Disputation is the formalized argument of disputants. This year, as part of the John E. Sawyer Seminar Series at UCLA, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) will present a seminar on the topic of disputation. The seminar will explore the ways of arguing in and out of the university, focusing on the academic and social roles of disputation in medieval and Renaissance contexts. With the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the seminar will bring together distinguished faculty from UCLA and other universities to discuss the history and significance of disputation in various fields such as philosophy, law, politics, and other cultural domains.

The seminar will examine the roots of disputation in ancient and medieval societies and how this practice has evolved over time. Participants will explore the historical and cultural contexts in which disputation took place and the role it played in shaping intellectual, legal, and political discourse. The seminar will also consider the impact of disputation on the development of intellectual thought and the formation of academic communities. Through this exploration, the seminar aims to provide insights into the ways in which disputation has been used to argue, defend, and challenge scholarly works, legal texts, and philosophical ideas.

The seminar will be led by Professor Christopher Baswell, who is the Distinguished Professor of German and History at the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Professor Baswell is a leading expert on the history of disputation and has written extensively on the subject. He will be joined by other distinguished scholars who will contribute to the seminar and share their expertise.

The seminar will be held at UCLA and is open to the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the speakers and participate in discussions on the topic of disputation. The seminar will conclude with a public event where the speakers will present their findings and insights. The seminar will provide a unique opportunity to learn about the history and significance of disputation and its role in the development of academic thought.

The seminar will be held from September 2007 to August 2008 and will include a series of lectures, discussions, and workshops. The seminar will be held at the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, located at 7205 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90095-1485. The seminar will be open to the public and will be held on a regular schedule. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the speakers and participate in discussions on the topic of disputation. The seminar will conclude with a public event where the speakers will present their findings and insights. The seminar will provide a unique opportunity to learn about the history and significance of disputation and its role in the development of academic thought.
Disputation: Ways of Arguing in and out of the University

CMRS Sawyer Seminar Schedule • All sessions are from 3:30-6:30 pm at UCLA in Royce Hall, Room 306, unless otherwise noted.

• October 18, 2007 — “Greek Roots: Socrates v. Gorgias on Dialectic and Eristic” — David Blank (UCLA), Sean Kelsey (UCLA), Catherine Atherton (UCLA)
• October 22, 2007 — “Qur’anic Roots: Jadhal and Disputation in Islam” — Tony Street (University of Cambridge), Hossein Ziai (UCLA) — in Royce 346
• November 6, 2007 — “Biblical Roots: Talmud, Disputation and the Torah” — Howard Wettstein (UC Riverside), Elliot Dorff (American Jewish University), William M. Schniedewind (UCLA) — from 4-7 pm
• November 13, 2007 — “Gilbert Crispin: The Disputation of a Jew with a Christian” — Howard Wettstein (UC Riverside), Steven Kruger (Queens College and Graduate Center, CUNY)
• November 20, 2007 — “Ancient Church Councils: How formal were they, and was there discussion?” — Thomas Graumann (University of Cambridge)
• November 27, 2007 — “Disputing Love: Abelard, Heloise and Bernard of Clairvaux” — Constant Mews (Monash University)
• January 29, 2008 — “John Trevisa v. Lord Berkeley: Controlling the Language of Dispute” — Rita Copeland (University of Pennsylvania)
• February 5, 2008 — “After the Condemnations of 1277: Confining Disputation” — Alex Novikoff (St. Joseph's University), Hans Thijssen (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)
• February 12, 2008 — “Chaucer's Parliament of Fowls and the Good Parliament of 1376” — W. Mark Ormrod (University of York), Henry Ansarg Kelly (UCLA)
• February 19, 2008 — “Masculine Dispute and Female Response” — Karen Sullivan (Bard College)
• February 26, 2008 — “Pico's 900 Theses: Disputation Unbounded” — Giulio Busi (Institut für Judaistik, Freie Universität Berlin)
• March 11, 2008 — “Latin v. Greek at the Council of Florence” — John Montfasani (State University of New York, Albany)
• April 8, 2008 — “Luther and the Leipzig Disputation: Dissent Disseminated” — Erika Rummel (Emmanuel College, University of Toronto), Debora Shuger (UCLA)
• April 15, 2008 — “Community Repair, Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Political and Sociological Considerations” — Jeffrey Prager (UCLA)
• April 22, 2008 — “Raphael's Disputa: Adoration and Disputation” — Marcia Hall (Temple), Franco Mormando (Boston College), Joanna Woods-Marsden (UCLA)
• April 29, 2008 — “The Valladolid Junta of 1550-51: Rights of Native Americans Disputed in Spain” — José M. Hernández (UNED), Carole Goldberg (UCLA), Anthony Pagden (UCLA)
• May 8, 2008 — “Galileo: Scientific Disputation as Courtly Performance” — Mario Biagioli (Harvard University), Margaret Jacob (UCLA)
• May 15, 2008 — “The Tragic History of Doctor Faustus: Disputing What Hell Is?” — David Riggs (Stanford), Michael J.B. Allen (UCLA), Deborah Shuger (UCLA)
• May 20, 2008 — “Epilogue: Heidegger, Cassirer and the Fracturing of Modern Western Philosophy” — Michael Friedman (Stanford)

Advance registration not required. Notice to attendees: Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking permits may be purchased for $8 from any UCLA parking services kiosk. Driving directions are available on the UCLA website at www.ucla.edu/map/driving.html.

For readings, changes of schedule, and other information, please see the regularly updated descriptions on the CMRS Sawyer Seminar website at www.cmrs.ucla.edu/sawyerseminar.html

UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies
Box 951485
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1485

cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu | 310-825-1880 | www.cmrs.ucla.edu

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