

GENDER IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN CULTURE
(HIST 5900, HIST 8900, ENGL 8120, MEST 5610, GWSS 8590)

Professors Ruth Mazo Karras and John Watkins

Fall 2008

Wednesday 1:25-3:20, 760 Social Science

This team-taught graduate seminar examines constructions of gender in the literature and history of medieval and early modern western Europe. It moves thematically rather than chronologically. Within each theme we will consider change over time and space. The two instructors bring different disciplinary backgrounds as well as different chronological specializations to the course. We hope to create fruitful discussion between students in a variety of fields as well. During the course of the semester we will have two visits from distinguished scholars who are on campus to present a colloquium or workshop; we will also have other scholars whose work we're reading join us on our Moodle forum.

Instructor Contact Information

The best way of contacting either of us is by e-mail: rmk@umn.edu and watki005@umn.edu.

Karras Office Hours: **Tuesday** 2:30-3:30, Center for Medieval Studies, 302 Nolte (612-626-0805), **Wednesday** 10:00-11:00, 737 Social Science (612-625-8578), and by appointment. Also available during these times via instant messaging. AIM screen name is profkarras; GoogleTalk screen name is profkarras@gmail.com. (Do not send e-mail to that address.) Also by appointment.

Watkins Office Hours: **Monday** 12:35-1:35, 312 Lind (612-624-8879), and by appointment

Course Requirements

5xxx level: Class participation, including weekly posting to Moodle forum, 60% of grade; research proposal, approximately 10 pages (2500 words), draft due Dec. 8, final version due Dec. 17, 40% of grade.

8xxx level: Class participation, including optional participation in Moodle forum if desired, 50% of grade; research paper, approximately 15-20 pages (4000-5000 words), prospectus and bibliography of primary and secondary sources due Oct. 15, 50% of grade.

Policies:

The grade on any item turned in late will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade for every day it is late. No incompletes will be granted except in case of serious illness or family emergency, and then only if you have already completed most of the work in the course.

Attendance is required. More than one unexcused absence will result in a grade of “F.” Whether to excuse an absence is at the sole discretion of the instructors, and all excused absences will require make-up work. Examples of valid excuses are: illness; jury duty. Examples of invalid excuses are: car trouble; having an important errand to do; having an assignment due for another class.

This class observes all University of Minnesota and College of Liberal Arts policies, including the following:

Equal Access: All persons shall have equal access to U of M programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Sexual Harassment: University of Minnesota Board of Regents policy prohibits sexual harassment, including unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when submission to such conduct is explicitly or implicitly a condition of academic advancement, used as the basis of academic decisions, or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment.

Disability Services: Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, systemic, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact the instructor and Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to contact Disability Services to discuss individual needs for accommodations and for advising about contact with faculty, and to follow up with faculty. Disability Services 180 McNamara Center, (612) 626-1333, ds@umn.edu, <http://ds.umn.edu>.

Student Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty : Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as “plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging , or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.” It also includes inventing or falsifying research or other findings with the intent to deceive, submitting the same or substantially similar papers for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned, depriving another of necessary course materials, and sabotaging another's work. The minimum penalty in this class for any instance of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is a grade of “F” for the assignment. All academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, and may incur penalties up to and including a grade of “F” or “N” in the class. If you are concerned about committing plagiarism unknowingly, please speak to the instructors.

Readings, and How to Find Them

If you are enrolled in this course and log in to moodle.umn.edu, this course will already be listed. Click on it and you will get to an electronic version of this syllabus with links to many of the course readings. Please note that for both moodle and e-reserve this course will appear as HIST 5900 even if you are registered for it under another designator.

All the items with hyperlinks can be read on line except those marked with an **. For those in the EEBO (Early English Books Online) database, the link will take you to MNCAT and you will need to click through. Once you are on the EEBO homepage, search by title for the texts noted on the syllabus. Since EEBO is rapidly making available every book printed in England during the early modern period, this will be a great resource for your own research.

