



THE NEWBERRY

## Center for Renaissance Studies

One-Day Research Skills Workshop for First-Year Graduate Students

# The Psalms, in Public and in Private

Directed by **Michael Kuczynski**, *Tulane University*

The Book of Psalms is unique among the texts of Scripture in having equally strong private and public significance. Over the course of this intensive one-day workshop, we will explore the psalter's dual nature as a private and public text, from the Middle Ages through the eighteenth century, by way of the Newberry's rich holdings in Psalms-related materials, including manuscripts (e.g. Books of Hours, Nicholas of Gorran's commentary on the Psalms), incunables (e.g. a parallel Psalterium Graeco-Latinum cum canticis), and eighteenth-century printed books (e.g. Cotton Mather's unfairly neglected translation of the Psalms from the Hebrew into blank verse, the *Psalterium Americanum*). The emphasis throughout will be on the coordination of information gleaned from rare manuscripts and books with more interpretive and speculative concerns in literary history and theory.



Latin Psalter with Hebrew letters, France or Flanders, c. 1480, Case MS 183

The workshop should be of interest to students from not only English but also Classics, Foreign Language, History, and Religious Studies concentrations. In addition to the major theme of the relationship between the Psalms as a text that influenced private devotion and public life, the seminar will take up issues concerning literary periodization (e.g., the transition from medieval to early modern literary culture) and theory of biblical translation. The workshop will be of special value to Master's students coming from programs that either do not offer a Bibliography and Methods gateway course or that only offer such instruction at the doctoral level.

*Enrollment is limited to a maximum of twelve participants. Students in their first year of a master's or Ph.D. program in any discipline of medieval, Renaissance, or early modern studies are eligible to apply. No prior knowledge of the Psalms or the various languages in which they circulated through the eighteenth century is required for participation. Priority will be given to students from Center for Renaissance Studies consortium schools.*

**Workshop: Friday, February 24, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Enrollment deadline: Friday, February 3, 2012**

**[www.newberry.org/renaissance](http://www.newberry.org/renaissance)**