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Teaching and Learning

Interesting course syllabi, sometimes with commentary, appear here. I have deleted information about class meeting times and the instructor's coordinates; these five teachers did all provide detailed office hours, phone numbers, and other contact information. Other courses were also submitted, from which I chose this somewhat representative sample.

Canadians seem particularly prone to posting course outlines on the internet, so where I am aware of such a posting I have not printed a syllabus here. However, I can strongly recommend many websites across the country, some built by teachers, some started by teachers and continued by students, and some wholly student-produced (such as the Chaucer website at the University of Windsor). None of us will feel much surprise that medievalists continue to use the internet to their advantage and for the benefit of their students. Some of us also use WebCT or its younger, prettier siblings for student participation and discussion, or for online quizzes, or for posting readings. In our teaching, we innovate.

We are also, if I may continue to pat us on the back, dedicated teachers. We are second, in my view, only to the Eighteenth-Century Studies Association (at least in the discipline of English) for holding workshops and sessions on our teaching, developing curricula that pursue interdisciplinary approaches to medieval studies, attending CARA events focused on teaching and learning the Middle Ages, and perhaps most importantly—refusing to back off the rigour and difficulty of our material while at the same time pouring our energy and enthusiasm for our stuff into our teaching. We've done so for a long time; perhaps the following collection of good courses from across the country can become a harbinger of a more formal acknowledgment of teaching excellence in medieval studies in Canada.