



English 301: Medieval Women and Literature

THIS COURSE MEETS THE BRITISH LITERATURE BEFORE 1800 REQUIREMENT FOR ENGLISH MAJORS AND MINORS

This course introduces students to the literature written by, for, or about women during the Middle Ages. We will read romances, love letters, mystical and visionary texts, virgin martyr biographies, courtly literature, autobiographies, and medical treatises on women and their many "secrets." As we read, we will consider the role of writing and reading in constructing medieval understandings of gender and in organizing the female body. Readings will be in Middle and Modern English but no experience with medieval literature or Middle

English language is required. Course requirements will include essays, oral presentations, exams, and enthusiastic participation in class discussion.

Texts may include:

Chaste Passions: Medieval English Virgin Martyr Legends
The Book of Margery Kempe
The Distaff Gospels
The Lais of Marie de France
The Letters of Abelard and Heloise
The Life of Christina Mirabilis
The Life of Christina of Markyate
The Life of Elizabeth of Spalbeek
The Revelations of Julian of Norwich
Women's Secrets: A Translation of Pseudo Albertus

WINTER 2012

Instructor: Vickie Larsen

Meeting Times: Mon and Wed, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Location: French Hall 351