Books marked with ** are available on reserve in Wilson Library. If you wish to have your own copies, you may purchase them from Amazon.com by clicking on the book. A portion of the purchase price at Amazon will be rebated to the Center for Medieval Studies and used to help pay the expenses of the speakers who will be visiting our class. Of course, you may also purchase the books from any other vendor you like.

All texts not hyperlinked or marked with ** are available on e-reserve in Wilson Library and may be accessed on line.

9/3: Foundational Texts

Biblical passages: Leviticus, chapters 1-2, 9-21, 26-27; Romans; 1 Corinthians 7. If you are already familiar with the Bible, try to de-familiarize it by reading a translation you have not used before. The Douay-Rheims translation, made by English Jesuits in the sixteenth-seventeenth century, is the closest to the Vulgate. Most currently available translations of the Douay-Rheims, both on line and in print, are the version updated in the eighteenth century by Richard Challoner, and thus subject to the influence of the KJV. The most readable on-line layout is at www.drbo.org; be aware that the web site belongs to the Society of St. Pius X, a group which rejects the post-Vatican II Roman Catholic Church as too liberal.

[Aristotle *Politics* Book I](#)

[Virgil *Aeneid* Book IV](#)

[Ovid, *Metamorphoses* X.](#)

[Heroides VII \(Dido\) and XV \(Sappho\)](#)

[Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" *American Historical Review* 91 \(1986\), 1053-1075.](#)

The Foucault Reader, ed. Paul Rabinow, pp. 292-329.

9/10: Looking for Gender in All the Wrong Places

**The Tale of Thorstein Staff-Struck in [The Sagas of Icelanders](#) ed. Robert Kellogg. This is a short text, but later in the semester we will also read a longer text from this volume.

[The Plan of St. Gall](#)

Theodore Evergates, *Feudal Society in Medieval France*, 87-90 (a complex real estate transaction between Giles of Melun and the abbey of St. Pierre of Avenay).

[“Wine, beere, ale, and tobacco. Contending for superiority. A dialogue.” especially chapter on “Foods that Generate the Stone and the Gravel.”](#) EEBO.

[“The country man's guide or plain directions for ordering. Curing. Breeding choice, use, and feeding. Of horses, cows, sheep, hoggs, &c. Adorn'd with sculptuers, shewing the proper places in the bodies of the said several beasts, where the said distempers do usually happen. Published for the publick good, by W.W.” especially chapter on sheep.](#) EEBO.

The Judith Butler Reader, pp. 90-118 and 243-58.

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "Gender Criticism," in Stephen Greenblatt and Giles Gunn, eds, *Redrawing the Boundaries: The Transformation of English and American Literary Studies*, 271-302.

9/17, Religion, Part 1 (Caroline Walker Bynum visit)

** [Caroline Bynum, *Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women*](#). Skim chapters 1-2; read chapter 3 and either chapter 4 or 5; read one of chapters 6-10 and skim the others (we will assign people to focus on each of the chapters).

Jutta Sperling, *Convents and the Body Politic in Late Renaissance Venice*, 18-71.

Medieval texts from Elizabeth Petroff, *Medieval Women's Visionary Literature*, 179-206, 308-329, 254-275: Jacques de Vitry on Marie d'Oignies, Thomas of Cantimpré on Christina Mirabilis, Hadewijch of Brabant, Beatrijs of Nazareth, Angela of Foligno, Catherine of Siena, Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe

9/24, Religion, Part Two

**[Lyndal Roper, *The Holy Household*](#), ch. 1 and 2

**[Dyan Elliott, *Proving Woman*](#), Introduction, chs. 2, 4, 5, Conclusion.

**[Examination of Anne Askew](#), ed Elaine Beilin

10/1, Religion, Part Three

Susan Einbinder, "Jewish Women Martyrs: Changing Models of Representation," *Exemplaria* 12 (2000):105-127

[David Nirenberg, "Conversion, Sex, and Segregation: Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain,"](#) *American Historical Review* 107 (2002) 1065-1093.

