

Nikolas O. Hoel

Department of History
Northeastern Illinois University
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Education

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| Ed.D. | 2020 | Higher Education Leadership | Edgewood College Madison, Wisconsin |
| Ph.D. | 2013 | Medieval European and Byzantine History | University of Wisconsin Madison, Wisconsin |
| M.A. | 2006 | Medieval European History | University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado |
| B.A. | 1999 | History and Religious Studies | Lawrence University Appleton, Wisconsin |

Professional Experience

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| August 2010-present | Full-Time Instructor, Department of History and Affiliated Faculty, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois |
| January 2018-present | Adjunct Instructor, Department of History, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois |

Teaching Interests

Medieval and Byzantine Religious, Intellectual, and Cultural History
Greek and Roman History
Historical Methods and Research Skills

Teaching Experience

I teach undergraduate and graduate courses in European religious history in face-to-face, hybrid, and formats. I teach lower division Western and World Civilization survey courses. My upper division interdisciplinary classes focus on ancient, medieval, and early modern Europe, and Byzantium. I have taught the History Department's required Writing and Methods course which trains students in the fundamentals of writing, theory, and practice. I have directed the research seminar where majors complete individualized research, prepare a major paper and present their research in a conference-like format. All my courses focus on the critical analyses of primary and secondary sources. In addition, I have taught courses in the interdisciplinary Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Non-Traditional Degree Programs. I have mentored students' honors and McNair Program projects and advised them regarding degree completion and career planning. I work to create a safe classroom environment using of high impact and culturally relevant pedagogies where students express and challenge different ideas.

Courses Taught

Instructor, Northeastern Illinois University

- HIST 110, "World History I: From the Origins of Civilization to 1500"
 HIST 111A, "The West to 1500"— **in both Face-to-Face and Online Formats**
 HIST 111B, "The West from 1500-Present"—**Online Instruction**
 HIST 112, "World History II: Global Conventions and Conflicts Since 1500"
 HIST 215, "U.S. History, 1877-Present"—in both **Remote and Online Formats**
 HIST 275/HIST 300W, "Writing and Methods for History Majors"
 HIST 300A, "Ancient Greece"—**in both Face-to-Face and Online Formats**
 HIST 300B, "Ancient Rome"—**in both Face-to-Face and Online Formats**
 HIST 301, "Medieval Europe"—**Face-to-Face Instruction**
 HIST 301, "Medieval Europe"—**Online Instruction** (Part of the Theme semester
 on Climate Change—Spring 2020).
 HIST 301C, "The Crusades"
 HIST 311A, "England to 1688"—**in both Face-to-Face and Online Formats**
 HIST 315, "Women in Medieval Society"
 HIST 392, "Problems in History: Survey of Byzantine History"
 HIST 392, "Problems in History: Saints and Sinners in the Middle Ages"
 HIST 392, "Problems in History: The Crusades"
 HIST 392, "Problems in History: Reform and Religion in the Age of Constantine"
 HIST 393, "Capstone Seminar in History"
 HIST 395A, "Independent Study: Late Roman Empire"
 HIST 395A, "Independent Study: Early Medieval Intellectual History"
 HIST 410, "Graduate Readings in Medieval History"
 HIST 490, "Graduate Independent Study in History: Climate and the Environment
 in Medieval Society"

 ENG 101, "Writing 1"
 NDP 305, "Introduction to Library Research and Information Fluency"—**in both
 Face-to-Face and Online Formats**
 NDP 310, "Diversity in the Workplace"
 UWW 303, "Independent Study: The Social and Cultural Context of Early
 Christianity"
 UWW 303, "Independent Study: Introduction to Early Christian Writers"

Adjunct Instructor, Dominican University

- HIST 261, "Greek Civilization: The Golden Age of Greece"—**In Face-to-Face,
 Hybrid, and Online Formats**
 HIST 262, "The Roman World"—**In Both Face-to Face and Online Formats**
 HIST 267, "The Crusade and Jihad"
 HIST 271, "The Viking World"
 HIST 273, "The Byzantine Empire"
 HIST 275, "Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Europe"
 HIST 276, "The Fall of Rome"

Teaching Awards

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| Instructor Excellence Award | Northeastern Illinois University | 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2019-2020; 2022-2023 |
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Awardees are nominated for the teaching excellence award by their department Chair, recommended by a committee of their peers, and selected by the university Provost and President based on the quality of their teaching and commitment to students.

