

The Fall 2011 Seminar

Crossing Boundaries

The Fall 2011 Seminar will focus on geographic, national, racial/ethnic, and gender role boundaries and the myriad ways in which those boundaries were crossed and re-crossed between 1492 and 1900 as Europeans traversed the Atlantic, indigenous people confronted newcomers, and Africans crossed the ocean and cultures, usually by force. It will also emphasize the constructions and representations of identities in the border space.

Frontiers, borders, and “middle grounds” define the geographic and cultural spaces that shape the experiences of people living in locations where interactions with “others” are common. “Boundary crossing” is an especially rich topic for research in the humanities and social sciences — and particularly for the Newberry Library’s unique collections.



Michel Étienne Descourtilz. “Dialogue Creole.” *Voyages d'un naturaliste*. Paris, 1809. Ayer 958.5 .H21 D44 1809 vol. #3.

During the first half of the semester, the seminar will meet regularly to explore the Newberry’s collections and to discuss common texts including Native Americans’ representations of Europeans, slaves’ own accounts of their lives, popular fiction, photographs, and music. Students also will study maps to understand how people and ideas “flowed” across geographic and national boundaries. In addition, seminar participants will study theories about boundaries, their crossings, and the cultural genesis that occurs in those border spaces.

During the second half of the semester, students will conduct original, extensive research using the Newberry Library’s multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural resources. Throughout the semester, faculty and students will examine the role of scholarly conversation and debate in shaping inquiry (the questions scholars ask), research (investigation into the sources), and writing (framing conclusions).



Hanna Schell

Above: Fall 2008 Newberry Seminar participants on a tour of Chicago’s historic Graceland Cemetery.
Cover: A view of the Newberry Library and the surrounding neighborhood. Photo courtesy of the Newberry Library.

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Newberry Seminar

Research in the Humanities



*Independent research
& writing in Chicago
at one of the world’s
great libraries*

www.acm.edu/newberry

For more details, go to www.acm.edu/newberry



Newberry Library

Hernando Cortés, Map of Tenochtitlan and the Gulf of Mexico in his *Praeclara Ferdinadi Cortesii de Nova maris Oceani Hispania Narratio*. 1524. Ayer f.655.51 C8.1524d.

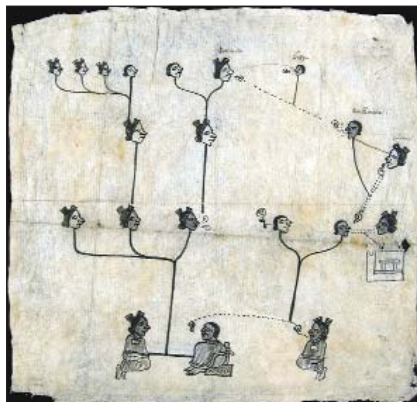
Research in the humanities at an unparalleled library

In the ACM Newberry Seminar: Research in the Humanities, students conduct independent research and writing at one of the world's great libraries in the exciting city of Chicago.

Students write a substantial paper on a topic of their choice, based on research in the rich primary collections of the Newberry Library. The program fosters a collaborative spirit among its participants, who work closely with faculty and a select group of colleagues in a seminar that provides context and guidance for their research.

The Newberry Seminar gives participants significant research experience that prepares them for graduate study, professional education (such as law school), or other careers.

Genealogy of Pedronilla and Juliana. 1576. A pictorial genealogy showing the family tree of 20 Indians in four generations. The manuscript was related to property litigation between Pedronilla and Juliana, both Indians of Xochimilco. Ayer MS 1902



Newberry Library

Fall 2011 Seminar

Seminar Topic Crossing Boundaries

Faculty Diane Lichtenstein, English, Beloit College
Linda Sturtz, History, Beloit College

The Newberry's resources

The Newberry Library's collections provide opportunities for participants in the Fall 2011 seminar to conduct significant independent research in many fields.

- History majors and art students can explore the Edward E. Ayer Collection, which contains 1,350 single manuscripts and manuscript collections written by both whites and Indians as well as photographs and art works.
- Students from any discipline with a reading knowledge of French, German, Spanish, Latin, or Portuguese will be able to delve into seldom-used texts in those languages by individuals who crossed geographic borders throughout the Americas, such as Humboldt's 1811 account of Mexican culture, including its technological achievements; Dominican friars' accounts of their missions among the Mixtec and Chochona peoples of Mexico; or early French accounts of their settlements in the Caribbean, Canada, or New Orleans.
- Creative writing majors can examine 19th-century mid-western literary journals such as the *Prairie Flower*.
- Women's/gender studies students can compare the ways in which gender roles operated among groups that met in the "borderlands" of contact.
- Religion majors might want to investigate new acquisitions from Lane Theological Seminary in the context of antebellum American Protestantism.
- Music students can explore the Driscoll collection of early U.S. printed sheet music.

Host institution The Newberry Library, an independent research library on Chicago's Near North Side (www.newberry.org).

The Newberry's collections span the history and culture of western Europe from the Middle Ages to the mid-20th century and the Americas from the time of first contact between Europeans and Native Americans.

Dates Fall semester (*early September - mid-December*)

Credits Recommended credit is 16 semester credits or the equivalent.

Enrollment Maximum of 20 students

Eligibility Juniors and seniors interested in pursuing serious research in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

Living arrangements Students live in furnished apartments near the Newberry Library in the Gold Coast neighborhood.

Costs For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to www.acm.edu/newberry. Students also should check with their Off-Campus Study or Financial Aid Office for information about their college's pricing policies for off-campus study.

How to apply

- Access the ACM application at www.acm.edu/apply.
- Students should check with their Off-Campus Study Office about their college's application procedures and deadlines.
- ACM must receive completed applications by **March 15**.

Newberry Seminar: Research in the Humanities schedule

Introduction to the Newberry collections

Seminar meetings: Readings and discussion

Write research proposal

Independent research and writing
Meet individually with faculty

Seminar meetings

Research Symposium

www.acm.edu/newberry