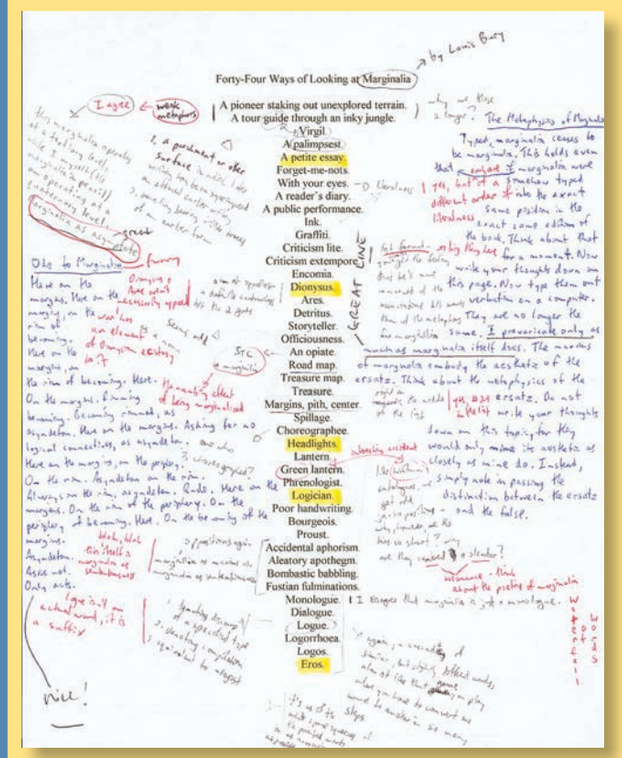

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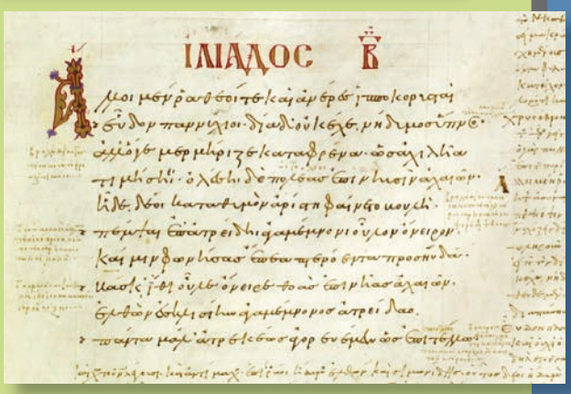

What is Commentary?

Spring 2015 Core Seminar for YISAP

"Commentary: Theory and Practice "
(Chris Kraus and Hindy Najman)
Thursdays: 1:30-3:20

This is the core seminar for YISAP, required of graduate students working toward the qualification in the Initiative but open to grad students across the University, including Yale Divinity School students. Weekly meetings will explore topics including the history, form and purpose of scholarly commentary; ancient and medieval scholiastic traditions; commentary and commentators in the academy (the place of philology); commentary and translation; reception of commentary (including a unit on Nabokov's Pale Fire). To reinforce the multi-disciplinary nature of the seminar, we will include visits by scholars who will present and discuss topics of relevance to their research and the seminar's topic. Requirements will include weekly readings and discussion; oral presentation on secondary readings; a research paper.

Fall 2014– Spring 2015 : Ancient Societies Workshop

Ed Kamens – September 5
Classical Japanese Poetics through Commentary
HGS 303

Verity Harte – October 3
Platonic Self-Commentary?
HGS 303

Steven Fraade – November 7
Early Rabbinic Midrash as Commentary: Between Philo and Qumran
WHC 208

Rina Talgam – December 5
From Wall Paintings to Floor Mosaics: Jewish and Christian Attitudes towards Figurative Art
Yale University Art Gallery, 1111 Chapel Street
Classroom Nolen 052

Emily Greenwood – January 16
The Classical Commentary: Meditations on an Elliptical Genre
WHC 208

Tony Grafton – February 6
Some Ways of Composing a Renaissance Commentary: Isaac Casaubon Explicates Polybius
HGS 303

Eckart Frahm – March 6th
Origins of Interpretation: Cuneiform Text Commentaries from Assyria and Babylonia
HGS 303

Sean Gurd – April 17
Inter-sensual Commentary
WHC 208

Dale Martin – May 1
Forgery as Commentary within the New Testament
WHC 208

Co-sponsored by the Department of Classics, Program of Judaic Studies, the Yale Divinity School, the Department of Religious Studies, Yale University Art Gallery, and the Department of History
Organizers: Christina S. Kraus and Hindy Najman