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| Instructor Educational Leave | Northeastern Illinois University | Fall 2018 |
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I was awarded education leave to pursue research for a semester without teaching. I was the only instructor at the university that year to receive leave for research purposes. I used that time to finish two articles that have since been published in peer-reviewed journals.

Foreign Languages

Latin - High Reading and Writing Proficiency
 French - High Reading, Writing, and Speaking Proficiency
 German - High Reading, Writing, and Speaking Proficiency
 Italian - High Reading Proficiency, Average Writing and Speaking Proficiency
 Ancient Greek - Reading Proficiency

Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association
 Medieval Academy of America
 American Academy of Religion
 Byzantine Studies Association of North America
 Illinois Medieval Association
 Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association
 Hagiography Society

Research Interests

My research centers on the intellectual, religious, and cultural history of the Early Middle Ages and Late Antiquity in both western Europe and Byzantine. I look at connections and comparisons between different regions of the Mediterranean basin and the premodern world more generally. I am particularly interested in hagiography (texts that describe the lives of saints and other venerated individuals) and monasticism. I am currently writing a book that looks at how ideas surrounding monasticism were shared and influenced each other in the early medieval world. My hope is that this work will move the field forward by demonstrating that the religious and intellectual landscape of the Early Middle Ages was more complex and global than scholars assumed in the past. It should also help students and scholars working in the field to see more clearly the connections between different regions of the premodern world. When I finish this book, I will continue this line of scholarship by completing studies on the Mediterranean-wide influences on other early medieval thinkers.

Publications

Journal Articles (Peer reviewed)

- Hoel, N.O. “Making it Matter: Hagiology in a 21st-Century Classroom.” *Religions* 15, no. 1 (2024): 139. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15010139>
- Hoel, N. O. “Moving the North: Rimbert, the *Vita Anskarii*, and *Cynocephali*.” *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia* 17 (2021).
- Hoel, N. O. “Hues of Martyrdom: Monastic and Lay Asceticism in Two Homilies of Gregory the Great on the Gospels.” *The Downside Review* 138 (2020): 3-18.
- Hoel, N. O. “Response: Comparison as a Provisional Activity.” *Religions* 11, no. 11 (2020): 36. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11010036>

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Hoel, N. O. “Communal and Individual Monastic Identity in Gregory the Great’s *Dialogues*.” in *The Monastic Dimension of Identity Politics*, ed. by Massimo Rondolino, Emilia Jamroziak, Dean Accardi, Marco Papisidero (ARC-Humanities Press)—**Forthcoming October 2024**
- Hoel, N. O. “A Study of the Unexpected: The Advantages of Being the ‘Lone Medievalist.’” In *The Ballad of the Lone Medievalist*, edited by Kisha G. Tracy and John Sexton, 221-226. Brooklyn: Punctum Books, 2018.

Edited Volumes

- Hoel, N.O. and Walker, L.M. *Saints, Sanctity, and Crisis in Medieval and Early Modern Hagiography* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press)—**Proposal under Review**
- Hoel, N.O. and Jasper, K., ed. *Essays in Medieval Studies: The Journal of the Illinois Medieval Association* 39—**Forthcoming 2025**
- Hoel, N.O. and Flavin, C., ed. *Essays in Medieval Studies: The Journal of the Illinois Medieval Association* 37 (2023)

Book Reviews

- Review of Livia Cárdenas, *The Texture of Images: The Relic Book in Late Medieval Religiosity and Early Modern Aesthetics* (Leiden: Brill, 2021) in *Renaissance Quarterly*, 76 (2023): 1176-1177.
- Review of Jennifer Awes Freeman, *The Good Shepherd; Image, Meaning, and Power* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2022) in *The Journal of Religious Medieval Culture*, 49 (2023): 140-143.
- Review of Scott G. Bruce, ed., *Litterarum dulces fructus: Studies in Honour of Michael W. Herren for his 80th Birthday* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2021) in *The Medieval Review*. 23.02.11.
- Review of Gordon Levy, *Beyond Heaven and Earth: A Cognitive Theory of Religion* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2022) in *Religious Studies Review*, 48 (2022): 380.
- Review of Andrew M. Beresford, *Sacred Skin: The Legend of St. Bartholomew in*

Spanish Art and Literature (Leiden: Brill, 2020) in *Renaissance Quarterly*, 75 (2022): 286-287.

