

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Department of History

HIST 3332 #59-684
Fall 2006
9:30-10:45 TR
Room 341 LeConte Hall

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Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 TR

Wenches, Witches, Damsels and Nuns:
Women in Medieval Western Europe

This course will examine the roles and experiences of medieval western European women, particularly during the High Middle Ages (from about 1100 on). Moving past the stereotype of princesses in pointy hats waiting in tall towers for knights in shining armor to rescue them, we will cut across the social spectrum and examine the lives of actual peasant women, townswomen, aristocratic women, and women who sometimes found themselves on the fringes of society. Thematic considerations include upbringing and education, marriage and family, political and economic power, courtly love and romance, sexuality, religious life, heresy, and witchcraft. The course will include lecture, but much of our time will be spent discussing primary sources, some of which are quite lengthy and dense.

Evaluation:

Participation	15%
Short essay	15%
Mid-term exam	20%
Research essay	25%
Final exam	25%

Required texts:

- J. Ward, *Women in Medieval Europe 1200-1500* (Harlow: Longman, 2002)
- J.M. Bennett, *A Medieval Life: Cecilia Penifader of Brigstock, c.1295-1344* (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 1999)
- E. Amt, *Women's Lives in Medieval Europe: A Sourcebook* (New York: Routledge, 1993)
- B. Radice & M. Clanchy, *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise* (London: Penguin Books, 2004)
- W. Strunk & E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 4th edn. (Harlow: Longman, 2000)
- HIST 3332 Course Reader, available from Bel-Jean's Copy Center, 163 E. Broad St.

In addition to the above there will be a number of articles for required reading available on reserve at the Main Library and electronic Course Reserve (password: follett)

Course structure and participation:

Attendance is required and will be recorded. Absences will adversely affect your participation grade. Students who miss eight or more classes over the course of the semester will be dropped (with a WF after Oct. 9). Be on time to all class meetings. Late-comers disrupt the class and will receive nasty looks from the instructor. The consumption of food during class is not permitted, nor is the use of cell phones. Individuals whose phones ring in class may be asked to leave without further warning. The course will include some lecture, but much of our time will be spent discussing primary sources. Accordingly, it is essential that you complete the relevant reading assignments before class and come prepared to contribute intelligently to the discussion and to answer questions relating to content. Always bring the assigned reading with you to class. Evaluation of your participation grade will be determined by the following criteria:

- Students who receive an “A” for this portion of their grade are regular attenders, have consistently completed their reading assignments, have systematically thought about the material before class, and actively participate in the class discussions as well as attentively listen and respond to other students.
- “B” students are also regular attenders and also complete their assignments. Such students some of the time actively engage in class discussions with ideas, perspectives, and questions developed from their own reading and thinking. The “B” student, however, is more passive, waiting for others to raise issues, or awaiting pointed questions from the instructor. This student does not consistently try to respond to the ideas, perspectives, and questions raised by others.
- Students in the “C” category are also faithful in their attendance (a requirement for satisfactory completion of the course). But their role is largely passive, speaking when spoken to but taking no initiative for the quality of the ideas and discussion generated during the class sessions.
- Students who receive lower than a “C” for participation are those who are frequently absent, or unprepared, or silent—or a combination of these difficulties.

Written assignments:

There will be two written assignments for HIST 3332: a short essay (at least five pages) and a research essay (at least ten pages) on a topic dealing with some aspect of the history of women in Medieval Western Europe within the chronological limits of 500-1500. Further information for each assignment will be forthcoming. General guidelines for written assignments:

- Essays are to be argumentative, based upon the examination of relevant primary sources (and secondary sources in the case of the research essay), and will be graded on the quality of argument, textual support, organization, accuracy, and writing ability. They should be free of errors in grammar, syntax, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. The Strunk & White text is a valuable resource—read it thoroughly before submitting any written work.

- Lecture notes are not acceptable sources for either assignment. For the research essay you may use primary source texts available on the internet (e.g., any of the texts found at *Medieval Sourcebook* at www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html), but no other internet sources are acceptable.
- Essays are to be printed with standard margins, double-spaced in twelve-point font, paginated, footnoted, and have a cover page with a title that reflects the essay's content. The research essay must include a full bibliography. Footnotes and bibliography must conform to Turabian style format (see Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* 6th edn., 1996). If you are unfamiliar with the Turabian style, it is your responsibility to learn it.

Sample footnote:

¹ Caesarius of Arles, *Rule for Nuns*, ed. E. Amt, *Women's Lives in Medieval Europe: A Sourcebook* (New York: Routledge, 1993), 221.

- Duplicate copies of submitted assignments must be retained by all students (in case of loss or the need for review of an assigned grade).
- All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated in the course schedule. *No extensions will be given. Do not ask.* I will accept late papers for exactly one week after the due date. A penalty of one-third a letter grade (i.e. from A to A-, B- to C+) per day late (including Saturday and Sunday) will be deducted from the mark of any written assignment submitted after the due date. If you miss the due date by more than one week, you will be dropped from the course. If this occurs after the midpoint withdrawal deadline, you will receive a grade of WF.
- All written assignments are to be submitted directly to me. If for any reason you cannot hand your essay directly to me, go to the History department office (220 LeConte) and have the department secretary sign and date your paper. Then slip it under my door; do not ask the secretary to do this ("the secretary must have lost it" is not a valid excuse for a late paper). *Do not leave essays tacked onto or outside my door. Do not email your essay. Do not leave essays in my mailbox or under my door without a date and signature from the department secretary.* I may not be on campus every day, and will deduct points from an unsigned essay up until the day that I pick it up, which could be several days after you left it.

