

History 100D  
Fall term, 1983

Instructor: Miss Keefe  
Chambers 331  
ext. 211

Office hours: M-F, 9-11 &  
by appt.

### WOMEN OF THE MIDDLE AGES

#### Description:

The course catalogue describes History 100 as "an introduction to the study of history designed to introduce students to the nature of historical thinking, research, and writing. Course topics will vary, but all sections will concentrate on developing skills essential to historical inquiry." The first step to developing the skills of a historian is to read a lot of history. To know "how" to read a history book may sound strange, but it is a skill, acquired only by much practice. The aims of this course are first, to read and enjoy history; second, to recognize a primary source from a secondary source; and third, by reading several different kinds of primary sources, to begin to develop a set of criteria for establishing the full value as well as the limitations of a medieval work for giving us a true picture of the Middle Ages.

The topic of this course is "Women of the Middle Ages." This is a subject of lively interest, especially provocative to our modern assumptions. In this area we must be extra careful to lay aside our feelings and values and listen to another age. The topic is excellent for developing imaginative research skills and becoming familiar with the kinds of sources available for studying women. Numerous primary sources are becoming available in English translations --works written by medieval women and works in which medieval women are described (such as law codes, trial proceedings, and saints' lives).

Finally, an aim of the course is to develop a sensitivity to the historical context in which a work was written. In the lectures I will sensitize you to asking of each work such questions as: who wrote it? when? why? what popularity did it have? among whom? when and where? Also in the lectures I will talk to you about a variety of subjects related to the historical context of the books we will be reading --sometimes this will be filling you in on general history (for which you have Claster, The Medieval Experience 300-1400 as a basic textbook), sometimes discussing a particular theme, such as monasticism, canon law, witchcraft, heresy, etc.

#### Requirements:

Please purchase the following books in the bookstore:

N. F. Cantor & R. I. Schneider, How to Study History  
J. N. Claster, The Medieval Experience 300-1400  
A. C. Meisel & M. L. del Mastro, transls., The Rule of St. Benedict  
B. Radice, transl., The Letters of Abelard and Heloise  
Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Montaillou  
E. A. Peers, transl., The Life of Teresa of Jesus: the Auto-  
biography of St. Teresa of Avila  
Louise Collis, Memoirs of a Medieval Woman: The Life and  
Times of Margery Kempe

The titles are given in the order that we will be reading them, except that Claster will be interspersed. There will be three very brief written assignments (3-5 pp.) due following your reading of 1) The Rule and Abelard and Heloise, 2) Montaillou, and 3) The Life of Teresa. There will also be a final "review" (exam). The three assignments and exam will be designed to make you assess each primary work critically, in whatever creative manner you choose. (This may take the form, for example, of imitating a medieval work, acting out a medieval trial, directing a medieval play, in light of your research on the work's context and author's purpose).

A few things bear emphasis: first, it is essential to the course that you keep up with the weekly reading assignments (see below). They are closely coordinated with the lectures and what you get out of the lectures will depend on your faithfulness to the assignments. Second, attendance is important (students who miss more than 25% --10 classes-- automatically fail the course) and will be taken into consideration in determining your final grade. (I realize there are legitimate reasons that come up for missing class, so please come and explain any). Third, the class will normally meet Mon., Tues., and Wed. from 2:00-2:50 for lecture and Fri., 2:00-2:50 for a discussion session on that week's reading and any questions you have from the lectures. Thursday is a free period for you to catch up with the reading if necessary or to come see me individually about papers, etc., if you wish. The Friday discussion I consider of equal importance to the lecture classes and your participation in the discussions will count in determining your final grade.

A final note: I do not intend that the lecture classes be strictly formal. I will always welcome your questions and comments in them.

Schedule (assignments are DUE on the date given):

WEEK

I	Wed., Sept. 7	Introductory class
	Fri., Sept. 9	Cantor, <u>How to Study History</u> , pp. 22-47, 96-103, 106-116 DISCUSSION
II	Mon., Sept. 12	Claster, <u>The Medieval Experience</u> , pp. 1-69 LECTURE
	Tues., Sept. 13	Claster, pp. 69-146 LECTURE
	Wed., Sept. 14	Claster, pp. 147-209 LECTURE
	Fri., Sept. 16	Claster, pp. 211-275 DISCUSSION
III	Mon., Sept. 19	<u>The Rule of St. Benedict</u> , pp. 9-61 LECTURE
	Tues., Sept. 20	<u>Rule</u> , pp. 61-113 (end) LECTURE
	Wed., Sept. 21	<u>The Letters of Abelard and Heloise</u> , pp. 9-55 (intro.) LECTURE
	Fri., Sept. 23	<u>Heloise</u> , pp. 57-106 DISCUSSION
IV	Mon., Sept. 26	<u>Heloise</u> , pp. 109-156 LECTURE
	Tues., Sept. 27	<u>Heloise</u> , pp. 159-203 LECTURE
	Wed., Sept. 28	Heloise, pp. 204-231 LECTURE

WEEK

	Fri., Sept. 30	<u>Heloise</u> , pp. 231-269 (end) DISCUSSION
V	Mon., Oct. 3	1st written assignment due <u>Claster</u> , pp. 276-330 LECTURE
	Tues., Oct. 4	<u>Claster</u> , pp. 330-383 (end) LECTURE
	Wed., Oct. 5	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. vii-xvii, 3-23 LECTURE
	Fri., Oct. 7	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 24-68 DISCUSSION
VI	Mon., Oct. 10	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 69-119 LECTURE
	Tues., Oct. 11	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 120-152 LECTURE
	Wed., Oct. 12	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 153-191 LECTURE
	Fri., Oct. 14	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 192-230 DISCUSSION
VII	Mon., Oct. 17	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 231-276 LECTURE
	Tues., Oct. 18	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 277-305 LECTURE
	Wed., Oct. 19	<u>Montaillou</u> , pp. 306-356 (end) LECTURE
	Fri., Oct. 21	<u>The Life of Teresa</u> , pp. 39-83 DISCUSSION
VIII	Mon., Oct. 24	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 83-124 2nd written assignment due LECTURE

WEEK

	Tues., Oct. 25	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 124-162 LECTURE
	Wed., Oct. 26	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 162-202 LECTURE
	Fri., Oct. 28	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 202-243 DISCUSSION
IX	Mon., Oct. 31	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 243-286 LECTURE
	Tues., Nov. 1	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 287-329 LECTURE
	Wed., Nov. 2	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 330-360 LECTURE
	Fri., Nov. 4	<u>Teresa</u> , pp. 360-397 (end) DISCUSSION
X	Mon., Nov. 7	3rd written assignment due Collis, <u>Memoirs of a Medieval Woman</u> , pp. 9-62 LECTURE
	Tues., Nov. 8	Collis, pp. 63-116 LECTURE
	Wed., Nov. 9	Collis, pp. 117-170 LECTURE
	Fri., Nov. 11	Collis, pp. 171-221 DISCUSSION
XI	Mon., Nov. 14	Collis, pp. 222-259 (end) SUMMARY LECTURE