Review of Göran Larsson, Andreas Nordin, and Jonas Svensson, eds., *Building Blocks of Religion: Critical Application and Future Prospects* (Sheffield, England: Equinox Publishing, Ltd., 2020) in the *Religious Studies Review*, 48 (2022): 249.

Review of Christian Raffensperger and David Olster (eds), *Radical Traditionalism: The Influence of Walter Kaegi in Late Antique, Byzantine, and Medieval Studies* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2019) in *The Medieval Review*. 21.06.17.

Review of Joyce E. Salisbury, *Rome's Christian Empress: Gallia Placidia Rules at the Twilight of Empire* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015) in *The Medieval Review*. 16.05.21.

“The End of an Era: John Wills Jr’s *1688: A Global History as a Capstone*” in *Quidditas, The Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association*, 35 (2014): 323-237.

Book in Preparation

Hoel, N. O. *Gregory the Great and the Development of Monasticism: Letters, Theology, and Hagiography*. (Initial Chapter awaiting peer-review by Brepols Publishing)

Article Manuscripts in Preparation

Hoel, N. O. “Gregory of Tours and the *Episcopalis Audientia*: An Issue of Authorial Purpose.”

Hoel, N. O. “The Strange Case of the *Graptoi*: A Case Study of Ninth-Century Byzantine Sanctity, Religious Authority, and Disfigurement.”

Hoel, N. O. “The Intersectional Middle Ages: Making Medieval Studies Relevant at an HSI.”

Professional Presentations

Hoel, N. O. “Mitigating Potential Crisis through Hagiography and Rites.” Session moderator at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2024.

Hoel, N. O. “A Disappointed Saint?: Perspectives on the Lack of Martyrdom in the Life of Anskar.” Paper to be presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2024.

Hoel, N. O. “Saints, Sanctity, Hagiography and Crisis I: Promoting Saints’ Cults as a Response to Socio-Economic Crisis.” Session Co-organizer and Moderator at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2024.

Hoel, N. O. “Saints, Sanctity, Hagiography and Crisis II: The English Case.” Session Co-organizer and Moderator at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2024.

Hoel, N. O. “Saints, Sanctity, Hagiography and Crisis III: The Holy Crisis of Individuals in the Long Twelfth Century.” Session Co-organizer at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2024.

Hoel, N. O. “Gregory of Tours’s *Book of the Miracles of the Blessed Andrew the Apostle* (A Roundtable).” Roundtable participant at the 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2024.

- Hoel, N. O. "Epistemology and Papal Networks: Monasticism in the Letters of Gregory the Great." Paper presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2023.
- Hoel, N. O. "Disfigurement as Power in Byzantium: The Literary Representation of the Strange Case of the 'Graptoi'." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado November 2022.
- Hoel, N. O. "Holy Death, People and Places: Reincarnation, Resurrection, Martyrdom, and the Ambiguity of Death." Session moderator at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 2022.
- Hoel, N. O. "Decentering the "Saint" in Comparative Hagiology: Terminology and Translation from Diverse Traditions." Roundtable participant at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 2022.
- Hoel, N. O. "Global Saints, Global Holiness (A Roundtable)." Paper presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2022.
- Hoel, N. O. "Identity, Poverty, and Trauma." Session moderator at the Illinois Medieval Association Symposium. Virtual, February 2022.
- Hoel, N. O. "Teaching the Saints Through Comparative Pedagogy." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual, November 2021.
- Hoel, N. O. "Rolling in the Thorns: The Influence of Eastern Mediterranean Hagiographies on Gregory the Great's Views on Monasticism." Paper presented at the International Medieval Congress, Virtual, July 2021.
- Hoel, N. O. "Byzantine Foreheads Disfigured: The Inversion of the Perfection of the Body in The Curious Case of *Graptoi*." Paper presented at the 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Virtual, May 2021.
- Hoel, N. O. "MedievAltAc: Thriving as Nontraditional/Contingent/Independent Scholar (A Roundtable)." Session moderator at the 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Virtual, May 2021.
- Hoel, N. O. "The Curious Case of the *Graptoi*: Disability and Authority in Byzantium." Paper presented at the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Digital Workshop, Virtual, October 2020.
- Hoel, N. O. "The Cosmos of a Late Antique Roman Aristocrat: The Here and Now of Macobius' *Commentarii Somnium Scipionis*." Paper presented at the International Medieval Congress, Virtual, July 2020.
- Hoel, N. O. "Teaching Comparison." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California, November 2019.
- Hoel, N. O. "To be Written Upon: The Odd Case of the Deformity of Theodore and Theophanes *Graptoi*." Paper presented at the 45th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, October 2019.
- Hoel, N. O. "Communal and Individual Monastic Identity in Gregory the Great's *Dialogues*." Paper presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2019.
- Hoel, N. O. "Power Matters: Hagiography Rhetoric and Patronal Dynamics in Historiographical Sources." Session Respondent and Moderator at International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2019.
- Hoel, N. O. "Monasticism in the Homilies of Gregory the Great." Paper presented at the 21st Biennial Symposium of the International Medieval Sermon Studies Society, Bristol, England, July 2018.

