

Gutenberg, God and Grimmelshausen:

Forms and functions of popular literature in Early Modern Germany (1400-1700)

Autumn 2014 – Tu/Th 2:05-3:25 p.m. – GE Course, all books in English!



This newly designed course will explore German literature from around 1400-1700 AD against the cultural backdrop of the invention of printing by Gutenberg around 1450. We will see how print allowed new phenomena in popular culture such as the “bestseller” in works including Brant’s ‘Ship of Fools’, Martin Luther’s religious writings, and Grimmelshausen’s famous novel ‘Simplicissimus’. These works will be supplemented by other smaller works, such as religious propaganda, medicine, and alchemy.