Howard Tzvi Adelman, "Jewish Women and Family Life, Inside and Outside the Ghetto." In *The Jews of Ealy Modern Venice*, ed. Robert C. Davis and Benjamin Ravid, pp. 143-65.

Ariel Toaff, *Love, Work, and Death: Jewish Life in Medieval Umbria*, ch. 1, pp. 1-35.

10/7, The Body

**[Joan Cadden, Meanings of Sex Difference in the Middle Ages](#) , chapters 1, 3, 4, 6

[Willis Johnson, "The Myth of Jewish Male Menses,"](#) *Journal of Medieval History* 24 (1998), 273-95.

Katherine Park (with Lorraine J. Daston), "The Hermaphrodite and the Orders of Nature: Sexual Ambiguity in Early Modern France," *GLQ*: 1 (1995): 419-38.

Trotula, *On the Diseases of Women*, excerpt in Emilie Amt, *Women's Lives in Medieval Europe*, 98-108, available at [Google Books](#) (go to TOC and page forward till you get to 98—not all pages are included so it's not long)

Spenser, *Faerie Queen*, ed. A.C. Hamilton, Book 2 Canto 3 (entire) and Book 3 Canto 12 (entire)

10/15, Sexuality

**[Michael Rocke, Forbidden Friendships: Homosexuality in Renaissance Venice](#) or Helmut Puff, [Sodomy in Reformation Germany and Switzerland](#)

David Lorenzo Boyd and Ruth Mazo Karras, "The Interrogation of a Transvestite Prostitute in Medieval London," *GLQ* 1 (1995), 459-65.

Alain of Lille, *The Complaint of Nature*, trans. Moffatt, pp. 3-5, 34-66.

John Boswell, Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality, 372-4, 381-89: Hilary the Englishman, "To a Boy of Anjou," "To an English Boy"; Anonymous, "Ganymede and Helen"

[Geoffrey Chaucer, *General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales*, ll. 669-714 \(the Pardoner\)](#)

[Cleanness](#), ll. 1-50 and ll. 557-1048 or translation by Casey Finch, *The Complete Works of the Pearl Poet*.

10/22, Work

EITHER Clare Crowston, *Fabricating Women: The Seamstresses of Old Regime France*, 23-73,

OR [Judith Bennett, *Ale, Beer, and Brewsters in England: Women's Work in a Changing World 1300-1600*, chs. 3, 5, and 8](#)

[Susan Mosher Stuard, "Ancillary Evidence for the Decline of Medieval Slavery," *Past & Present* 149 \(1995\) 3-32](#)

John Skelton, "The Tunnyng of Elynour Rummyng" in *The Complete Works* ed. John Scattergood

Veronica Franco, from *Poems and Selected Letters* ed. Jones & Rosenthal, Letter 22, "A Warning to a Mother Considering Turning her Daughter into a Courtesan," and Capitolo 2, pp. 61-76.

Piers Plowman, passus 2, 3, 4 <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/LanPier.html> (or see modern English translation by Goodridge)

"Ballad of the Tyrannical Husband," in Carolyne Larrington, *Women and Writing in Medieval Europe* 108-112.

Pick a profession/occupation and find a text that tells us something about gender in that occupation.

10/29 Material Culture and Everyday Life

Jones and Stallybrass, *Renaissance Clothing and the Materials of Memory*, "The Fate of Spinning" 104-33.

Wendy R. Larson, "Who is the Master of This Narrative? Maternal Patronage of the Cult of St. Margaret," in Maryanne Kowaleski and Mary Erler, *Gendering the Master Narrative*, 94-104

**[Bonnie Effros, "Dressing Conservatively: women's brooches as markers of ethnic identity?" in Leslie Brubaker and Julia Smith, *Gender in the Early Medieval World: East and West, 300-900*, 165-184](#)

Register of Jacques Fournier, Testimony of Beatrice de Planissoles, in Patrick Geary, *Readings in Medieval History*, 500-519

****[Shakespeare, *Taming of the Shrew* ed. Frances Dolan](#)**

11/5 Family: Marriage, or not

Shannon McSheffrey, "Place, Space, and Situation: Public and Private in the Making of Marriage in Late Medieval London," *Speculum* 79 (2004), 960-990

[P.J.P. Goldberg, "Gender and Matrimonial Litigation in the Church Courts of the Later Middle Ages: The Evidence of York," *Gender & History* 19 \(2007\) 43-59.](#)

****[Stanley Chojnacki, *Women and Men in Renaissance Venice*, ch. 1, 7, 12](#)**

[William Gouge, *Of Domestical Duties* \(1622\) in EEBO.](#) Focus on Treatises 2, 3, and 4.