A note on plagiarism:

Be aware that I have a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism (quoting an author directly without enclosing the passage in quotation marks and citing the source correctly, paraphrasing or summarizing another author's work without citing the source correctly, presenting an idea that was formulated by someone else as your own, reproducing information compiled by another author without citing the source correctly, buying essays, or copying essays). You must cite your sources in footnotes every time you refer to them, not just in a bibliography at the end of the essay. If I detect plagiarism, university policy obligates me to report the incident to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction and the Academic Honesty Committee for review. Possible

sanctions include a course grade of F, suspension from the university, and expulsion. If you have any questions or concerns regarding plagiarism, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Exams:

The mid-term and the final examination will be essay-format in part, and will be based upon material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. They will be given on published dates only. Permission to write an exam on a later date may be granted only if serious illness or injury has prevented a student from writing an exam at the scheduled time; medical documentation will be required. If you fail to appear for the mid-term or the final you will be dropped from the course.

Instructor Office Hours:

I will be available for consultation regarding HIST 3332 two days a week, at times posted. No appointment is necessary. Students may also arrange to see me other mutually convenient times if course schedules do not permit consultation during office hours. As a rule, I do not discuss course content over email.

Course schedule and reading assignments

Week 1: Aug 17

Introduction

Week 2: Aug 22, 24

The Classical Inheritance

J.P. Hallett, "Women in the Ancient Roman World", ed. B. Vivante, *Women's Roles in Ancient Civilizations: A Reference Guide* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), 257-289 (on electronic reserve)

Ward, pp. 1-13

Amt, nos. 6-11

Week 3: Aug 29, 31

The Religious Inheritance

L. Guy, "Women in the Early Church: Liberated or Confined?" in L. Guy, *Introducing Early Christianity: A Topical Survey of Its Life, Beliefs and Practices* (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2004), 165-192 (on electronic reserve)

Amt, nos. 1-5

The Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas (Course Reader)

Week 4: Sept 5, 7

Conditions of Life: Upbringing & Marriage

Ward, pp. 14-44

Amt, nos. 18-21, 81

Week 5: Sept 12, 14

Conditions of Life: Home & Family

Ward, pp. 45-73

Amt, nos. 34, 41

Week 6: Sept 19, 21

SHORT ESSAY DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS SEPT 21

Peasant women

Ward, pp. 74-93

Amt, nos. 46-51

Start reading Bennett, *A Medieval Life*

Week 7: Sept 26, 28

Peasant women con.

Bennett, *A Medieval Life*

Week 8 Oct 3, 5

MIDTERM IN CLASS OCT 3

Urban women

B.R. McRee & T.K. Dent, "Working Women in the Medieval City", ed. L.E. Mitchell, *Women in Western European Culture* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1999), 241-256 (on electronic reserve)

Amt nos. 51-6, 58-9

Start reading *The Letters of Abelard and Heloise*, Introduction and 3-43 (skim 21-34)

Week 9: Oct 10, 12 (Midpoint withdrawal deadline Monday Oct 9)

Aristocratic women

Ward, pp. 110-32

Amt, nos. 33, 38, 39, 40, 42

The Letters of Abelard and Heloise, 47-89

Week 10: Oct 17, 19

Aristocratic women con.

E. Power, "The Education of Women", in E. Power, *Medieval Women* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975), 76-88 (on electronic reserve)

The Letters of Abelard and Heloise, 93-210 (after 158 you can skim the rest)

Week 11: Oct 24

Courtly Love, Chivalry, and Romance

P.S. Gold, "Secular Image: Women in *Chanson de Geste* and Romance", in P.S. Gold, *The Lady and the Virgin: Image, Attitude and Experience in Twelfth-Century France* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985), 1-42 (skim the section on *Chanson de Geste*, but read everything else) (on electronic reserve)

Marie de France, *Guigemar* (Course Reader)

Chrétien de Troyes, *Erec and Enide* (Course Reader)

Week 12: Oct 31, Nov 2

The Religious Life: Nuns & Nunneries

Ward, pp. 154-175

Amt, nos. 61, 63, 64, 65, 69

Week 13: Nov 7, 9

The Religious Life: Lay women
Ward, pp. 133-53 (skim), 209-237
Amt, nos. 67-8

Week 14: Nov 14, 16

The Religious Life: Saints and Mystics
Ward, pp. 191-208
Life of the Virgin Liutbirg (Course Reader)
Hildegard of Bingen, selected writings (Course Reader)

Week 15: Nov 21

Medicine, Reproduction, and Sexuality
C. Thomasset, "The Nature of Women", ed. C. Klapisch-Zuber, *A History of Women in the West, II. Silences of the Middle Ages* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992), 43-69 (on electronic reserve)
R.M. Karras, "Prostitution in Medieval Europe", ed. V.L. Bullough & J.A. Brundage, *Handbook of Medieval Sexuality* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1996), 243-260 (on electronic reserve)
Ward, pp. 94-109
Amt, nos. 23, 24, 25, 57

Week 16: Nov 28, 30

RESEARCH ESSAY DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS NOV 28
Heretics and Witches
Ward, pp. 238-51
M.D. Bailey, "The Feminization of Magic", *Essays in Medieval Studies* 19 (2002), 120-134 (on electronic reserve)
Amt, nos. 79-80
Witchcraft documents, Trial of Joan of Arc, Johan Nider (Course Reader)

Week 17: Dec 5

Catch-up & Review

Thursday Dec 14 8:00-11:00 AM

FINAL EXAM