Different Kinds of Medieval Manuscripts Used as Prayer Books

Content and Objectives of the Lecture and Group Work on the Lecture Topic:

When talking about medieval manuscripts which served as prayer books, one will have to mention the term liturgy, more precisely the *liturgia horarum* (Liturgy of the Hours, etc.). Since the Middle Ages this liturgy also was known as office or *officium divinum*.

That prayer of religious people or clerics structured the everyday life, and was performed at certain hours of the day. The texts for the liturgy were recorded in different books and used by different actors. As a collectively performed prayer it followed a special structure which still is nearly the same in contemporary liturgy.

For praying a variety of liturgical manuscripts was needed (hymnals, psalters, lectionaries, antiphonals etc.), which were combined at a later time in a single type of book.

The lecture will attempt a brief historical overview on the development of the office until the High Middle Ages. It describes the structure of the prayer and finally introduces some types of the manuscripts used.

Objectives of the lecture: Students should get an impression of the development of liturgical prayer in Western Europe and the variety of books needed for it. They will be confronted with Latin manuscripts and the structure of prayer.
Assignment:

Interest in liturgical history, history of books. Good knowledge of the course of liturgy.

Readings:
