

E379S 35155, Spring 2010, T/Th 12:30-1:45 PM, GAR 2.214

**Senior Seminar: Medieval Women Readers and Writers in England**

Marjorie Curry Woods, marjoriwoods@austin.utexas.edu

Office hours (may be changed): Tuesdays, 2-4 PM and by appt., Calhoun 218 (471-8380)

**REQUIRED BOOKS:**

*The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, including Abelard's *Historia Calamitatum* (Penguin; revised edition by Clanchy, 2003)

*Life of Christina of Markyate* (Oxford)

*The Lais of Marie de France* (Penguin)

Millett and Wogan-Browne, *Medieval English Prose for Women* (MEPW [Oxford])

De Hamel, *Scribes and Illuminators* (U of Toronto)

*Book of Margery Kemp* (Norton Critical Edition, ed. Staley)

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS<sup>1</sup>

Jan 19 and 21

*Lais of Marie de France*; bring book to class if possible. Introduction and first four *lais*.

Jan 26 and 28

Finish *Lais* (four per class); review introduction.

Feb 2 and 4

*Life of Christina of Markyate*.

Feb 9 and 11

*Letters of Abelard and Heloise*: Letter 1: *Historia calamitatum*; and Letter 2: "The Letters of Heloise and Abelard in Today's Scholarship" (lviii-lxvii; can start on earlier Introduction assigned next week).

Feb 16

*Letters*, "Chronology" and earlier "Introduction" (ix-lvii); Letters 3, 4, 5, and as much as possible of 6.

Feb 18

**Class meets in PCL 1.339 (on ground floor behind map room)** for special lecture by Lindsey Schell, English and Women's Studies Bibliographer. Look for scholarly article for first writing assignment.

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<sup>1</sup> The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as circumstances require. Students who miss a class are required to find out about class discussion and any changes in assignments or due dates from other members of the class.

Feb 23

*Medieval English Prose for Women (MEPW)*: Introduction through p. xx and *A Letter on Virginity*; discuss **prompt** of review of scholarly article.

Feb 25

*MEPW* Intro. through p. xxv; begin *Sainte Margarete*.

**[FRIDAY Feb 26]**

**Analysis (2-4 pp.) of scholarly article due by 5PM in door slot of Calhoun 218.**

Mar 2 and 4

Finish *Sainte Margarete*; *Scribes and Illuminators*, ch. 1. **Begin discussing research papers.**

Mar 9

*Scribes and Illuminators*, ch. 2; in-class transcription exercise.

Mar 11

*Scribes and Illuminators*, ch. 3; handout on Books of Hours; **CLASS MEETS IN RANSOM CENTER (HRC) to look at medieval manuscripts.**

Mar 16 and 18

[NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK]

Mar 23

*MEPW*: finish Introduction; *Ancrene Wisse* Parts 7 and 8.

Mar 25

**One-page outlines, lists of questions, or bibliographies of research papers due and discussed in class.** Start bringing *MLA Handbook* to class.

Mar 30 and Apr 1

Introduction and *Book of Margery Kempe*, Book I.1-47 (section numbers); Contexts, pp. 202-218, and Criticism by Atkinson and Staley.

Apr 6 and 8

**Begin drafting research papers.**

Apr. 13 and 15

*Kempe*, I.48-89; Contexts, 218-222, and Criticism by Lochrie, Aers. and Ashley.

Apr 20 and 22

*Kempe*, Book II; Criticism by Gibson, Beckwith, and Bynum.

**[FRIDAY Apr 23]**

**Formal drafts (text 10-15 pages, not counting notes and bibliography) of research papers due by 5PM.**

Apr 27 and 29

## Student Reports on Research Projects with Annotated Bibliographies

May 4 and 6

Student Reports on Research Projects with Annotated Bibliographies.

**FINAL DRAFTS of Research Papers due by 5PM on TUESDAY, May 11, in door slot of Calhoun 218; may be submitted earlier.**

### NOTES:

There will be no midterm or final examination. Therefore, attendance and participation in class discussion are required and constitute 40% of your grade. Assigned texts must be brought to class; readings in *The MLA Handbook* will be added as the class goes on, and you will find it helpful to bring this book to all classes as soon as you have chosen your research topic.

Each student will present a short oral report (8-10 minutes) on one of the reading assignments during the semester and a longer oral report (15 minutes) at the end of the semester on his or her research topic. The short oral report on the reading assignment will be accompanied by a one-page handout consisting of questions, quotations from the text, analysis, or critical commentary on the work read. The longer oral report on the research topic will be accompanied by a one- or two-page annotated bibliography. (The bibliography attached to the research paper does not have to be annotated. The annotations on this handout are for the other students in the class.)

Other written work includes a review (2-4 pages; prompt to be handed out in class) of a scholarly article due early in the semester that can be revised after grading; several ungraded but required assignments related to the research paper; and the paper itself. The ungraded assignments include short descriptions of the proposed topic, a list of questions to be answered or an outline of or bibliography for the proposed paper, and most importantly a formal draft of the research paper. This draft should be a complete paper with full and complete bibliographical references and annotations; think of this assignment as a final draft that you will have a chance to revise. (All of these requirements will be discussed fully in class.) **Late rough drafts will result in a lower grade on the final paper; late final drafts will not be accepted.** Keep copies of all written work submitted, including rough drafts. Turn in a stamped envelope with the final draft of the research paper if you wish it to be returned to you. All papers are to be double spaced, printed in 12-pt type, with borders of one or one-and-a-quarter inches. Put your name on (and number the pages of) your papers and handouts. All written work may be turned in early either in class or in the door slot of Calhoun 218.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.