

# Introducing the Art and Thought of Hildegard of Bingen Syllabus

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**Instructor** **Quarter:** Summer 2024  
**One day course:** July 27  
*Robert Porwoll* **Session day/time:** Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm CT  
**Course Code and Section:** HUAS26008 24U1

**Email** **Course Overview**

*robporwoll@gmail.com* Called the Sybil of the Rhine for her prophetic visions, Hildegard of Bingen towers as great creative genius: a visionary, visual and musical artist, a practicing physician and naturalist, formidable personality, reformer, theologian and even a preacher. Long recognized as a saint and recently as a Doctor of the Church, Hildegard is receiving a revival of appreciation for her music, art, and thought. This course will introduce her life and thought primarily through her main text called *Scivias* including her creative works (including art, music, and drama) and setting up her overall vision of the cosmos as a sacred mirror of God.

**Modality**  
Remote course

**Recommended Text:**  
 Hildegard of Bingen: Selected Writings (Penguin, 2001) ISBN: 978-0140436044 (Other texts will be provided on pdf or other file types.)  
 Books can be purchased online through the [University of Chicago Bookstore](#).

**Course schedule**

NOTE: Course Schedule and precise readings are liable to changes.

Session	Title	Topics
Session 1: 10:00-11:30am	Life of a Creative Genius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines of Hildegard’s Life</li> <li>• Major Aspects of Thought</li> <li>• Reading Her <i>Scivias</i></li> <li>• <i>Scivias</i>, “Declaration,” (pdf)</li> </ul>
Lunch 11:30-12:30pm		
Session 2: 12:30pm-2:00pm	The Cosmic Egg; and Homo Microcosmus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scivias I.2 The Cosmic Egg</li> <li>• <i>Book of Causes</i> (excerpts)</li> </ul>

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Session	Title	Topics
Break 2:00-2:15pm		
Session 3: 2:15pm-4:00pm	Mary and the Cosmic Ladies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symphonia (pdf, excerpts)</li> <li>• Scivia: Drama of the Soul and Virtues</li> <li>• Reviving Appreciations of Hildegard</li> </ul>

### Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

### Accessibility information

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For more information, please see [this handout for students](#) as well as the [University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment](#). You can also reach out directly for services and support from the [Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support](#) by emailing [titleix@uchicago.edu](mailto:titleix@uchicago.edu).

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at [zmel@uchicago.edu](mailto:zmel@uchicago.edu).

