

BOOK OF HOURS

In Robert Maxwell's freshman seminar, "Reading" Medieval Art at Penn, students get their hands on a 15th-century illuminated manuscript in Van Pelt's Rare Book & Manuscript Library. The prayer book is in Latin, but there's no language prerequisite. "I'm asking them to place themselves in the position of a young Medieval reader, who would have learned to read—and also learn Latin—by reading a *Book of Hours* just like this one," says the associate professor of art history. The Penn students, like their counterparts in the Middle Ages, use the manuscript's artwork as a clue to Latin text they don't understand.

