



THE NEWBERRY

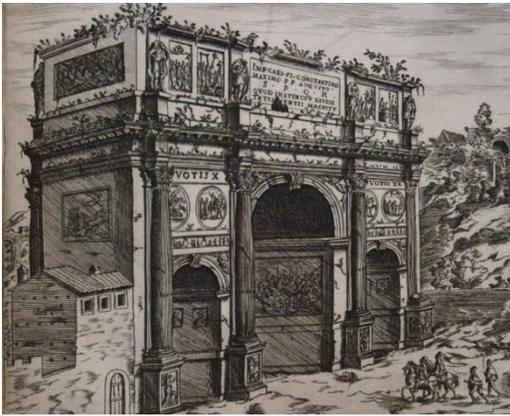
Center for Renaissance Studies

2012-2013 Graduate Seminar at the Newberry

The Conversion of Constantine, 312-2012

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Thursdays, September 27 – December 6, 2012

Professor Richard Kieckhefer, Northwestern University



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then to historical issues that have been raised regarding the motives and the significance of Constantine's turn to Christianity. We will then explore the impact of the conversion in the political, social, ecclesiastical, theological, liturgical, and artistic worlds of the 4th century. Finally, we will look at the afterlife of the man seen as the first Christian emperor: the Donation of Constantine and legends of Constantine and Sylvester, Constantine as a model for later rulers, the critique of Constantine and imperial Christianity articulated by medieval dissenters and modern Reformers, and the representation of Constantine and his era among modern historians such as Gibbon and Burckhardt.

No prerequisites.

One of the most important turning points in the history of Christianity—arguably the most important—was the conversion of Constantine in 312, which led to the toleration of Christianity and an alliance between Church and Empire.

The year 2012, the 1700th anniversary of that turning point, is an appropriate time to reexamine both the conversion itself and the multiple ways it has been perceived over the centuries.

This seminar will begin by exploring the main sources for the conversion, the writings of Eusebius and other contemporaries, and will turn

Enrollment is limited. Register online at www.newberry.org/renaissance. To earn optional credit you must also enroll in either a Newberry course at your campus (available at several Chicago-area schools) or an independent study. Contact the Center for Renaissance Studies consortium faculty representative at your home institution for your university's policies and to apply for travel reimbursement. Enrollment fees are waived for consortium members.

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