In 1963 the Humanities Group at The Johns Hopkins University initiated a five-year series of graduate seminars devoted to the study of a particular period or topic. These are designed to bring to the campus distinguished visiting scholars and are open to graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty members.

As a part of this program, the 1964–65 Mediaeval Seminars concentrated on the period of the Middle Ages and brought to the University Walter Ullmann, who conducted his seminar in “Problems of Social and Political Theory.” This, like other seminars in the series, was paralleled by the teaching of related graduate courses.