

northwestern university
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year

Spring 2015

Course Number

ART-HIST 430

Day/Time

F 2:00-5:00

Instructor

Zorach

Course Title

Thinking with Stones in Early Modern Europe (at Newberry Library, January 15-March 18)



This seminar asks how it might change the study of early modern Europe's material culture to organize our thinking around one particular type of matter: stone. Using theoretical reference points associated with the "new materialism" and ecocriticism, we will try to think from (or around) the position of stone, stones, and stoniness in a series of different ways. Tracing the many manifestations of stone in early modern culture (ca. 1400-1900), we will in the process touch upon many key cultural phenomena for this period, from architecture to collecting to medicine to geology and paleontology. Over the course of the term, each student will prepare and carry out one or more short presentations of rare books in the Newberry's collection. Presentations will involve contextualizing the author, the text, the edition, and any illustrations, giving a few examples of passages and images (they do not assume in-depth familiarity with the entire book) and will enable students to gain familiarity with the study of early modern

books and begin developing a research topic for a final paper of 15-20 pages, due at the end of the term.

Prerequisites: Latin strongly recommended but not required; other research languages (French, German, and Italian in particular) are welcome. Previous coursework in early modern art history, history, and/or literature desirable.

Students may register for the Northwestern course number but registration will not be confirmed until they are accepted into the course through the Newberry's own process. Acceptance is not automatic. Application deadline is December 1.

See more information here: <https://www.newberry.org/01152016-rebecca-zorach-thinking-stones>

Online application form is here: <https://www.newberry.org/renaissance-center-graduate-seminar-application>

Required Textbooks

Assessments

Presentations, final paper