

Home examination

KUN 4306E – Art and visual culture of the later Middle Ages

- Distribution of assignment: 15.12.2013, in Fronter, from 10:00.
- Handing in of assignment: 18.12.2013, in Fronter, before 14:00.

Choose **one** of the following topics

1. In the later Middle Ages, the emergence of various devotional practices based on seeing implied a shift in attitudes towards vision, deviating from the three-level hierarchy established by St. Augustine. Compare the ideals of the Augustinian paradigm to the late medieval implementation of seeing in a devotional context, and discuss the consequences of this shift. Exemplify with concrete examples of images and/or objects used for devotional purposes, from the curriculum.

Use as heading: **Ideals of vision and seeing**

2. In her essay “Seeing and seeing beyond: The Mass of St. Gregory in the fifteenth century”, Caroline Walker Bynum states that “the religious experience it [the Gregorymass] ‘constitutes’ is one in which ‘seeing’ is ‘seeing through’” (p. 215–216). Give an outline of her reasoning, and explain why a rendering of the Gregorymass, according to Bynum, is *not* a representation of the transubstantiation. The theological thinking regarding matter and change lies at the basis of her argument: explain how.

Use as heading: **The Gregorymass according to Caroline Bynum**

3. Several of the authors on the reading list anchor their analyses of images and objects in the “visual culture” of the later Middle Ages. Give a brief outline of what visual culture is according to Janet Kromm, Nicholas Mirzoeff, W.J.T. Mitchell, and/or Irit Rogoff – you can make a selection if you prefer. Discuss the applicability of the concept for the study of medieval imagery. What can a visual culture approach contribute that cannot be achieved by standard art historical methods? Try out your reasoning by applying it on a concrete case: an image, or an object, from the curriculum.

Use as heading: **Visual culture and medieval art**



Formal requirements:

- Size/scale: 6-7 pages. Any pictures are viewed as attachments, and are not counted as pages of the essay (paper).
- The recommended font is New Times Roman (font size 12), with 1 ½ line spacing. We recommend the reference system Chicago as a standard for footnotes and bibliography (see <http://www.ub.uio.no/english/writing-referencing/>). Exam papers without references will be assessed to F
- The essay (paper) is graded on a descending scale using alphabetic grades from A to E for passes and F for fail.
- For more instructions on submitting essays (papers) in Fronter, see: http://www.hf.uio.no/ifikk/english/studies/admin/submitting/submitting_fronter.html