SUMMER SCHOOL IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES 2017

The Institute of Medieval Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the NOVA University of Lisbon (IEM-FCSH/NOVA) and the Mosteiro da Batalha host this one-week Summer School. The Summer School takes place on 17-21 July, its main objective being to provide a forum for anyone interested in the middle ages, and to support contact and exchange.

We aim to promote dialogue between researchers and the public keen to deepen their knowledge about medieval Portugal. We aim to familiarise students with medieval Portuguese culture, history, art and literature, from the perspective of Portugal’s interactions with its neighbours, tangible as much as metaphorical.

The IEM Summer School courses are open to anyone and include travel and ‘immersive’ visits to a number of historic sites in central Portugal. Every module has a separate study visit. This year, most classes will be in the UNESCO-listed gothic abbey of Batalha, a breathtaking example of the international contacts of the Portuguese in this period.

Teaching is in English by an international team of IEM scholars from Portugal, Canada, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, combining young and senior, all experts in their field.

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The Organiser reserves the right to cancel, modify or adjourn the Summer School in the event of insufficient demand.

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION

Registration
To register please email iem.geral@fcsh.unl.pt with the following: Name; Institution; Course(s) desired.
Please regard the following:
• Registration open until: June 15, 2017
• Number of vacancies: 30
• Payment information will be sent upon registration
• Registration will be confirmed on proof of payment

Accommodation (two options)
(a) Residential: Covering classes, travel from/to Lisbon and guided visits, five lunches and two dinners, plus accommodation (five nights in a 3 star quality hotel in Batalha: www.hotel-batalha.com)
• Single bedroom + breakfast: 500,00€
• Shared bedroom (2 indiv. beds) + breakfast: 450,00€
(b) Non-residential: Covering classes, travel from/to Lisbon and guided visits, five lunches (no dinner): 150,00€

TRANSPORT (Each service included)
Lisbon-Batalha: July 16 | Batalha-Lisbon: July 21
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1. THE SACRED PERIPHERY: PLACES OF THE DISTANT EARTH (Visiting Santiago da Guarda)

Regardless of perhaps because of its peripheral situation, the Iberian Peninsula provides a unique case study for interreligious exchange and cultural mingling. The cohabitation amongst the three main religions (Judaism, Christianity, and the Islamic) and also the rise of new and very original social features such as Sephardi, the Mudéjar, and the Mestizo are particularly expressive of a rather unique cultural frame. This module will consider such a multi-cultural background in the way it developed between the fifth and the thirteenth centuries.

This first day, classes will take place in the Romanesque palace of Santiago da Guarda. Adapted to various uses through the ages – it was originally a Roman villa and later a medieval manor – nowhere better than this fascinatingly rich site to exemplify change and continuity over half a millennium of early Portuguese history.

Classes

(a) Hello, Rome? We’re here!: New Christians at the end of the world and their relations with the Papal curia;
(b) Rural and Urban Archaeology in the aftermath of the Roman Empire;
(c) An Inside Job: Mozarabic life in the Muslim world;
(d) A Body of Blood: Literature and its relations with the Papal curia;
(e) Sleep with the Enemy: The frontier as a space of conflict.

2. DANGEROUS LIAISONS? PORTUGAL BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN (Visiting Batalha)

Thanks to its position on the axis of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, Portugal became a central periphery where peoples, objects and ideas coming from the north and the south, the east and the west, intersected. The kingdom therefore has to play quite a significant role in commercial as well as in political and diplomatic relations. As royal dynasties were born and implemented, and as merchants and townspeople looked for better deals, so did diplomacy. This module will examine such movements from and to Portugal, between political strategy, enterprise, and the dynasties were born and implemented, and as merchants and townsmen looked for better deals, so did diplomacy. This module will examine such movements from and to Portugal, between political strategy, enterprise, and the players involved.

Classes

(a) Highway to Heaven: Commercial circulation between two seas;
(b) The Third War: Religious exchanges in Christian societies during the ‘long’ middle ages;
(c) Lost in Translation: Portuguese diplomacy in action;
(d) Four Weddings and many Funerals: Alliances to further dynasties.

3. THE BONES OF BATTLE: WAR AND PEACE IN THE IBERN PENINSULA (Visiting Aljubarrota)

Every medieval kingdom needed a piece of land in which to develop politically, socially and economically. Besides earning that space it was necessary to maintain it. Battle and the art of negotiation were the most important avenues for achieving that. Firstly as part of the Christian ‘reconquest’ and later as means of securing the kingdom’s independence. warfare was commonplace in Portugal and indeed the whole of Iberian society. This module looks at ‘society organized for war’, considering several forms of military life.

The day includes a specialist-guided visit to Aljubarrota, one of Europe’s most notable battlefields, where in August 1835 a Franco-Portuguese army was defeated by a much smaller Anglo-Portuguese force. Weapons, tactics and even the bones of fallen contemporaries are on show.

Classes

(a) Genetics of the Three Thorns: War as a preliminary strategy;
(b) The Kingdom of Heaven: Crusade and the movement of cultures;
(c) The Quest for the Holy Grail: Warriors, knights, adventure and fortune;
(d) The Force Awakens: Production and circulation of works of art.

4. THE SOCIAL NETWORK (Visiting Leiria)

Every group in society has its own interests, giving rise to specific networks. Social movement and instability, but also the construction of the state, have their origin in how medieval society was arranged. The social composition of medieval Portugal is intriguing and will be studied in this module, along with the agents of social change. This will also the construction of the state, have their origin in how medieval society was arranged. The social composition of medieval Portugal is intriguing and will be studied in this module, along with the agents of social change. This will also look at ‘a society organised for war’, considering several forms of military life.

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Classes

(a) The Name of the Rose: Monasteries and peasants in the picture;
(b) The Lords of the King: Noblemen, aristocrats, and their families;
(c) House of Arts: Politics and medieval art in 20th-century Portugal;
(d) The Physician: Practicing astrology and medicine.

5. PLACES OF THE MIDDLE EARTH: PORTUGUESE ART AND CULTURE (Visiting Alcobaça)

This module dispels the common but misleading conception that the medieval world was withdrawn and closed into itself, confining itself to the cultural background prior to the kingdom’s foundation in the twelfth century, and taking on to the beginning of the second dynasty some 250 years later, the module explores the movement of ideas, models, and objects connecting Portugal and the world.

Some of the greatest specialists on the majestic Cistercian abbey of Alcobaça (a World Heritage Site) will take us through this monument and its collections. Some of the richest and best-preserved architecture, manuscripts, and sculptures of medieval Portugal can be found here.

Classes

(a) Fifty Shades of Rei: The royal image in literature and art;
(b) The Force Awakens: Production and circulation of works of art;
(c) House of Arts: Politics and medieval art in 20th-century Portugal;
(d) Sleeping with the Enemy: The frontier as a space of conflict.

SCHEDULE

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