Paris (c.1200-1259) and his scribal collaborators: a digital approach’ – allowed Manuel to describe and trace changes in Paris’s hand through time, as well as identifying scribal collaborators in Paris’s MSS. The use of DigiPal – now Archetype – as part of this project allowed for these descriptions and identifications to be done digitally, creating a database of images and annotations of Paris’s manuscripts. In 2023 Manuel was awarded a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship at Keio University (Tokyo, Japan), where he developed a catalogue of medieval fragments held at the university library.

You can contact the tutor via email on study.imems@durham.ac.uk.

Course programme

Week 1

Session 1

Welcome

Palaeography: Definition and History

Introduction to Digital Humanities

Terminology and Transcription Guidelines

Session 2

Historical context

Square and Rustic Capitals

Old and New Roman Cursive

Uncial and Half-Uncial

Abbreviation and Punctuation I

Session 3

Historical context

Changes to education and book production

Manuscript culture and script in Italy and Iberia

Manuscript culture and script in Francia

Digital Humanities I

Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS)
study.imems@durham.ac.uk

Session 4

Historical context

Abbreviation and Punctuation II

Insular Majuscule or Insular Half-Uncial

Insular Minuscule

Session 5

Optional content, to choose from the following strands:

- *Introduction to:* On codicology, Manuscript Studies and Digital Humanities.
- *15-minute script:* Learn a new script.
- *Explore:* Introduction to other manuscript cultures.

Week 2

Session 1

Historical context

Early Caroline Minuscule

Late Caroline Minuscule

Digital Humanities II

Session 2

Historical context

Introduction to the Gothic scripts

Gothic Northern Textualis

Gothic Southern Textualis and Semitextualis

Abbreviation and Punctuation III

Session 3

Gothic Hybrid and Semihybrida

Introduction to Cursives and Gothic Cursiva

Gothic Cursiva Antiquior and Recentior

Session 4

Historical context

Humanistic Minuscule or Antique

Humanistic Cursive

Session 5

Optional content, to choose from the following strands:

- *Introduction to:* On codicology, Manuscript Studies and Digital Humanities.
- *15-minute script:* Learn a new script.
- *Explore:* Introduction to other manuscript cultures.

Course requirements

- *Latin:* We do not require a specific level of Latin to take this course. However, we recommend a certain familiarity with the language at a basic level.
- *Technical requirements:* A fast internet connection is required as the course content is mostly videos. Please also download the Zoom app on your computer to join the live sessions.

Optional content

Introduction to

- Collecting Medieval Manuscripts, 1900-45 (Dr Laura Cleaver)
- Colour in the Middle Ages (Dr Mike Huxtable)
- Critical Editing (I & II) (Dr Sigbjørn Olsen Sønnesyn)
- Fragments from Medieval Manuscripts (Dr Richard Higgins)
- Marginalia and Glosses (Dr Sigbjørn Olsen Sønnesyn)
- Medieval accounts at Durham (Dr Michael Stansfield)
- Medieval Cryptography (Dr Anna Dorofeeva)
- Medieval Manuscript Description (Dr Ana de Oliveira Dias)
- Medieval Manuscript Illumination (Dr Ana de Oliveira Dias)
- Medieval Manuscripts at Durham (Dr Richard Higgins)
- Durham Cathedral Priory Archive (Dr Michael Stansfield)
- Team Pigment (Prof Andy Beeby)
- Durham Priory Library Recreated (Dr Richard Higgins)
- Cultivate MSS (Dr Laura Cleaver)

15-minute scripts

- Visigothic script (Dr Ainoa Castro Correa)
- Merovingian script (Dr Ana de Oliveira Dias)
- Beneventan script (Dr Manuel Muñoz García)

Explore

- Arabic Palaeography and Diplomatic (Prof Theresa Jäckh)
- Introduction to Islamic Manuscripts (Prof Nader El-Bizri)
- Introduction to Iberian manuscripts (Dr Diego Belmonte Fernández)
- Introduction to Ethiopic manuscripts (Prof Francis Watson)
- Introduction to Japanese bindings (Prof Takahiro Sasaki)