- Hoel, N. O. "Comparative Hagiography Workshop: Cross-Cultural Approaches to Religious Life Writings." Workshop facilitator at Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2017.
- Hoel, N. O. "Gregory the Great and Monasticism: The Hagiographic Evidence." Paper presented at the 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2017.
- Hoel, N. O. "Gregory of Tours and the *Episcopalis Audientia*: An Issue of Authorial Purpose." Paper presented at the Fourth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University, St. Louis Missouri, June 2016.
- Hoel, N. O. "The Ballad of the Lone Medievalist." Roundtable participant at the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2015.
- Hoel, N. O. "Capgrave and Katherine: A Religious Response." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Berlin, Germany, March 2015.
- Hoel, N. O. "Religious Women and Reform." Session chair at the Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Berlin, Germany, March 2015.
- Hoel, N. O. "Christian and Buddhist Holy Women in the Seventh through Ninth Century: A Comparative Approach to Global Sanctity." Paper Presented at the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2014.
- Hoel, N. O. "Global Fasting, Regional Suicide: A Comparison of Asceticism in the Hagiography of Seventh-through Ninth-Century Europe, Byzantium, and China." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-American Medieval Association, Columbia, Missouri, February 2014.
- Hoel, N. O. "Holy Travel of Latin and Greek Saints in the Seventh through Ninth Century: A Comparative Study." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Knoxville, Tennessee, April 2013.
- Hoel, N. O. "The Purpose of Pilgrimage in Carolingian Europe and Tang China: A Comparative Approach." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the World History Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 2012.
- Hoel, N. O. "Superhero Ascetics: The Most Extreme Forms of Practice in Carolingian Europe and Tang China." Paper presented at the Northeastern Illinois University's 2nd Annual Faculty Research & Creative Activities Symposium, Chicago, Illinois, November 2011.
- Hoel, N. O. "Defining the North: Rimbert and the *Vita Anskarii*." Paper presented at the Newberry Library Graduate Conference, Chicago, Illinois, January 2008.
- Hoel, N. O. "Representing Gender." Panel commentator at the Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary Conference, Boulder, Colorado, September 2004.
- Hoel, N. O. "The Inclusion of the *Episcopalis Audientia* and the Notoriety of Bishops in *The History of the Franks*." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference, Durango, Colorado, May 2004.

Upcoming Professional Presentations

Invited Talks

- Hoel, N. O. "Herbs, Blood-Letting, and Goat Skins: Women's Medicine in the Middle Ages" Björklunden Gala: Afternoon College Session. Door County, Wisconsin. August 2024.

