The Late Middle Ages: An Introduction

HUM 212: Western Heritage II
The Book of Hours

Painted in the first decades of the fifteenth century, only a few years after Chaucer’s death in 1400, the De Berry Book of Hours provides a unique glimpse of life in medieval Europe.
The Book of Hours

The entire volume combines the functions of prayer book, religious calendar, and almanac with the art of manuscript illumination long practiced in European monasteries.

September
Considered as cultural artifacts, what do these illustrations say about life at the beginning of the fifteenth century?

What were the structures that ordered and bounded their daily lives?

June
Seasonal Structures

December
SPRING: Ploughing

March
SUMMER: Shearing

July
FALL: Harvesting

September
WINTER: Resting

February
SPRING: Marrying

April
SUMMER: Riding

May
SUMMER: Hunting
WINTER: Feasting

January
Image Credits

Paintings from *Les Trés Riches Heures* are archived at

http://humanities.uchicago.edu/images/heures/heures.html