UNIVERSITÉ DE CAEN NORMANDIE
CARRÉ INTERNATIONAL

PROGRAMME	**SUMMER SCHOOLS BY CARRE INTERNATIONAL**
MODULE	**MEDIEVAL LATIN**

PERIOD	Session 2 – June 28 to July 2, 2027
TOTAL HOURS	**22h30**
CRÉDITS	-
LANGUAGE	Latin
PREREQUISITES	None

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR	Romain MENEGON
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	Sylvie LEPETIT et Clémence LEFEVRES | intl.fle.cie@unicaen.fr
PARTNERSHIPS	

PRESENTATION / OBJECTIVES

Discover Medieval Latin in the very heart of Normandy!

This summer course is designed for complete and false beginners — students or independent learners — eager to explore the Latin of the Middle Ages through a lively, oral, and immersive approach inspired by modern language pedagogy.

Between the sea and the medieval landscapes of Normandy, participants will encounter Latin as it was spoken and written in the chancelleries and abbeys of the time, through texts such as the *Chronicles of Mont Saint-Michel*, the *Bayeux Tapestry*, and William of Poitiers' *Gesta Guillelmi*.

The program includes interactive lessons, guided visits conducted in Medieval Latin, and daily language practice in an engaging and convivial atmosphere. A true journey through time — between history, culture, and living speech — to revive Medieval Latin in the very places where it left its finest traces.

CONTENT

Module: *Discovering Spoken and Written Latin* (17h)



Based on the inductive-contextual method used in modern language teaching (also known as the "natural method"), this course promotes full learner engagement through active use of the target language. Participants will listen to, speak, and write Latin while naturally acquiring the grammatical and lexical automatisms that enable real communication on themes drawn from medieval Latin culture and its many classical references.

The objectives are to develop two essential skills:

• **To begin understanding medieval sources as quickly as possible without constant reliance on a dictionary or grammar.**

• **To be able to discuss these sources directly in Latin.**

The learning progression has been designed in line with the standards of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), while taking into account the specific needs of students in History and Literature who have never studied Latin before.



Module: ***Palaeography – Reading Medieval Manuscripts*** (2h30)

This module offers a gradual introduction to the reading of medieval Latin manuscripts, enabling participants to engage directly with original sources.

Working from reproductions of documents from Norman abbeys and chancelleries, students will discover the systems of abbreviations and graphic conventions used by medieval scribes.

Learning activities alternate between observation, analysis, and practical transcription exercises. Participants will learn to identify the key features of a text, transcribe it, and situate it within its material and historical context.

Complementing the "Spoken and Written Latin" module, this course provides a concrete insight into medieval written culture, bringing language and script into dialogue — philology and the hand of the scribe — for an experience of reading as close as possible to the medieval gesture itself.



Module: ***Historical Visits in Medieval Latin***

This module offers a living application of Medieval Latin through guided tours conducted in Latin, exploring emblematic sites of medieval Normandy such as Caen Castle, Bayeux Cathedral, the town of Bayeux, and the great abbeys of Caen.

These visits serve as a natural extension of language learning: they allow participants to reuse vocabulary and structures studied in class within authentic contexts, while discovering *in situ* the monuments, inscriptions, and material traces of medieval Latinity.

This immersive experience encourages active appropriation of the language through movement, perception, and dialogue; it situates Latin within its historical and tangible environment, restoring to the language its lived dimension — that of the builders, monks, and chroniclers who shaped the memory of Normandy.



ASSESSMENT

Certificate of participation + graded evaluation.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Bonioli M. (1962). *La pronuncia del latino nelle scuole, dall'antichità al*

Rinascimento. G. Giapichelli. Bourgain P. & Hubert M. C. (2005). *Le latin médiéval*.

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Goullet, M. (1999). *Apprendre le latin médiéval : manuel pour grands commençants* (2e édition revue et corrigée). Picard.

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Herren, M. W. (2002). *Latin Culture in the Eleventh Century : Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Medieval Latin Studies Cambridge, 9-12 September 1998*. Brepols éditions.

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Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft. Leoni L. & Greco M. (1972). *La pronunzia del latino :*

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Mantello F. A. C. & Rigg A. G. (1996). *Medieval Latin. An Introduction and Bibliographical Guide*. Catholic University of America Press.

Mohrmann, C. (1955). *Latin vulgaire, latin des chrétiens, latin médiéval*. C. Klincksieck.

Niermeyer, J. F. (1976). *Mediae Latinitatis lexicon minus : Lexique latin médiéval-Français/Anglais = a medieval latin- French/English dictionary . [2] . Abbreviationes et index fontium*. E.J. Brill.

Ranum, P. (1991). *Méthode de la prononciation latine dite vulgaire ou à la française. Petite méthode à l'usage des chanteurs et des récitants d'après le manuscrit de Dom Jacques le Clerc*. Actes Sud.

Sidwell K. (1995). *Reading medieval latin*. Cambridge University Press.

Parisse, M. (2006). *Manuel de paléographie médiévale : manuel pour grands commençants*. Picard.

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Provisional program subject to change; illustrations are provided for reference only.