

Title: History 7210 Graduate Reading Seminar in Ancient History: Gnosticism and Manichaeism

Instructor: Brakke, D.

Days and Time: To be arranged

Description:

Topic: Gnosticism and Manichaeism

This seminar will study the major religious movements of late antiquity that scholars have traditionally gathered under the rubric “Gnosticism”: the Gnostic (“Sethian”) school of Christian thought, Valentinian Christianity, the Thomas literature, and Manichaeism. We will read in translation literature that survives from these movements (along with some relevant intertexts, such as Plato’s *Timaeus*), and we will consider the current debate over how to define and interpret Gnosticism as well as other issues in contemporary scholarship.

Assigned Readings:

Bentley Layton, *The Gnostic Scriptures*

Iain Gardner and Samuel N. C. Lieu, *Manichaean Texts from the Roman Empire*

Marvin Meyer, *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures: The International Edition*

Antti Marjanen (ed.), *Was There a Gnostic Religion?*

Additional primary literature (Plato and Platonists, Jewish apocalyptic, etc.)

Additional secondary literature

Assignments:

Attendance and participation; one or more reports/reviews on secondary books or articles; a major paper on a relevant topic of the student’s choice.

Prerequisites and Special Comments:

Day and time of 2-hour weekly meeting will be arranged among the participants after the conclusion of registration. Ancient sources will be read in English, but knowledge of Greek, Latin, Coptic, and/or Syriac will be helpful.