syllabus for 350:390 Women in Medieval Literature
CAROL HEFFERNAN (She/Her)

All Sections

Dec 19 at 4:36pm

No unread replies. No replies.

Professor Carol F. Heffernan

350:390 Women in Medieval Literature

Spring 2023

Required Texts:

The Letters of Abelard and Heloise, trans. Betty Radice (Penguin)
Christine de Pizan, Book of the City of Ladies, trans. Earl J. Richards (Persea)
The Lais of Marie de France, trans. Keith Busby and Glyn Burgess (Penguin)
Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love (Penguin)
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Patience, and Pearl, trans. Marie Boroff (W. W. Norton)
Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde, trans. Barry Windeatt (Oxford World Classics)
Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales (Complete), ed. Larry Benson (Houghton-Mifflin)

Written work: There will be four papers on assigned topics, each approximately five pages long. There will also be an exam at the last meeting, but there will be no final exam.

Reading assignments: All texts should be read ahead of the day assigned so that students will be able to take part in class discussions and follow instructor commentary.

T Jan. 17 Introduction
WORKS WRITTEN BY WOMEN

Th 19 FEMALE MYSTICS: Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love

T 24 Julian continued

Th 26 Margery Kempe, her Book

T 31 Margery continued

Th Feb. 2 ROMANCE and the Lais of Marie de France. PAPER #1 DUE (topic choices: 1) Margery Kempe, mystic or mad woman OR 2) Julian of Norwich, the nature of her visions)

T 7 Marie continued

Th 9 The Letters of Abelard and Heloise

T 14 The Letters of Abelard and Heloise

Th 16 Christine de Pizan, The Book of the City of Ladies

T 21 Christine de Pizan, The Book of the City of Ladies. PAPER #2 DUE (topic : What does the relationship of Abelard and Heloise teach us about women in the middle ages?)

WOMEN IN WORKS BY MEN

Th 23 CHAUCER’S WOMEN: THE CANTERBURY TALES
The Wife of Bath. General Prologue portrait. Prologue and Tale

T 28 The Wife of Bath continued

Th Mar. 2 Alisoun: The Miller’s Tale; old man/young wife


Th 9 The Clerk’s Tale: “Patient Griselda”

Spring recess, Sat. March 11th to Sun. March 19th

T 21 Another Pious Woman: Custance (The Man of Law’s Tale). PAPER #3 DUE (topic choices: 1) the Wife of Bath OR 2) Alisoun [from the Miller’s Tale])

Th 23 Cunning Women: The Shipman’s Tale

T 28 Cunning Women: The Merchant’s Tale

Th 30 “SLYDYNG OF CORAGE”—TROILUS AND CRISEYDE

T Apr 4 T & C continued

Th 6 T & C continued. PAPER #4 DUE (topic to be announced)

T 11 The Pearl Poet (or Gawain poet)

Temptress: SGGK
Th 13 SGGK

T 18 Allegorical Woman: Pearl

Th 20 Pearl

T 25 Medieval lyrics to be distributed

Th 27 EXAM

Classes end