

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Spring Quarter 2024

Romance of the Rose

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Jacqueline Victor	COURSE LENGTH: 10 weeks DATES: March 20-May 22	Gleacher Center
EMAIL: jacqueline.g.victor@gmail.com Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Wednesday Time: 9:30am-12:45pm	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC70238 24S1

You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins. Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Often overlooked in the modern literary canon, the *Romance of the Rose* was the 13th century version of a bestseller and instant classic. An allegorical dream-poem, it follows the story of the Dreamer/Lover, a character who falls in love with a rose and pursues his desire within a dream world populated by allegorical and mythical figures who variously aid, hinder, and comment on his progress and its various implications (accompanied by quite a few tangents exploring medieval philosophy, religion, and current events). It was the most important work in French of its time, and it influenced writers such as Dante and Chaucer, who wrote his own translation of the *Rose*. It was also a highly controversial work, sparking a formal debate in which 15th-century literary and intellectual luminaries weighed its merits against its treatment of women and its questionable morality. What made the *Romance of the Rose* so influential, popular, and controversial in its own time and in the centuries that followed? It's a great time to revisit the *Rose*: in 2023, the *Romance of the Rose* was made into a critically acclaimed opera by Kate Soper, framing its enduring questions of desire, love, gender, and meaning in a 21st century context. In this class, we will read the *Romance of the Rose* in its entirety in order to understand it both in its own time and for what it has to tell us today.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *The Romance of the Rose*, by Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, translated by Charles Dahlberg. Princeton University Press, 1995. ISBN 9780691044569
2. Excerpts of other texts and materials will be provided on our Canvas page.

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 March 20	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 3-21 (Dahlberg edition pp. 31-48) +Excerpts from Macrobius, <i>Commentary on the Dream of Scipio</i>
WEEK 2 March 27	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 20-61 (Dahlberg edition pp. 49-88) +Ovid's version of the Narcissus myth
WEEK 3 April 3	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 62-110 (Dahlberg edition pp. 89-137)
WEEK 4 April 10	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 111-153 (Dahlberg edition pp. 138-178)
WEEK 5 April 17	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 154-224 (Dahlberg edition pp. 179-252)
WEEK 6 April 24	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 225-245 (Dahlberg edition pp. 253-269) + Prudentius, <i>Psychomachia</i>
WEEK 7 May 1	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 246-299 (Dahlberg edition pp. 270-320) +Excerpts from Alan of Lille's <i>Plaint of Nature</i>
WEEK 8 May 8	<i>Romance of the Rose</i> pp. 300-335 (Dahlberg pp. 321-354) + Ovid's version of Pygmalion
WEEK 9 May 15	Excerpts (letters) from the <i>Querelle de la Rose</i>
WEEK 10 May 22	Excerpts (letters) from the <i>Querelle de la Rose</i> + Videos from the 2023 <i>Roman de la Rose</i> opera and Kate Soper's writings on the opera: https://archive.wetink.org/archive-02/echoes-mirrors-roses

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.