11/12 Queenship

From Marcus, Mueller, and Rose, [Elizabeth I: Collected Works](#), Speeches 1, 2, 3 (VERSIONS 1 AND 2), 5 (just the speech, not the Commons' petition appended to it), 7, 8, 16 (without Bonds of Association), 17 (version one), 18 (version 1), 19, 20, 23 (All versions), 24 (version 1).

Carole Levin, *The Heart and Stomach of a King*, chapter on "Elizabeth as King and Queen"

Christine Coch, "'Mother of My Country': Elizabeth I and Tudor Constructions of Motherhood," in *The Mysteries of Elizabeth I*, ed. Kirby Farrell and Kathleen Swaim.

Hunt, Lynn. "The Many Bodies of Marie Antoinette," in *Eroticism and the Body Politic*. ed. Lynn Hunt.

11/19 Family: Parents and Children

Four of the following:

[Philip Grace, "Aspects of Fatherhood in Medieval Encyclopedias," *Journal of Family History* 31 \(2006\) 211—36](#)

****[Stanley Chojnacki, *Women and Men in Renaissance Venice*, ch. 8](#)**

[Sally McKee, "Inherited Status and Slavery in Renaissance Italy and Venetian Crete," *Past & Present* 182 \(February, 2004\), 31-53](#)

[Barbara Newman, *From Virile Woman to Womanchrist*, chapter 3 "'Cruel Corage': Child Sacrifice and the Maternal Martyr in Hagiography and Romance"](#)

Patricia Crawford, "The Construction and Experience of Maternity in Seventeenth-Century

England,” in *Women as Mothers in Pre-Industrial England: Essays in Memory of Dorothy McLaren*, ed. Valerie Fildes (London: Routledge, 1990) 3-37.

Merry Wiesner, “The Female Life Cycle” in *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*, 2nd ed., 51-101.

***Laxdaela Saga* in [The Sagas of Icelanders](#) ed. Robert Kellogg.

11/26 NO CLASS

12/3 Property, Lordship and Power

**[Walter Pohl, “Gender and Ethnicity in the Early Middle Ages,” in Brubaker and Smith](#)

**[Ian Wood, “Genealogy Defined by Women: the Case of the Pippinids,” in Brubaker and Smith](#)

[Maureen Miller, “Masculinity, Reform, and Clerical Culture: Narratives of Episcopal Holiness in the Gregorian Reform Era,” *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 72 \(2003\): 1-28.](#)

Frederic Cheyette, “Women, Poets, and Politics in Occitania,” in Theodore Evergates, ed., *Aristocratic Women in Medieval France 138-77* and notes at 225-33.

Lives of Radegund in Jo Ann McNamara et al, *Sainted Women of the Dark Ages*, 60-105

[Chretien de Troyes, *Erec et Enide*](#)

Troubadour and trobairitz poetry: Guilhem IX, “[Companho, faray un vers](#)” and “[Mout jauzens me prenc en amar](#)”; Marcabru, “[L’autrier jost’ una sebissa](#)”; Bernart de Ventadorn, “[Non es meravelha s’eu chan](#)”; Giraut de Bornelh, “[Reis glorios verais lums e clartatz](#)”; Bertrand de Born, “[Domna, puois de me no.us chal](#)”; Countess of Dia, “[Estat ai en greu cossirier](#)”; Garsenda de Forcalquier, “Vos que.m semblatz dels corals amadors,” handout

12/10 Presentations