- Hoel, N. O. “Where do we come from? Where do we go? And Everything in Between: Mythology Across Time and Across the Universe” (a week-long seminar). 2024 Björklunden Seminars. Door County, Wisconsin. August 2024.
- Hoel, N. O. “The Strange Case of the “*Graptoi*”: Disability, Religion, and Power in Byzantium.” Bowling State Green University. March 2024.
- Hoel, N. O. “Pillagers, Traders, Farmers, and Dragons: A Journey through the Viking World” (a week-long seminar). 2023 Björklunden Seminars. Door County, Wisconsin. July 2023.
- Hoel, N. O. “After the Fall of Rome: From Caesar to King and From Jupiter to Jesus in 500 Years” (a week-long seminar). 2022 Björklunden Seminars. Door County, Wisconsin. June 2022.
- Hoel, N. O. “Wine Windows and Fleas: The Black Death and the Environment in the context of Covid-19.” A Presentation for the Northeastern Illinois University History Department Undergraduate Welcome Event. September 2020.
- Hoel, N. O. “From Pericles to the Black Death: The Environment and Pandemics in the Pre-modern World.” Learning@Lawrence Online Series. Lawrence University, August 2020.
- Hoel, N. O. “The *Aeneid*,” Seminar for New Trier High School Teachers of “World Studies.” Chicago, Illinois. January 2020.
- Hoel, N. O. “Journey to the East: Crusading in the Middle Ages” (a week-long seminar). 2018 Björklunden Seminars. Door County, Wisconsin. August 2018.
- Hoel, N. O. “Civilization and its Discontents: A Sketch of Intellectual History in the 1920s.” Rockford University. February 2017.
- Hoel, N. O. “Mulieres Sacrae and Sheng Mu: A Comparison of Christian and Buddhist Holy Women in the Seventh through Ninth Century,” Northeastern Illinois Phi Alpha Theta Address, Chicago, Illinois, February 2015.

Upcoming Invited Talk

- Hoel, N. O. “Saints and Sinners in the Middle Ages” (a week-long seminar). 2025 Björklunden Seminars. Door County, Wisconsin. Summer 2025.

Academic Committees

University Committees

2022-2024 Faculty Senate
(Chair 2023-2024)

2016-2022 University Advisory Council, Northeastern Illinois University
(Chair, 2020-2022)

(The Council is made up of representatives of all the major constituency groups on campus and directly advises the President regarding university-wide concerns such as retention and recruitment of both students and faculty, campus safety, and equity, diversity, and inclusion issues. As Chair, I lead the Council’s meetings, set the agenda for those meetings, consult directly with the President and her cabinet, and serve as a liaison to other academic bodies on campus.)

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| Spring 2022 | Chief Marketing Officer Search and Screen Committee, Northeastern Illinois University (National External Search) |
| Spring 2021 | Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer Search and Screen Committee, Northeastern Illinois University (National External Search) |
| Fall 2020 | IASPARP Excellence Award Committee Member, Northeastern Illinois University (This committee vetted applications and made recommendations regarding which instructors and advisers ought to receive Excellence Awards for the 2018-2019 academic year) |
| Fall 2019 | Associate Provost Search and Screen Committee, Northeastern Illinois University (University-Wide, Internal Search) |
| Spring 2019 | Provost Search and Screen Committee, Northeastern Illinois University (National External Search) |
| 2017-2018 | Prioritization Task Force on “Other Administrative Units,” Northeastern Illinois University (This committee was part of an effort to evaluate all of the units on campus. It assessed all non-academic and non-student affairs units and made recommendations regarding places for growth, Improvement, consolidation, or reduction) |

Department Committees

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| 2024-present | Graduate Program Director |
| 2016-present | Scholarship Committee, Department of History, Northeastern Illinois University (This committee selects the annual student recipients of the NEIU History Department scholarships) |
| 2010-present | Department Instructor Personnel Committee, Department of History, Northeastern Illinois University (This committee provides peer-evaluation of the department’s instructors and makes recommendations for their retention and improvement) |

Service to the Field

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| 2015-2021 | Nominations Chair, Hagiography Society |
| 2021-present | Councilor, Illinois Medieval Association |

Professional Development Seminars

- Participant, “Introduction to the Critical Study of Race in the Middle Ages,” Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, November 2022
- Participant, “Creating Presence in Your Online Course,” Quality Matters, July-August 2021
- Participant, “Connecting Learning Theories to Your Teaching Strategies,” Quality Matters, July 2021
- Participant, “Open Educational Resources Workshop,” Northeastern Illinois University, April-August 2021

Participant, "Improving Your Online Design Course," Quality Matters, August 2020

Participant, Online Design Course, Northeastern Illinois University, Center for Teaching and Learning, Spring 2017

Participant, Summer Medieval Latin and Intensive Latin Review, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana (Summer 2005)

Participant, A.C.M. Newberry Library Program, Chicago, Illinois, "Unmasking Gender," Fall 1998 (A semester long off-campus program which included a group seminar and an extensive research project)