

## Medieval Studies

Humanities 305

Section: D100

Term: 1999 Spring

Instructor: Elizabeth Jordan,  
AQ 6231, 291-4534

Discussion Topics: "Bede, a servant of Christ and priest of the monastery of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, which is in Wearmouth and Jarrow...I have passed the whole of my life within the walls of this same monastery...my delight has always been in learning, teaching or writing." This humble biographical note, added near the end of Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People, is followed by a list of twenty-five volumes of works by the same author. Living quietly in a monastery in the north of England, Bede was by no means cut off from the intellectual, cultural and political world around him. The world came to him, first by way of the impressive library collected by the abbots of the monastery and later, as his reputation grew, in the shape of visitors come to speak with the learned man. Bede knew his world well.

The aim of this course is to open a doorway between our world and that of Bede. He, and his contemporaries, will be our teachers. Through their histories, biographies, letters, treatises, schoolbooks, art and architecture we will try to understand from a distance what it was like to live in England in the eighth century.

Grading: Participation in seminar discussions 20%

Seminar presentation followed by written report 30%

Bibliography 5%

Research paper 45%

Required Texts: Bede, Ecclesiastical History of the English People. (Oxford)

Blair, Peter Hunter, The World of Bede. (Cambridge)

Recommended Texts: N/A

Materials/Supplies: Students will be required to purchase a Custom Courseware package from the bookstore.

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 45 credit hours.

Notes: HUM 305-4 may be applied toward the Certificate in Liberal Arts

Visit our Humanities website

For inquiries contact [wendy\\_sjolin@sfu.ca](mailto:wendy_sjolin@sfu.ca)

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