

Faculty Seminar

Sponsored by the Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies
University of Illinois at Chicago

ASTROLOGICAL CONCILIA DEORUM IN LATE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN LATIN POETRY

by

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Friday 10 September 2010

3 PM

University Hall, room 1501

ABSTRACT: Councils of the Olympian gods are a standard feature of ancient poetry since Homer. They play a key role in releasing or redirecting epic action. In late medieval and early modern poetry, this epic technique is first used to describe astronomical conjunctions of the planets and their astrological effects allegorically. This is a poetic response to the introduction of Arabic conjunctionalism, a very popular astrological theory unknown to the ancient world, into Europe. This paper will compare three different cases from poetry of the 14th and 15th century.